

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1978

PLENARY MEETINGS

Summary records of the meetings held during the year 1978



UNITED NATIONS



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New York, 1980

NOTE

The *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978* consist of the summary records of *Plenary Meetings*, incorporating corrections requested by delegations and any necessary editorial modifications, the *Supplements* (Nos. 1-14) and the *Lists of Delegations*.

The present volume contains the summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during the following sessions:

Organizational session for 1978 (New York, 10-13 January);

First regular session, 1978 (New York, 11 April-5 May);

Second regular session, 1978 (Geneva, 5 July-4 August);

Resumed second regular session, 1978 (New York, 12 October-19 December).

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Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
EEC	European Economic Community
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	gross domestic product
GNP	gross national product
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICFTU	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
SDR(s)	special drawing right(s)
SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organization
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WFP	World Food Programme
WFTU	World Federation of Trade Unions
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
ZANU	Zimbabwe African National Union
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union

AGENDA OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1978

Adopted by the Council at its 1st meeting on 10 January 1978

1. Election of the Bureau
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Basic programme of work of the Council for 1978
4. General Regulations of the World Food Programme
5. Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions
6. Provisional agenda for the first regular session, 1978

AGENDA OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1978

Adopted by the Council at its 5th meeting on 11 April 1978

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia
3. Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including preparations for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
4. Standardization of geographical names
5. Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
6. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system
7. Science and technology
8. Public administration and finance
9. Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace
10. Non-governmental organizations
11. Human rights questions
12. Social development questions
13. Narcotic drugs
14. Elections
15. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session, 1978

AGENDA OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1978

**Adopted by the Council at its 17th and 32nd meetings
on 5 and 21 July 1978**

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters*
3. General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments
4. United Nations University
5. Assistance to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia
6. Humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Horn of Africa

* Item considered also at the resumed second regular session.

7. Assistance in emergency situations
8. Assistance to South African student refugees
9. Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights
10. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system*
11. Development and international economic co-operation
12. Regional co-operation and development
13. Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States
14. International co-operation on the environment
15. Industrial development co-operation
16. United Nations Special Fund
17. Food problems
18. Transnational corporations*
19. Human settlements
20. Natural resources
21. Science and technology
22. International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system*
23. Comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development
24. International Year of the Child
25. Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region
26. United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries*
27. Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and programming procedures**
28. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations
29. Disaster relief co-ordination
30. Trade and development
31. World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women**
32. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: report of the Human Rights Committee
33. World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination**
34. Nomination of members of the World Food Council**
35. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

* Item considered also at the resumed second regular session.

** Item considered only at the resumed second regular session.

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NOTE. Listed below are the documents pertaining to the work of the Council in 1978. All documents were issued in mimeographed form unless otherwise indicated.

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E/1978/L.9	Draft provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1978	6	
E/1978/SR.1-4	Provisional summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during its organizational session for 1978		The final texts of the summary records are to be found in the present volume
E/DEC/1978/1-5	Decisions adopted by the Council during its organizational session for 1978		For the final texts, see E/1978/78, decisions 1978/1-1978/5
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A/32/43 and Corr.3	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development [first session (31 January-14 February 1977)]	7	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 43 and corrigendum</i>
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E/1978/30	Progress achieved towards the establishment of an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: report of the Secretary-General	9	
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E/1978/33	Report of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its fourth session (6-10 February 1978)	7	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 3</i>
E/1978/34	Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirty-fourth session (6 February-10 March 1978)	11	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 4</i>
E/1978/35	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifth special session (13-24 February 1978)	13	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 5</i>
E/1978/36	Work of the Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries: report of the Secretary-General		
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E/1978/L.25	Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Upper Volta, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia: draft resolution	3	
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E/DEC/1978/6-40	Decisions adopted by the Council during its first regular session of 1978		For the final texts, see E/1978/78, decisions 1978/6-1978/40
E/INCB/37	Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1977		United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XI.2
E/RES/1978/2-35	Resolutions adopted by the Council during its first regular session of 1978		For the final texts, see E/1978/78, resolutions 1978/2-1978/35

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A/33/3	Report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of its organizational session for 1978 and of its first and second regular sessions of 1978		<i>Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 3</i>
A/33/8	Report of the Commission on Human Settlements	19	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 8</i>
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A/33/19 and Corr.1	Report of the World Food Council on the work of its fourth session	17	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 19 and corrigendum</i>
A/33/21	Report of the Board of Governors of the United Nations Special Fund	16	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 21</i>
A/33/25	Report of the Governing Council of UNEP on the work of its sixth session	14	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 25</i>
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E/1978/105	Report of ACC on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes		
E/1978/107	Progress report of ACC submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 32/197	10	
E/1978/108	Letter dated 16 May 1978 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General: note by the Secretary-General	9	
E/1978/109	Provisional agenda for the joint meetings of CPC and ACC	22	
E/1978/110	Implementation by UNEP of the relevant recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197: note by the Secretary-General	10	
E/1978/111	Progress report of UNESCO to the General Assembly and the Council pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 32/197	10	
E/1978/112	Implementation by UNDP of the relevant recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197: note by the Secretary-General	10	
E/1978/113	Appointment of a special rapporteur to prepare a study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of women and men: note by the Secretary-General	2	
E/1978/114	Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Zambia	5	Subsequently revised (see E/1978/114/Rev.1)

Document number	Title or description	Agenda item	Observations and references
E/1978/115	Report of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices on its fourth, fifth and resumed fifth sessions	18	
E/1978/116	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	2	
E/1978/117 (parts I and II)	Report of the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee	28	
E/1978/118	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197: report of the Secretary-General	10	
E/1978/119	Report of the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee	25	
E/1978/120	Ditto	29	
E/1978/121	Ditto	24	
E/1978/122	Ditto	22	
E/1978/123	Ditto	23	
E/1978/124	Ditto	26	
E/1978/125	Report of the First (Economic) Committee	16	
E/1978/126	Ditto	14	
E/1978/127	Ditto	20	
E/1978/128	Ditto	15	
E/1978/129	Ditto	12	
E/1978/130	Ditto	17	
E/1978/131	Ditto	19	
E/1978/132	Ditto	13	
E/1978/133	Ditto	18	
E/1978/134	Ditto	21	
E/1978/135	Ditto	11	
E/1978/136	Ditto	10	
E/1978/137	Agenda of the second regular session of 1978 adopted by the Council at its 17th and 32nd meetings	2	
E/1978/138	Letter dated 24 July 1978 from the head of the delegation of Poland to the second regular session of 1978 addressed to the President of the Council	11	
E/1978/139	Credentials of representatives to the second regular session of 1978: report of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Council		
E/1978/140	Summary of estimates of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its first and second regular sessions of 1978: report of the Secretary-General		
E/1978/C.1/L.6	Work programme adopted by the First (Economic) Committee at its 8th meeting on 7 July 1978	2	
E/1978/C.1/L.7	Activities of ESCAP in the Pacific area—Australia, Iran, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution	12	
E/1978/C.1/L.8	Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.7: note by the Secretary-General	12	
E/1978/C.1/L.9	Greece, Iraq, Kenya, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia and Uganda: draft resolution	14	
E/1978/C.1/L.10	Report of the Committee for Development Planning—Algeria, France, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Romania, Uganda and Yugoslavia: draft resolution	11	
E/1978/C.1/L.11	Annual report of ECA—Sudan: draft resolution	12	

Document number	Title or description	Agenda item	Observations and references
E/1978/C.1/L.12	Proposal for a conference to conclude an international agreement on illicit payments—Canada and United States of America: draft resolution	18	
E/1978/C.1/L.12/Rev.1	<i>Idem</i> : revised draft resolution	18	
E/1978/C.1/L.13	United Nations conference on new and renewable sources of energy: draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	20	
E/1978/C.1/L.14	United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	11	
E/1978/C.1/L.15	Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries: draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	11	
E/1978/C.1/L.16	Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.14: note by the Secretary-General	11	
E/1978/C.1/L.17	Transnational corporations and permanent sovereignty over natural and other resources: draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	18	
E/1978/C.1/L.18	Draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	21	
E/1978/C.1/L.19	Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council: draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	17	
E/1978/C.1/L.20	Draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	15	
E/1978/C.1/L.21	International co-operation in human settlements: draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	19	
E/1978/C.1/L.22	Report of ECLA—Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago: draft decision	12	
E/1978/C.1/L.23	Introduction of Arabic as the third working language of ECA—Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia: draft decision	12	
E/1978/C.1/L.24	Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Sudan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution	12	
E/1978/C.1/L.24/Rev.1	— [same sponsors], Greece, Malta, Nigeria and Yugoslavia: revised draft resolution	12	
E/1978/C.1/L.25	Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.9	14	
E/1978/C.1/L.26	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee	10	
E/1978/C.1/L.27	Ditto	10	
E/1978/C.1/L.28	Draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	13	
E/1978/C.1/L.29 and Corr.1	Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.12/Rev.1: note by the Secretary-General	18	
E/1978/C.1/L.30	Draft decision submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	10	
E/1978/C.1/L.31	Programme budget implications of draft decision E/1978/C.1/L.23: note by the Secretary-General	12	
E/1978/C.1/L.32	Report of ECLA: statement of programme budget implications of draft decision E/1978/C.1/L.22	12	
E/1978/C.1/L.33	Resolution adopted by the Thirty-first World Health Assembly at its twelfth plenary meeting on 23 May 1978: note by the Secretariat	10	

Document number	Title or description	Agenda item	Observations and references
E/1978/C.1/L.34	Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council: draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.19	17	
E/1978/C.1/L.35	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.20	15	
E/1978/C.1/L.36	International co-operation in human settlements: draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.21	19	
E/1978/C.1/SR.8-35 and corrigendum	Summary records of the meetings held by the First (Economic) Committee during the second regular session of 1978		
E/1978/C.3/L.1	Work programme adopted by the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee at its 1st meeting on 6 July 1978	2	
E/1978/C.3/L.2	Draft resolution submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77	28	
E/1978/C.3/L.3	Implementation of the medium-term and long-term rehabilitation and development programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region and implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the region—Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritania, Sudan, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania and Upper Volta: draft resolution	25	
E/1978/C.3/L.3/Rev.1	—— [same sponsors], France, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and United States of America: revised draft resolution	25	
E/1978/C.3/L.4	Afghanistan, Austria, Canada, Dominican Republic, Greece, India, Iran, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America: draft resolution	24	
E/1978/C.3/L.5	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator—Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Romania, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution	29	
E/1978/C.3/L.6	International years and anniversaries—France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft decision	22	
E/1978/C.3/L.6/Rev.1	—— [same sponsors]: revised draft decision	22	
E/1978/C.3/L.7	Afghanistan and Iraq: amendment to draft resolution E/1978/C.3/L.4	24	
E/1978/C.3/L.8	World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development—Finland, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia: draft resolution	22	
E/1978/C.3/L.9	International years and anniversaries—Liberia: draft resolution	22	
E/1978/C.3/L.10	Consumer protection—Austria, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Greece, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Uganda and United States of America: draft resolution	22	
E/1978/C.3/L.11	Application of computer science and technology to development—Argentina, Mauritania and Mexico: draft resolution	22	Replaced by E/1978/C.3/L.11 Rev.1
E/1978/C.3/L.11 Rev.1	—— [same sponsors], Algeria and Romania: revised draft resolution	22	
E/1978/C.3/L.12	United Nations Children's Fund—Austria, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Greece, India, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Sudan, Sweden, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Yugoslavia: draft resolution	23	

Document number	Title or description	Agenda item	Observations and references
E/1978/C.3/L.13	Administrative expenses of the United Nations Capital Development Fund—United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft decision	23	
E/1978/C.3/L.14	World Climate Programme—Argentina, Mexico, Nigeria and Philippines: draft resolution	22	
E/1978/C.3/L.15	United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries—Afghanistan, Bolivia, Lesotho, Uganda and Upper Volta: draft resolution	23	
E/1978/C.3/SR.1-20 and corrigendum	Summary records of the meetings held by the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee during the second regular session of 1978		
E/1978/INF/6/Rev.1 and Add.1	List of representatives to the second regular session of 1978		
E/1978/L.31	Excerpt from the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its eighteenth session	22	
E/1978/L.32 and Add. 2	Changes in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1978 and 1979: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1978/L.32/Add.1 and 3	Programme budget implications of changes in the calendar of conferences and meetings: note by the Secretary-General	2	
E/1978/L.33	Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—Austria, Colombia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Greece, India, Netherlands, Nigeria, Sudan, Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela: draft resolution	35	Adopted by the Council; see resolution 1978/36
E/1978/L.34	Assistance to Zambia—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	5	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/46
E/1978/L.35	Assistance to Mozambique—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	5	
E/1978/L.36	Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1978/L.34: note by the Secretary-General	5	
E/1978/L.37	Assistance to Lesotho—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	5	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/47
E/1978/L.38	Assistance to the Comoros—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	7	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/49
E/1978/L.39	Assistance to Sao Tome and Principe—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	7	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/50
E/1978/L.40	Assistance to Cape Verde—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	7	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/51
E/1978/L.41	Assistance to Guinea-Bissau—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	7	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/52

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
E/1978/L.42	Assistance to Djibouti—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia; Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	7	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/53
E/1978/L.43	Assistance to Seychelles—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	7	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/54
E/1978/L.44	Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	8	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/55
E/1978/L.45	Algeria, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	6	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/39
E/1978/L.46	Migratory labour in southern Africa—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	7	
E/1978/L.47	Assistance to Botswana—Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft resolution	5	<i>Idem</i> , resolution 1978/48
E/1978/L.48	Organization of the work of the resumed second regular session of 1978: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1978/L.49	Organization of the work of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1978/L.50	Austria: amendments to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 of the report of the First (Economic) Committee (E/1978/134)	21	
E/1978/NGO/2	The importance of savings banks in the national financial structure for increasing the volume of savings mobilized: statement submitted by the International Savings Banks Institute, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category II	11	
E/1978/NGO/3	Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	11	
E/1978/NGO/4	Housing for the single woman worker in developing areas: statement submitted by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	19	
E/1978/NGO/5	Statement submitted by the International Council of Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	10	
E/1978/NGO/6	Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	28	
E/1978/NGO/7	Consumer protection: statement submitted by the International Organization of Consumers Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	22	
E/1978/NGO/8	Statement submitted by the World Federation of Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	18	
E/1978/NGO/9	Statement submitted by the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	24	
E/1978/NGO/10	The problem of migration: statement submitted by the World Federation of United Nations Associations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	11	

Document number	Title or description	Agenda item	Observations and references
E/1978/NGO/11	Statement submitted by the World Federation of Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	9	
E/1978/NGO/12	Third United Nations development decade: statement submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	11	
E/1978/NGO/13	Statement submitted by the Society for International Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category II	11	
E/1978/SR.17-38	Provisional summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during its second regular session of 1978		The final texts of the summary records are to be found in the present volume
E/C.2/772	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations: provisional agenda		
E/C.2/L.41	Draft report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations		
E/C.8/37	Application of computer science and technology to development: report of the Secretary-General	22	
E/C.8/54	Report of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to Council resolution 2036 (LXI), on the application of computer science and technology to development	22	
E/C.8/56 and Corr.1	Research in non-conventional sources of energy: report of the Secretary-General	20	
E/C.10/39	<i>Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa—Impact on financial and social structures</i>	18	United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.6
E/DEC/1978/41-77	Decisions adopted by the Council during its second regular session of 1978		For the final texts, see E/1978/78, decisions 1978/41-1978/77
E/RES/1978/36-74	Resolutions adopted by the Council during its second regular session of 1978		<i>Idem</i> , resolutions 1978/36-1978/74
Resumed Second Regular Session, 1978			
A/33/6 (parts 1-30)	Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983	27	For the final text, see <i>Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 6</i> (A/33/6/Rev.1) and corrigendum
A/33/38	Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its eighteenth session	22, 27	<i>Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 38</i>
A/33/262	Report of the Secretary-General	33	
A/33/339 and Corr.1 and Add.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women at its first session	31	
A/33/410 and Corr.1 and 2	Report of the Secretary-General	10	Subsequently revised (see A/33/410/Rev.1)
A/CONF.79/13 (part I)	Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978)	26	For the final text, see A/CONF.79/13/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum)
A/CONF.94/PC/4	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women on its first session	31	
E/6003	Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on evaluation in the United Nations system: note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report	27	

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
E/1978/12	Comments of ACC on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on evaluation in the United Nations system (E/6003): note by the Secretary-General	27	
E/1978/44	Appointment to fill a vacancy in the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development: note by the Secretary-General	2	
E/1978/102	Report of ACC on measures for achieving better co-ordination between social and other development activities within the United Nations system	27	
E/1978/103 and Add.1	Annotated list of items to be considered at the resumed second regular session of 1978: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1978/106	Study of the interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace: report of the Secretary-General	31	
E/1978/141	Preparation of a study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of women and men: note by the Secretary-General	2	
E/1978/142	Calendar of conferences and meetings: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1978/143	Report of the Director-General of UNESCO on the Intergovernmental Conference on Strategies and Policies for Informatics: note by the Secretary-General	22	
E/1978/144	Second report of ACC on the restructuring of its subsidiary machinery, submitted in pursuance of paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 32/197	10	
E/1978/145	Election of members of the International Narcotics Control Board: note by the Secretary-General	2	
E/1978/L.51	Calendar of conferences and meetings: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1978/L.52	President of the Council: draft decision	27	
E/1978/L.53	Vice-President of the Council: draft decision	10	
E/1978/L.54	Vice-President of the Council: draft decision	27	
E/1978/NGO/14	Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category I; the Bahá'í International Community, the Baptist World Alliance, the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Council of Social Democratic Women, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, the Women's International Zionist Organization, the World Movement of Mothers, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, the World Women's Christian Temperance Union and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category II; Altrusa International, Inc. and the Center of Concern, non-governmental organizations on the Roster	31	
E/1978/SR.39-45	Provisional summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during its resumed second regular session of 1978		The final texts of the summary records are to be found in the present volume
E/DEC/1978/78-97	Decisions adopted by the Council during its resumed second regular session of 1978		For the final texts, see E/1978/78, decisions 1978/78-1978/97
E/RES/1978/75	Resolution adopted by the Council at its resumed second regular session of 1978		<i>Idem</i> ; resolution 1978/75
Miscellaneous			
A/33/3/Add.1	Addendum to the report of the Economic and Social Council (resumed second regular session of 1978)		<i>Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 3A</i>
E/1978/78	Resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council, 1978		<i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 1</i>

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
E/1978/INF/1	Rationalization of the symbol series of the documentation of the Council and its sessional committees: note by the Secretariat		
E/1978/INF/3	Calendar of conferences and meetings for 1978 and 1979: note by the Secretariat		
E/1978/INF/4	Meetings of ACC and its Preparatory Committee: note by the Secretary-General		
E/1978/INF/7	List of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council in 1978		



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1978

Summary records of the 1st to 4th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters,
New York, from 10 to 13 January 1978

1st meeting

Tuesday, 10 January 1978, at 11 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Gabriel van LAETHEM (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs).

President: Mr. DONALD O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.1

Opening of the session

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the organizational session for 1978 of the Economic and Social Council.
2. After welcoming the new members and wishing the Council success in its work, he noted that he was participating in the Council's meetings for the last time as Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. His three years' experience with the Council had given him a better idea of the dimensions and nature of economic and social development problems, and he extended his thanks to all members of the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the Bureau

3. Mr. ROS (Argentina) nominated Mr. Donald O. Mills (Jamaica) for the office of President of the Council for 1978.

Mr. Donald O. Mills (Jamaica) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Mills (Jamaica) took the Chair.

4. The PRESIDENT expressed appreciation for the honour bestowed on him and on his country, and paid a tribute to the outgoing President and other members of the Bureau who had served during 1977.

5. There was a general feeling that 1978 would be a crucial year for the Council. The growing concern over the need to strengthen the Council's work and functions and to make it a more effective instrument had been brought into focus by the exercise concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and by the decisions taken at

the thirty-second session of the General Assembly. Far from casting doubt on its future, the recent decisions on restructuring and the arrangements in regard to negotiations on the new international economic order provided both a challenge and an opportunity to the Council, which must address itself first to those aspects of the restructuring that concerned the improvement of its functioning. In addition, the Council had the opportunity of making an effective contribution to the establishment of a more coherent and co-ordinated process in the working of the United Nations system and of assisting in carrying forward the discussions on development and international economic co-operation. The Council must also increasingly reflect the new perceptions that had emerged in regard to social affairs and human rights.

6. Finally, both personally and on behalf of the Council, he expressed deep appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for his services to the Council and to the United Nations.

7. Turning to the question of the election of Vice-Presidents; he said that, under rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect four Vice-Presidents. He had been informed that, on the basis of informal consultations among the regional groups, Mr. Johan Kaufmann (Netherlands), Mr. Louis Kayanda Mwangaguhunga (Uganda), Mr. Vladimir Nikiphorovich Martynenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Mehdi Ehsassi (Iran) had been nominated to serve as Vice-Presidents for 1978.

Mr. Johan Kaufmann (Netherlands), Mr. Louis Kayanda Mwangaguhunga (Uganda), Mr. Vladimir Nikiphorovich (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Mehdi Ehsassi (Iran) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1978/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/1978/L.1, E/1978/L.2 and Add.1)

8. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to document E/1978/2/Add.1, which contained further annotations to agenda item 5 in respect of additional elections which the Council was to hold at the request of the General Assembly. Item 4 (General Regulations of the World Food Programme) would not normally be considered at the organizational session but had had to be included in the agenda as a consequence of the reconstitution of the Joint United National FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme as the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The Council of FAO and the Economic and Social Council must approve the revised General Regulations before they could come into force.

The agenda of the organizational session for 1978 (E/1978/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1) was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1978 (E/1978/1)

9. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that, in preparing the document before the Council (E/1978/1), the Secretariat had been conscious of the fact the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System was about to submit its recommendations to the General Assembly and that those recommendations might affect the Council's programme of work. It had suggested that the Council should adopt a programme of work in accordance with the established procedure, on the understanding that, once the Council had defined the arrangements for implementing the restructuring recommendations, the programme of work might be adjusted. If that was acceptable, the Council should proceed with the necessary caution, so that preparations might be made in connexion with the documentation and studies for which legislative authority had been approved but without taking any decisions that might be at variance with, or pre-empt, the restructuring process.

10. He drew attention to sections I, II and III of document E/1978/1, and pointed out that the title of question 93 should be simply "Assistance to South African student refugees"; item 5 of the suggested integrated agenda for the second regular session should be amended accordingly. Section IV of the document showed the questions which it was proposed should be integrated under various items and gave the documentation that would be submitted to the Council in connexion with each item. As matters stood, a total of 118 reports would be submitted to the Council during the year. That list had been submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1894 (LVII) so that the Council could decide whether some of the documents could be disposed of or whether some other action should be taken to reduce the size of the documentation. Finally, the annex to the document contained the preliminary list of substantive questions to be considered in 1979.

11. Turning to the question how the Council might wish to implement the recommendations on restructuring, he pointed out that the Council would receive at

its first regular session a report from the Secretary-General under paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 32/197, and that at its second regular session it would receive another report from the Secretary-General and reports from all organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system on the implementation process in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 7 of that same resolution. It had been suggested that a distinction should be drawn between those recommendations that were addressed to the Council, most of which could be found in section II of the conclusions and recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee annexed to resolution 32/197, and those that had a bearing on the Council's work and functions, contained in sections IV, V, VI and VII of the conclusions and recommendations. The Secretariat had been aware that the *Ad Hoc* Committee had had the clear understanding that all recommendations addressed to the various bodies were interlinked and that they were intended to initiate a restructuring process that would take some time. The Council might none the less wish to establish priorities and take up, in the first instance, the recommendations which related to it. Therefore, in accordance with a suggestion that had been made when the calendar of meetings was considered, conference facilities had been reserved at Headquarters from 16 January to 3 February for a possible extension of the organizational session.

12. Recalling that section II, paragraph 11 of the *Ad Hoc* Committee's recommendations set the deadline for the adoption of decisions relating to the streamlining of the Council's subsidiary machinery and prescribed that the Council should give high priority to that task, he said that delegations might wish to have a preliminary meeting as soon as possible to enable the Council to take a position on the recommendations as a whole under the item on restructuring at the first regular session.

13. He drew attention to paragraph 10 (a) of the introduction to the draft basic programme of work (E/1978/1), noting that section II, paragraph 8, of the *Ad Hoc* Committee's recommendations also implied that the Council should concentrate on the examination of problems and areas of actual or potential significance for development and international co-operation.

14. He also drew attention to paragraph 10 (f) of the introduction, which referred to the possibility of deferring until 1979 the comprehensive review of the question of crime prevention and control requested by the General Assembly, and to paragraph 10 (i), on the reinforcing of the social development sector within the United Nations. The Council might wish to decide the question of the establishment of the proposed *ad hoc* working group on the basis of its review of the restructuring recommendations. Finally, he drew attention to paragraph 11 of the introduction.

15. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) complained that the Russian text of the draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1978 (E/1978/1) had only just become available. The late arrival of documents made the work of delegations very difficult, and he strongly urged the Secretariat to ensure that all documents were made available in good time.

16. In view of the unprecedentedly large number of topics for discussion, the Council would have to establish priorities in allocating resources for the imple-

mentation of its programme of work. That task would not be easy, since United Nations resources were not inexhaustible. Priority should be given to finding solutions to current problems which would contribute to the establishment of the new international economic order on a just and democratic basis, and to freeing resources for that purpose.

17. In current circumstances, there was no sensible alternative to the policy of détente, which was becoming increasingly influential in international relations. Only in conditions of continuing détente could international economic relations be restructured so as to eliminate discrimination, *diktat* and inequality. Positive developments in the world political climate would lead, through more active co-operation between countries, to heightened interest in the maintenance of peace on the basis of peaceful coexistence between States. A reduction in international tension would also permit the adoption of measures to limit the arms race, thereby releasing enormous resources for the socio-economic development of all countries, including developing countries. Progress in the expansion of détente and in the restructuring of international economic relations would be mutually complementary.

18. The Council should continue to concentrate on the development of international economic relations on the basis of equal rights, mutual benefit and the elimination of discrimination. The United Nations could now take a whole series of steps for the restructuring of international economic relations, based on such fundamentally important documents as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX)) and the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)). All States should take account of those documents in their international economic relations; it was important that the stand of the developing countries against imperialism and colonialism should be upheld and that they should be supported in their struggle for political and economic independence.

19. The Council's agenda was once again very full, but not all items were of equal importance. Attention should be concentrated on those which would really alleviate the difficult economic position of most developing countries caused by continuing capitalist exploitation, the tariff barriers imposed by capitalist developed countries, the siphoning-off of profits by transnational corporations, the transfer of the consequences of crisis to economically weak countries and the constant infringement by monopolies of the sovereign rights of States over their own natural resources.

20. The greatest progress in economic and social development was made by countries which concentrated on developing the public sector of industry, eliminated outmoded agricultural practices and nationalized foreign businesses, training their own managers and establishing their sovereignty over their natural resources. The role of the Council was to assist such progressive developments, devoting special attention to them in its programme of work. In that respect, the inclusion of an item on problems connected with the public sector in developing countries could be useful.

21. Efforts to strengthen the Council's co-ordinating role should be continued, so as to increase the Council's effectiveness and prevent overlapping of functions and unjustifiably high expenditure. The rationali-

zation of the work of the Council and the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system should both be considered in that light. The need to effect savings in the United Nations regular budget should be borne in mind before any decision having financial implications was adopted. The Council's work should be organized so as to be financed to the fullest possible extent from existing resources and from those released both by reorganizing and reducing programmes and activities in the socio-economic sector and by eliminating overlapping.

22. The Council should continue to give attention to the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex). He noted that no Secretary-General had yet been appointed for the World Conference on Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, despite Council resolution 2057 (LXII) requesting the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make the appointment at the earliest possible time. Such a delay, and the fact that the Secretariat was taking so long to prepare the documentation for the Conference, constituted a threat to the smooth functioning of the Conference.

23. His delegation was concerned at the reference to adjusting the date of the World Conference which was made in the annotation to question 72 in the draft basic programme of work (E/1978/1, sect. I); the General Assembly resolutions concerning the Conference made no provision for such adjustment. Nor could his delegation agree that the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women should be postponed until the dates suggested by the Secretariat in document E/1978/L.2, which would create difficulties for the Council, since documents resulting from the Commission's work would not be available in time for discussion at the first regular session of 1978. His delegation therefore favoured holding the session of the Commission on the Status of Women in the second half of February.

24. In advocating the expansion of co-operation with all States on an egalitarian and democratic basis, regardless of their socio-economic systems, the Soviet Union had always given due consideration to the special needs and problems of the developing countries in regard to the world economy, and would continue to do so. Together with the other socialist countries and the developing countries, it would do all it could to promote the restructuring of international economic relations on a basis of justice and democracy.

25. Mr. KUBBA (Iraq) pointed out that at the sixty-third session of the Council the question of assistance to the Palestinian people, which appeared in Conference Room Paper No. 2 as a separate item for consideration at the second regular session of 1978, had been considered under the item on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. His delegation believed that the Secretariat would have done better to retain that arrangement for 1978 also.

26. Mr. KANAZAWA (Japan), referring to document E/1978/1, suggested that the International Year of the Child should be added to the subjects to be considered by the Council at its second regular session under item 22. At its sixty-third session the Council had considered the International Year of the Child as

a separate topic, and he believed that it would be appropriate to follow that precedent.

27. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) expressed concern at one aspect of the suggestion made by the representative of Japan. His Government attached great importance to the problems of children and had followed with interest the work of UNICEF in that connexion as well as other activities currently in progress, including some in his own country. Because of the heavy programme scheduled for the second regular session, he believed that it would be detrimental to the work of the Council as well as to the activities already under way on the problems of children if the Council were to discuss the subject at that time. He would therefore prefer that the question should be discussed at the first regular session, provided that the relevant documentation could be prepared in time by the Secretariat.

28. Mr. VAN BUUREN (Netherlands) welcomed the fact that sufficient time had been reserved for consideration of the very important item on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

29. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the Council was faced by two principal tasks during the current year. The first related to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, with specific reference to the restructuring of the area of the Council's own competence. The second task was increasing the effectiveness of the Council's contribution to the other important endeavours with which it had been charged under the guidance of the General Assembly.

30. On the question of the election of the members of the Commission on Human Settlements under item 5 of the agenda for the current session, he would like to know what formal action would have to be taken by the Council to transform the existing Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into the new entity and under which item that action should be taken. Such action was clearly necessary before the Council could proceed to elect the members of the Commission on Human Settlements.

31. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that the African group was still engaged in consultations regarding the 16 seats in the Commission on Human Settlements which had been allocated to African States.

32. Mr. AMIRDIVANI (Iran) supported the suggestion of the representatives of Japan and Mexico that the International Year of the Child should be dealt with as a separate topic.

33. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria) said that two main considerations should be borne in mind in connexion with the programme of work of the Council for 1978. The first was the question of priorities, some of which were obvious from the draft agenda. Secondly, in view of the immense amount of detail with which the Council was faced, it was important that the working methods of the Council should be examined.

34. Mr. MARTYENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that he agreed with those representatives who had drawn attention to the very burdensome character of the Council's programme of work. It was essential that priorities should be established.

35. Mr. JAIPAL (India) stressed the importance of giving priority to the question of enhancing the Council's efficiency, both through the process of restructur-

ing and otherwise. He hoped that the Council would take advantage of the opportunity provided by restructuring to increase its own efficiency, which had given rise to adverse criticism in recent years.

36. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council), replying to points raised by representatives, said that he had already transmitted his apologies to the representative of the Soviet Union for the delay in the production of document E/1978/1. In order to prepare the draft programme of work, it had been necessary to await the termination of the work of the General Assembly, so that all items covered and decisions adopted during its thirty-second session could be included. Moreover, it was difficult to produce such a document in a short time over the holiday season. Work was based on texts which in many cases were not final, with the result that mistakes were inevitable. He believed that the future timing of the organizational session should perhaps be considered in connexion with the question of restructuring. He also considered that the whole question of documentation must be attacked frontally. During 1978, the Secretariat was required to produce 118 documents, involving approximately 3,776 pages, at a production cost of \$300 per page. He welcomed the emphasis which had been laid on the urgent need to put the Council's house in order. The Council's subsidiary machinery, programme of work, calendar and documentation gave an impression of bewildering profusion. Improvements in the committees' methods of work would enhance not only the efficiency of the Secretariat but also the deliberations of the Council itself.

37. In reply to the point raised by the representative of the Soviet Union regarding the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, he pointed out that the wording of question 72, which appeared in the section of document E/1978/1 containing the legislative authority adopted prior to the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, had been taken from Council resolution 2057 (LXII), adopted at the sixty-second session. The General Assembly had subsequently decided that that Conference should be held at Geneva from 14 to 25 August 1978.

38. The comments which he had already made on the question of the documentation of the Council were those which had dictated the postponement of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. As the documentation could not be ready in time, the Secretariat had sought the authorization of the President of the Council to postpone that session.

39. The question of the International Year of the Child would be considered in connexion with the report of UNICEF. He had no views as to whether the Council might wish to add an additional item to cover that question. However, if the question was scheduled for consideration during the spring session, the report of UNICEF would not be available, as the Executive Board of UNICEF would not meet until after the first regular session of the Council.

40. In reply to the point raised by the representative of Iraq, he said that it was correct that the Council had approved the inclusion of the question of assistance to the Palestinian people under the item on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. When the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee had taken up the item at Geneva, the question had been raised of

the need to have separate items, and the Committee had decided to hold separate discussions on the two questions. The Secretariat had regarded that as guidance in preparing the basic programme of work of the Council.

41. In regard to the transformation of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into the Commission on Human Settlements, action by the Council would be needed to formalize the decision of the Gen-

eral Assembly: It had been his intention to suggest that the Secretariat should be asked to prepare a draft procedural decision to that effect under the item on organizational matters. On the question of the date and location of the first session of the Commission, the Council might wish, for economic and institutional reasons, to hold that session in New York from 27 March to 7 April 1978.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

2nd meeting

Thursday, 12 January 1978, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.2

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/1978/L.1, E/1978/L.2 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/L.7)

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS (E/1978/L.2 AND ADD.1 AND 2)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the changes in its calendar of meetings for 1978 proposed in documents E/1978/L.2 and Add.2 and drew attention to document E/1978/L.2/Add.1, which contained the financial implications of changing the dates originally envisaged for the third special session of the Committee on Natural Resources.

Committee on Natural Resources

2. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council), speaking with reference to document E/1978/L.2/Add.2, said that the holding of the third special session of the Committee on Natural Resources from 18 to 27 September 1978 would have no financial implications.

3. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) suggested that the Council should consider the possibility of shortening the third special session of the Committee on Natural Resources to one week.

4. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed regret that it had been necessary to propose yet another change in the timing of the third special session of the Committee, although he welcomed the fact that the new dates would have no financial implications. If a majority of the members of the Council were in agreement with the proposal, his delegation would not object. However, he supported the suggestion made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, bearing in mind that the thirty-third session of the General Assembly would open on 19 September 1978.

5. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden), supported by Mr. HERERA VEGAS (Argentina), felt that, as the Committee on Natural Resources would have a heavy agenda at its third special session, the Council should refrain at present from taking a decision on the length of that session.

6. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) suggested that the Council should revert to the matter later in the year.

7. Mrs. DERRE (France) said that in principle her delegation had no objection to the proposed changes in the calendar of conferences, although she must emphasize that it had not yet had time to consult its Government. With respect to the calendar of meetings in general, it would appreciate a clarification as to whether the final decision on changes would be taken by the Council or by the Committee on Conferences.

8. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) observed that the Secretariat, too, was uncertain of the procedures to be followed and would welcome some guidance in order to be able to avoid criticism. The most recent of a series of ambiguous decisions provided that the Committee on Conferences would deal with departures from the calendar of conferences. That provision could be interpreted to mean either that the Committee on Conferences itself would take the final decision or simply that it would deal with any changes after the necessary decisions had been taken by the Council.

9. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the proposal that the third special session of the Committee on Natural Resources should be held at Headquarters from 18 to 27 September instead of from 13 to 23 February as previously scheduled, and that it would reconsider the length of that session later in the year.

It was so decided (decision 1978/3, para. 1(a)).

Committee on Science and Technology for Development

10. The PRESIDENT suggested that the fourth session of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development should be held at Geneva from 6 to 10 February instead of from 30 January to 10 February, as previously scheduled.

It was so decided (decision 1978/3, para. 1(b)).

Commission on the Status of Women

11. Mr. AMIRDIVANI (Iran) expressed his delegation's dissatisfaction with the postponement of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. As his delegation understood it, the postponement was due to the fact that the Secretariat had not had sufficient time to prepare documentation.

If that was the case, more staff should be made available so that a similar situation did not recur.

12. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the postponement was unjustified, since the Secretariat could have made better use of its resources in order to prepare the documentation in time.

13. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the proposal that the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women should be held at Headquarters from 20 March to 5 April instead of from 23 January to 10 February, as previously scheduled.

It was so decided (decision 1978/3, para. 1(c)).

Commission on Human Settlements

14. Mr. HALL (Jamaica) observed that the timing of the first session of the Commission on Human Settlements would depend on the dates selected for the Council meetings on restructuring.

15. Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria) said that he doubted whether the dates suggested in document E/1978/L.2/Add.2 would allow sufficient time for the preparation of documents. He asked whether the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) had been appointed and, if not, who would supervise the necessary preparations.

16. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that it would be difficult to comply with the General Assembly's directive that the first session of the Commission should be held in the first half of 1978 and to find a suitable time after the first week of April because of problems of overlapping with the meetings of the Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Commission on Transnational Corporations. The session could, of course, be scheduled in August, but that would have financial implications.

17. Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria) said that he would like an assurance that the documentation would be ready in time, notwithstanding the fact that the Habitat secretariat had not been constituted and the Executive Director had not been appointed.

18. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said he assumed that the first session would be organizational and would not require much documentation.

19. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that he shared the concern expressed by the representative of Nigeria. The consideration of organizational questions would of necessity involve some substantive discussion, and there was a possibility the Commission would wish to establish priorities and draw up its programme of work.

20. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) said he too was anxious that preparations should be thorough and be completed on time. Because of practical difficulties in scheduling meetings, he believed that one solution would be to hold an organizational session of the Commission in February and a substantive session early in 1979.

21. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) suggested that the Council should refrain from setting dates in 1979 until its summer session, when it would have before it a number of requests on the subject. Moreover, before taking a decision, the Council should know the venue of the substantive session, which the Commission would no doubt decide at its organizational session.

22. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that a great deal of useful work could be done at an organizational session. For example, the Commission would certainly want to consider to what extent it needed to adapt the programme of work of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning. He suggested that, for the time being, the Council should put aside the question of a substantive session in 1979.

23. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the holding of the first session of the Commission on Human Settlements at Headquarters during the period from 27 March to 7 April, bearing in mind that the length of the session would depend on the decision yet to be taken by the Council concerning its meetings on restructuring.

Council meetings on restructuring

24. Mr. HALL (Jamaica) said that the dates proposed in document E/1978/L.2/Add.2 for the Council meetings on restructuring would coincide with the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency. He therefore suggested that the Council should consider utilizing part of the services allocated to the Commission on Human Settlements, which would mean that the meetings on restructuring would be held in the week beginning 27 March and the Commission on Human Settlements would meet during the following week.

25. Mr. JODAHN (Sweden) and Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria) supported that suggestion.

26. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) also supported the Jamaican suggestion, and emphasized the importance of carefully prepared and comprehensive documentation for all matters relating to restructuring. The decisions to be taken on those matters would be largely determined by the positions yet to be worked out in the Group of 77.

27. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed that its meetings on restructuring should be informal, that they should be held during the week beginning 27 March, and that the first session of the Commission on Human Settlements should be held in the week beginning 3 April.

It was so decided (decision 1978/3, para. 1 (e) and (f)).

Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174

28. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that, as the dates suggested in document E/1978/L.2/Add.2 for the organizational session of the Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 were inconvenient for his delegation, he hoped that the Council would consider an alternative time, preferably in mid-February.

29. Mr. HALL (Jamaica) said that, when explaining its vote on General Assembly resolution 32/174, his delegation had requested, on behalf of the Group of 77, that the first session of the Committee of the whole established under that resolution should be held in the second half of January or in early February. Since that time, however, informal consultations had revealed a widespread preference for the week beginning 13 February.

30. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said it had emerged from informal consultations that it would be inconvenient for a large number of delegations if the organizational session of the Committee of the whole was held during the period proposed in document E/1978/L.2/Add.2, as many of their members would be at Geneva at that time. The Committee of the whole would seem to have some priority over other bodies, and every effort should therefore be made to allow it to meet from 13 to 17 February.

31. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that only one body under the jurisdiction of the Council was scheduled to meet during the period from 13 to 17 February, namely, the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations. The Economic and Social Council Chamber had been reserved for the meetings of that Working Group. The Committee of the whole would require a larger room, but it might be possible to make an internal switch with some other body if a decision was taken to cancel or reschedule the meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group.

32. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) urged that the Council should reschedule the meeting of the Working Group to allow the Committee of the whole to meet from 13 to 17 February.

33. Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria) said it was difficult to determine which body should have priority, since both would be dealing with essential aspects of the new international economic order. In the circumstances, his delegation could agree to give priority to the Committee of the whole, on the understanding that cancellation of the Intergovernmental Working Group's session would have a serious effect on its work.

34. Mr. HALL (Jamaica) asked whether it was possible to reschedule the session of the Working Group for March, for example, rather than cancel it.

35. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) noted that the Intergovernmental Working Group was also scheduled to meet from 20 to 31 March. He therefore suggested that it might be asked to complete its work in that time period. Alternatively, if the session of the Working Group was shortened by one week, it would still be possible for it to meet twice and for the Committee of the whole to meet from 13 to 17 February.

36. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) endorsed the latter alternative put forward by the Secretary. He noted, however, that, if the session of the Commission on the Status of Women had not been postponed, it would not have been possible for the Committee of the whole to meet at all. Such a situation should never be permitted to arise again.

37. Mr. HAIDAR (India) said that his delegation would prefer postponing the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group rather than truncating it, in view of the great distance which many representatives would have to travel for the brief session.

38. Mr. BENHOCINE (Algeria) said that his delegation would very reluctantly accept the proposal to shorten the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group. It preferred, however, in view of the great importance of the Committee of the whole, that every avenue should be explored to determine whether the meeting of some other body not concerned with economic or social questions could be rescheduled to enable both the Intergovernmental Working Group

and the Committee of the whole to meet during the period from 13 to 17 February.

39. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to recommend that the Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 should meet from 13 to 17 February and that the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations should meet from 6 to 10 February, with the possibility of an extension if additional services should become available.

It was so decided (decision 1978/3, para. 2 and para. 1 (g)).

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices

40. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America) said that her Government attached great importance to the fourth session of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices, scheduled for 23 to 27 January. However, it was aware of the scheduling difficulties and was prepared to accept the alternative dates proposed.

41. Mr. VAN BUUREN (Netherlands) said that during the informal consultations his delegation had become aware of the difficulties associated with the dates originally chosen for the session. His delegation attached importance to the problem of corrupt practices, but wished to point out that the new dates proposed would clash with the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency and that the Legal Counsel might not, therefore, be able to attend the session of the Working Group. In addition, the new dates were very close to those of the fifth session of the Working Group. However, as any attempt to postpone the latter session further would probably lead to its cancellation, his delegation would agree to the proposed change in the dates of the fourth session.

42. Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria) said that his delegation also attached great importance to the session of the Working Group and welcomed the willingness of the representative of the Netherlands to accept the proposed change in the dates.

43. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that the new dates proposed were acceptable to his delegation.

44. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided that the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices should meet at Headquarters from 6 to 10 March 1978 instead of from 23 to 27 January.

It was so decided (decision 1978/3, para. 1 (d)).

DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (E/1978/L.7)

45. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV) should be mentioned in the operative paragraph of draft resolution E/1978/L.7, since that resolution had laid down the terms of reference of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning.

46. The PRESIDENT noted that Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV) was mentioned in the second pre-ambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

47. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that it might be redundant and confusing to include a specific mention of that resolution in the operative paragraph, since General Assembly resolution 32/162, which was mentioned there, referred to Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV).

48. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would prefer the inclusion of a reference to the Council resolution in both the preamble and the operative part of the draft resolution.

49. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) asked whether the wording of the operative paragraph might be interpreted to mean that the Commission on Human Settlements had other terms of reference besides those set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162. He also sought clarification as to whether the expression "terms of reference" covered all the provisions of resolution 32/162, including those relating to the composition of the Commission. In any event, it might be best to add the words "and compensation" after the words "terms of reference" in the operative paragraph.

50. The PRESIDENT said he had been assured by the Secretariat that the composition of the Commission was part of its terms of reference and that there was consequently no need to make direct reference to the matter in the draft resolution.

51. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation understood the terms of reference set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162 to encompass the terms of reference laid down in Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV).

52. Mr. HALL (Jamaica) proposed that the operative paragraph should be amended to read:

"Decides to transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into a Commission on Human Settlements in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/162."

That would make it clearer that the terms of reference included those laid down in the relevant Council resolution.

53. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) emphasized that a reference to the important work of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning should not be omitted from the draft resolution.

54. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) asked whether the 1962 terms of reference of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning included provisions relating to its composition. If so, there would be a problem in referring specifically to Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV), since the composition of the Commission was to be different.

55. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) endorsed the Jamaican proposal, since it would draw attention to General Assembly resolution 32/162 as a whole, which emphasized the conceptual changes involved in transforming the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into a Commission on Human Settlements and set out the composition of the new Commission.

56. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stressed that his delegation had no ulterior motive in making its proposal; it simply wished to have the existing resources within the Secretariat used rationally and to take advantage of the experience already

acquired by the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning.

57. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to General Assembly resolution 32/162, section II, paragraph 2, in which it was stated that the Commission on Human Settlements would discharge, *inter alia*, the responsibilities currently exercised by the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning.

58. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed a subamendment whereby the words "also taking into account Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV)" would be added at the end of the text proposed by the representative of Jamaica.

59. Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria) said that, while he understood the concern of the representative of the Soviet Union, he felt that the reference to General Assembly resolution 32/162 gave adequate attention to Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV). The Soviet position was a matter of record and would undoubtedly be borne in mind by the new Commission in its work.

60. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the position of his delegation was one of principle and had already been stated in the General Assembly debate on the subject. His delegation would not press its proposal and would not oppose the Jamaican amendment, but wished to have its reservations placed on record.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.7, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/1).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1978/L.1)

61. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia) asked what would be the approximate size of the sessional working group to assist in the consideration of reports from States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, referred to in paragraph 2 of the note by the Secretariat (E/1978/L.1).

62. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the exact size had not been decided on in Council resolution 1988 (LX). He noted, however, that the Council had chosen to call the body a working group and not a committee. Whereas sessional committees were generally committees of the whole, the designation "working group" suggested a smaller body.

63. Ms. MATTESON (United States of America) noted that, according to Council resolution 1988 (LX), the purpose of the working group was to assist the Council in the consideration of reports submitted under the Covenant. The wording of the resolution had specifically not excluded from membership in the working group States which were not parties to the Covenant. In her view, States which were parties to the Covenant but were not members of the Council, and representatives of specialized agencies, might also participate in the working group. It should be large enough to be effective but not so large as to be unwieldy, with a membership of approximately 24 to 26, and no State which was really interested in participating should be excluded.

64. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, in his view, the working group should consist only of members of the Council, as it was to the Council that the Covenant gave the mandate to review reports. In resolution 1988 (LX) it was also specified that due regard should be given to the representation of States which had ratified the Covenant

and to equitable geographical distribution. He suggested that the Council should first decide on the size of the working group and then establish an equitable regional distribution. The membership should be chosen primarily from those States in the various regions which had ratified the Covenant, but room should be left for States which were not parties to it.

65. Mr. Haidar (India) noted that a number of States, including his own, had not yet ratified the Covenant but might be in the process of doing so. His Government was interested in participating in the work of the working group and welcomed the suggestion that the group should be open to interested Council members.

66. Mr. Hachani (Tunisia) felt that there might be some legal problems if States not parties to the Covenant participated in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties. While he had no objection to leaving open the possibility of allowing other States to participate in the work of the working group, he felt that it might be useful to obtain a legal opinion on the matter and to defer a decision on the composition of the working group until a later meeting.

67. Mr. Mwangaguhunga (Uganda) and Mr. Lazarevic (Yugoslavia) supported the suggestion made by the representative of Tunisia.

68. Mr. Cordovez (Secretary of the Council) drew the Council's attention to articles 16, 17 and 19 of the Covenant, which dealt with the role of the Council in examining reports. In its resolution 1988 (LX), the Council had decided to perform such a function with the assistance of a sessional working group and had provided that that body should have an appropriate representation of States parties to the Covenant.

69. Mr. Hall (Jamaica) proposed that the Council should establish a sessional working group of 27 members, which would include the 19 members of the Council that were States parties to the Covenant (see E/1978/L.1, annex I) and eight more States to provide balanced geographical distribution. In that connexion, he suggested the selection of three members from Latin American States, one from Western European and other States, three from African States and one from Asian States.

70. The President suggested that negotiations should be held on the matter and that the Council should suspend its discussion of the item pending the outcome of those negotiations.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 4

General Regulations of the World Food Programme (E/1978/3)

71. The President drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General (E/1978/3) containing the pro-

posed revised General Regulations of the World Food Programme as approved by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its third and fourth sessions. The approval of the Council of FAO and the Economic and Social Council was necessary before the revised General Regulations could come into force, and the FAO Council had already approved them.

72. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the note, the Council was required to approve the revised General Regulations as set out in annex I to the note and to endorse the interpretative statement concerning paragraph 14 of the Regulations quoted in paragraph 7 of the note. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to do so.

It was so decided (decision 1978/4).

73. Mrs. Derre (France) said that her Government had already stated, at the fourth session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, its reservations with regard to the interpretation of paragraph 14 of the revised General Regulations, and wished now to reiterate its position.

74. Count York (Federal Republic of Germany) and Mr. Poole (United States of America) drew attention to foot-note 2 to the extract from the report of the Committee on its fourth session (see E/1978/3, annex II), which referred to the position of their Governments with regard to the revised General Regulations.

75. Mr. Voloshin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection to the document just adopted by the Council and had already stated its position on the substance of the item in the General Assembly.

76. Mr. Hall (Jamaica) asked how the words "implemented with the agreement of the host countries" in the text quoted in document E/1978/3, paragraph 7, were to be interpreted.

77. Mr. Mongia (World Food Programme) said that the delivery of food aid intended for liberation movements would require the consent of the host Government.

78. Mr. Abuah (Nigeria) asked how the word "Government" was to be interpreted in that connexion. Did it mean, for instance, that food aid intended for delivery to SWAPO would be channelled through Pretoria?

79. Mr. Mongia (World Food Programme) said that the delivery of food aid to liberated areas would require the assistance and support of neighbouring countries through which the food aid must pass to reach the liberation movement.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

3rd meeting

Thursday, 12 January 1978, at 3.50 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.3

AGENDA ITEM 5

Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (E/1978/4, E/1978/5 and Add.1-6, E/1978/6, E/1978/L.3, L.4, L.5)

ELECTIONS

Committee for Development Planning (E/1978/L.3)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/1978/L.3. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to appoint as members of the Committee for Development Planning the 24 experts whose names were given in that document, for a term beginning on the date of appointment and expiring on 13 December 1980.

*It was so decided.**

Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/1978/4)

2. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its resumed sixty-third session, the Council had decided to increase the membership of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development from 24 to 28 members and to appoint the members at the organizational session. He drew attention to document E/1978/4, which contained the Secretary-General's nominations.

3. Mr. NISAIF (Iraq) recalled that at the resumed sixty-third session many delegations, including his own, had expressed reservations regarding the appointment of a Zionist to the Advisory Committee because the Zionist entity did not belong to any regional group. In its resolution 2130 (LXIII), the Council had stressed the importance of taking into account equitable geographical distribution and of increasing the participation of developing countries in the Advisory Committee. He expressed surprise at the fact that the Secretary-General had not taken the views expressed into account and he reaffirmed his Government's strong reservations on that appointment.

4. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation fully shared the views just expressed and was astonished that the Secretariat had not taken account of the views expressed at the resumed sixty-third session. Israel was not a member of any group.

5. Mr. BENHOCINE (Algeria), Mr. MALINGUR (Somalia) and Mr. HAMMAD (United Arab Emirates) associated their delegations with the reservations expressed by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

6. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to appoint the 28 members whose names were given in document E/1978/4, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1980, taking into account the reservations expressed by a number of delegations.

*It was so decided.**

* See decision 1978/5.

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/1978/L.4)

7. The PRESIDENT said he had been informed that three of the regional groups had not completed their canvassing. If he heard no objection, therefore, he would take it that the Council wished to postpone the elections to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

*It was so decided.**

Commission on Human Settlements (E/1978/L.5)

8. The PRESIDENT drew attention to paragraph 3 of document E/1978/L.5 in which it was suggested that the Council might wish to follow its past practice of determining by lot which, among the elected members, should serve, in the initial stage, for three years, for two years and for one year. If he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to determine by lot the term of the members of the Commission on Human Settlements elected at that first election.

*It was so decided.**

9. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to follow the procedure outlined in paragraph 4 of document E/1978/L.5.

*It was so decided.**

10. The PRESIDENT invited the Assistant Secretary of the Council to read out the names of the candidates.

11. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were 16 seats allocated to African States and 14 candidates endorsed by that group. They were: Burundi, the Central African Empire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

12. For the 13 seats allocated to Asian States there were 10 endorsed candidates: India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam.

13. For the 10 Latin American seats there were 10 candidates which had the endorsement of that group: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela.

14. For the 6 seats allocated to Eastern European States there were 6 endorsed candidates: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia.

15. For the 13 seats allocated to Western European and other States there were 13 candidates: Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

* See decision 1978/5.

16. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should elect those candidates from the Asian and African groups whose names had been read out; the remaining candidates for those groups could be elected the following day. The drawing of lots for those two groups could also be held at the next meeting.

*It was so decided.**

17. Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the proposed candidature of the Chilean military junta for a seat on the Commission on Human Settlements, said that in view of the relevant General Assembly resolutions his delegation confirmed its position of principle on that matter expressed during the most recent sessions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council.

18. The PRESIDENT declared the States whose names had been read out by the Assistant Secretary elected to the Commission by acclamation, due account being taken of the reservation expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union.

*The Council then decided by the drawing of lots that Argentina, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Portugal, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yugoslavia would serve for a period of three years; that Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Netherlands and Peru would serve for a period of two years; and that Australia, Chile, Czechoslovakia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Poland and Venezuela would serve for a period of one year.**

Statistical Commission

19. The PRESIDENT said it was his understanding that there was no candidate as yet for the vacancy for an African State on the Statistical Commission.

20. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that candidatures for seats on the Statistical Commission, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Review and Appraisal would not be decided upon until February or March. The Council would be informed at a subsequent session of the candidates decided upon.

Committee on Natural Resources

21. The PRESIDENT said that since there were no candidates as yet for the vacancies for one African and one Asian State on the Committee on Natural Resources, the election would have to be postponed.

*It was so decided.**

Committee on Science and Technology for Development

22. The PRESIDENT said that since there were no candidates for the two vacancies for members from Asian States on the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the elections would have to be postponed.

*It was so decided.**

Committee on Review and Appraisal

23. The PRESIDENT said that there were vacancies on the Committee on Review and Appraisal for four members from African States and five members from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of elec-

tion and expiring on 31 December 1981, and for one member from African States and two members from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1979. It was his understanding that there were only two candidates, both Asian, for the term expiring on 31 December 1981: Bangladesh and the Philippines.

24. If he heard no objection, he would take it that those candidates were elected.

*It was so decided.**

Commission on Transnational Corporations

25. The PRESIDENT announced that there were vacancies on the Commission on Transnational Corporations for three members from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1980. There was only one candidate, Fiji, and if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to elect Fiji to the Commission.

*It was so decided.**

Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

26. The PRESIDENT announced that there was one candidate, Bangladesh, for the vacancy for one Asian State on the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1980. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Bangladesh.

*It was so decided.**

Board of Governors of the United Nations Special Fund

27. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the addendum to the provisional agenda (E/1978/2/Add.1), which listed the number of vacancies on the Board of Governors of the United Nations Special Fund. As no candidatures had been submitted so far, the elections would have to be postponed.

*It was so decided.**

CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS (E/1978/5 AND ADD.1-6) AND RELATED BODIES (E/1978/6)

Statistical Commission, Population Commission, Commission for Social Development, Commission on Human Rights, Commission on the Status of Women (E/1978/5 and Add.1-6)

28. The PRESIDENT drew attention to documents E/1978/5 and Add.1-6. He pointed out that the entry relating to Japan should be deleted from document E/1978/5 under the heading "Commission for Social Development".

29. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the appointment of the representatives on functional commissions listed in documents E/1978/5 and Add.1-6.

*It was so decided.**

30. Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the confirmation of the representative of Chile on the Commission for Social Development, said that, taking into account the relevant General Assembly resolutions, his delegation reaffirmed its position of principle on that matter as set forth during the recent sessions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council.

* See decision 1978/5.

* See decision 1978/5.

31. Ms. ROCH GONZALEZ DE LOS PENAS (Cuba) supported the position taken by the representative of the Soviet Union against the confirmation of the representative of Chile.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs: confirmation of three representatives on the Working Group of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (E/1978/6)

32. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council was also asked to confirm the names of three representatives on the Working Group of the Sub-Commission on

Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East. Those names were contained in document E/1978/6.

33. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the appointment of the three persons named in the document.

*It was so decided.**

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

* See decision 1978/5.

4th meeting

Friday, 13 January 1978, at 11.45 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.4

AGENDA ITEM 5

Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (concluded)

ELECTIONS

*Commission on Human Settlements (concluded)
(E/1978/L.5)*

1. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since no candidates had been proposed for the remaining vacancies on the Commission on Human Settlements, two for African States and three for Asian States, elections to fill those vacancies should be postponed until the first regular session.

*It was so decided.**

2. The PRESIDENT said that the Council should now determine the terms of each of the African and Asian members elected at the 3rd meeting of the Council.

*The Council then decided by the drawing of lots that Burundi, the Central African Empire, Iran, Japan, the Philippines, Rwanda, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania would serve for a period of three years; that Egypt, Iraq, Malaysia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and Uganda would serve for a period of two years; and that Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam would serve for a period of one year.**

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1978 (concluded) (E/1978/1, E/1978/L.6 and Add.1)**

3. Mr. THOMAS (Trinidad and Tobago) said that in discussing the programme of work the Council should consider the relationship between the restructuring exercise and the medium-term plan for 1980-1983, as restructuring would lead to new organizational links within the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. In that connexion, the Secretary-General's proposals on the implementation of the recommenda-

tions of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System would become available in the spring and summer of 1978, and they would, of course, affect the medium-term plan. Accordingly, although preparatory work on the medium-term plan should begin before too long, it would have to be borne in mind that the plan would ultimately be revised in the light of the restructuring measures. He asked whether the Secretariat intended to proceed with the preparation of the medium-term plan before full information on the restructuring changes was available.

4. Mr. VAN LAETHEM (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the problem was of great concern to his Department in its efforts to plan its future work, establish priorities and pursue optimum effectiveness, while striving to implement the recommendations on restructuring. Time was short, as by the end of February 1978 all Departments of the Organization needed to have completed their preparations for the medium-term plan. A further constraint was that the Secretariat had been asked to prepare the plan in a multidisciplinary and system-wide framework rather than the old sectoral one.

5. He suggested that there were two possible courses of action. The submission of the medium-term plan for 1980-1983 might be delayed for one year. The 1978-1979 draft programme budget had been approved and could be adjusted as appropriate in the light of the restructuring exercise and could, together with the medium-term plan for 1980-1983 as it emerged later, form the basis for the 1980 budget. An alternative and less radical course would be to postpone the May meeting of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination until July and have the Council review the report of CPC at its summer session.

6. A further difficulty was the fact that a certain number of the officers who would be responsible for future United Nations activities in the economic and social sectors would be new. In general, it seemed to him that the first alternative was better.

7. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the representative of Trinidad and Tobago had raised an important point. The problem was a difficult one and, in his view, the body to deal with it was CPC. One possible solution would be to have CPC meet informally

* See decision 1978/5.

** Resumed from the 1st meeting.

as soon as possible to be briefed by the Secretariat concerning all aspects of the problem; that would be a less drastic course than the first alternative proposed by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. The President of the Council could then be informed of the results of the CPC meeting and could judge whether the Council needed to meet again to consider the matter.

8. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) agreed that the problem was indeed difficult; it was compounded by the fact that a number of officials who should have taken up their duties had not yet done so, in particular, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. He felt that the more moderate solution proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom might deal satisfactorily with the problem.

9. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that facilities would be available for a CPC meeting until 10 February 1978; the date might be left open and decided on after consultations with the Chairman, and members of the Committee would be informed of the dates accordingly.

10. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago and the Under-Secretary-General with respect to the preparation of the medium-term plan for 1980-1983, particularly in the light of the comments reproduced in the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System,¹ whose conclusions and recommendations had been endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (resolution 32/197). Although it was true that the Secretariat would need time to implement those recommendations, there were other decisions concerning the preparation of the medium-term plan, including those of CPC, with respect to which work could proceed. Moreover, as his delegation had already observed, the Secretariat should already be working on proposals designed to eliminate duplication in the social and economic sectors and concerning the use of resources released as a result of the curtailment or completion of some projects and activities.

11. Mr. BAUCHARD (France) said that, in view of the restructuring exercise, it would clearly be unrealistic to expect the medium-term plan to be completed by the end of February. The Council should therefore consider the suggestions made by the Under-Secretary-General. The idea of postponing for a year the consideration of the medium-term plan, although a logical and clear-cut solution, might raise problems for the preparation of the following biennial budget. His delegation was therefore inclined to prefer the second solution, namely, the postponement of the CPC session until July and the review by the Council of the CPC report in the second half of the year, but it wished to emphasize that a final decision should depend on the progress made with restructuring. He shared the view of the United Kingdom representative that CPC should consider the problem and endorsed the suggestion that CPC should meet briefly in informal session for that purpose. It would also be appropriate for the Council itself to discuss the problem during its meeting on restructuring in March.

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34 and Corr.1) and Supplement No. 34A (A/32/34/Add.1).

12. Mr. VAN LAETHEM (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) observed that his successor would be exchanging views with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions at a three-day meeting beginning on 30 January. He therefore suggested that, if the Council did decide that CPC should meet in informal session, that session should be held between 3 and 10 February.

13. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should agree that the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee and the preparation of the medium-term plan for 1980-1983 should proceed in accordance with the relevant decisions, and that a series of informal meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to consider the issues raised during the discussion should be held as soon as possible, on dates to be determined by the Chairman of the Committee in the light of the comments made in the Council on the subject.

14. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had no objection to the decision outlined by the President on the understanding that the Secretariat would submit proposals on the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restructuring to the Council for consideration at its spring session, would continue its work on the medium-term plan, giving special attention to the decisions of CPC and the Council regarding co-ordination and the elimination of duplication. He trusted, furthermore, that the Secretariat would intensify the work of implementing the specific recommendations made by CPC and would submit proposals to that end to CPC at its forthcoming regular session.

15. Mr. THOMAS (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the decision suggested by the President was perfectly satisfactory to his delegation. With respect to the dates for the informal CPC session, he observed that many of the delegations from developing countries needed time to finalize their views on restructuring and would therefore prefer the informal session of CPC to be held at the time suggested by the Under-Secretary-General, or in any event not earlier than the last week of January.

16. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) emphasized the importance of allowing time for delegations to prepare their reports on restructuring and supported the comments made by the preceding speaker on that subject.

17. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to the decision which he had outlined.

It was so decided (decision 1978/2).

18. The PRESIDENT invited members to consider the draft decision on the programme of work proposed by him in the light of consultative meetings of members of the Council (E/1978/L.6 and Add.1).

19. Mr. HERRERA VEGAS (Argentina) suggested that the text of paragraph 3 (d) in document E/1978/L.6/Add.1 should reflect the agreement reached informally to the effect that members interested in participating in the sessional working group should notify the Secretary-General by 15 March 1978.

20. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that, in view of the difference of opinion expressed in the informal discussion, he would prefer the wording "as early as possible" to the mention of a specific date.

21. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. VAN BUUREN (Netherlands) and Mr. BARCELO (Mexico), proposed that the Secretariat should inform members of all notifications received by 15 March 1978.

22. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) said that he saw no need to set a deadline, but he could agree to the United Kingdom proposal on the understanding that the list of interested members prepared by the Secretariat in mid-March would be an interim one, and that the final list of countries expressing interest in participating in the working group would be submitted to the Council at the beginning of its spring session.

23. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) expressed the view that the United Kingdom proposal, which he supported, did not conflict with the views expressed by the representative of Tunisia.

The United Kingdom proposal was adopted.

24. Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland), referring to paragraph 3 (g) of document E/1978/L.6, said that his delegation had consistently advocated that the approach to all economic and social questions, including the exercise of restructuring, should be a comprehensive one. Furthermore, it attached great importance to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring and its speedy implementation. It was prepared to agree to the wording of paragraph 3 (g) on the understanding that the restructuring exercise would give equal attention to the economic and the social sectors of the United Nations system and would eventually provide guidance to the *ad hoc* working group whose appointment was provided for in Economic and Social Council resolution 2079 (LXII).

25. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) endorsed those observations.

26. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America) said that it was the understanding of her delegation that the provisions of paragraph 3 (g) of document E/1978/L.6 would not preclude the implementation of Council resolution 2079 (LXII) after the conclusion of the relevant discussions on restructuring, which might take place as early as the spring session.

27. Mr. VAN BUUREN (Netherlands) said that his delegation shared the view of the United States delegation with regard to paragraph 3 (g).

28. Mr. HALL (Jamaica) said that his delegation considered that the adoption of the provision in question would not imply a prejudgement as to the specific time for the implementation of Council resolution 2079 (LXII). There therefore seemed to be no need for an interpretative statement.

29. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia) endorsed the view put forward by the representative of Jamaica. His delegation had taken the view that the Council should defer the implementation of resolution 2079 (LXII) until after the thirty-third session of the General Assembly but it had accepted paragraph 3 (g) as a compromise.

30. The PRESIDENT observed that the paragraph provided that the Council itself would decide on the appropriate time to implement resolution 2079 (LXII).

31. Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria), referring to paragraph 2 (b), said that it was his impression that agreement had been reached in the informal meetings that the existing titles of the Council's sessional committees should be retained since the proposed new titles were not particularly enlightening.

32. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the text accurately reflected the compromise reached in the informal discussions, namely that the sessional committees should be referred to by their old and new titles together.

33. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted draft decision E/1978/L.6 and Add.1.

Draft decision E/1978/L.6 and Add.1 was adopted (decision 1978/1).

34. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the members of the European Economic Community, said that two separate questions had been included under item 29 for consideration at the second regular session. Those questions were unrelated and should be discussed and dealt with separately.

35. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America) said her delegation understood that the intention was that, in the text to be annexed to the decision just adopted, the question of assistance to the Palestinian people would be listed as a subitem under item 29 for the second regular session of the Council. Her delegation believed that the two questions were entirely separate and should be dealt with under separate agenda items, as originally suggested in document E/1978/1. Moreover, in the General Assembly resolutions which defined and listed Non-Self-Governing Territories, Palestine was not included; the Council should not take a decision having political implications inconsistent with those resolutions.

36. Mr. HAMMAD (United Arab Emirates) said that the item in question had been considered in 1977 and that the Council had adopted two resolutions, one relating to assistance to the Palestinian people and a second relating to assistance to other Territories under colonial rule. A few days earlier, the Secretariat had suggested that the two questions should be considered under separate agenda items since it believed that there was a feeling in the Council in favour of such a procedure. However, the Secretariat had never claimed that the two questions were entirely unrelated. The representative of Iraq had subsequently proposed that the question of assistance to the Palestinian people should be subsumed under the item relating to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: there had never been any question of making it a subitem. The United States delegation was fully entitled to object to or enter its reservations with regard to a decision by the Council but it should not seek to reinterpret that decision once it had been taken.

37. Mr. BENHOCINE (Algeria) said that he was pleased that the Council had once again decided to consider the question of assistance to the Palestinian people in conjunction with item 29. His delegation viewed any assistance to the Palestinian people or the Palestine Liberation Organization as assistance to a people struggling for its right to self-determination and independence.

38. Mr. KUBBA (Iraq) said that the question of assistance to the Palestinian people and the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should be treated as one. That had been the decision reached in the informal meetings. The Palestinian question had always been, was and would always be a political and not a humanitarian question.

39. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) said that his delegation was looking forward to the report to be submitted

by the Secretary-General in accordance with Council resolution 2100 (LXIII). The question of assistance to the Palestinian people was inextricably linked to the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and should be considered at the same time.

40. Mr. SAAD (Sudan) endorsed the views put forward by the representative of Tunisia.

41. Miss EFRAT (Observer for Israel) said that the two questions listed in Conference Room Paper No. 2 as items 26 and 28 should have remained completely separate items in the list of items for consideration at the second regular session in 1978. The reason for that was obvious: they were totally separate in the United Nations system *per se* and had never been dealt with in a combined manner. The Council's action therefore represented a departure from the established procedure for dealing with those questions. With regard to the references to the precedent set at the previous year, her delegation believed that the Council could not be bound by a mistake. Furthermore, there was a great difference between an omission and a deliberate decision made when all the facts were known.

42. In the view of her delegation, the question was purely legal and not substantive. The decision that the Council was considering was not a question of choosing between Israel and other countries. The only question was whether the Council wished to follow orderly procedures or to suspend its rules because a few delegations wished to twist the wording of an agenda item in order to apply it to a totally different issue.

43. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) said that his delegation did not consider the matter of assistance to the Palestinian people to be relevant to the Council's consideration of colonialism.

44. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had already taken a decision in the matter.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Provisional agenda for the first regular session, 1978 (E/1978/L.9)

45. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that item 15 of the draft provisional agenda for the first regular session (Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session, 1978) was of particular importance; he had noted that it had not been mentioned in the decision just adopted on the programme of work (E/1978/L.6 and Add.1). Some time should be set aside for consideration of that item at the beginning of the spring session, as it was an unsatisfactory practice to deal with it in the last hours of the session, as the Council had done in the past.

46. The PRESIDENT agreed that it was important to consider the provisional agenda for the second regular session early in the first session.

47. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) suggested that the Council should decide to devote some time at its organizational session for 1979 to a review of documentation. The Secretariat had, in accordance with resolution 1894 (LVII), submitted a full list of documents for the year in order to enable the Council to determine the urgency and relevance of those documents in the light of the current situation.

48. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) endorsed that suggestion. The Council should also consider at its second regular session the possibility of holding its organizational sessions later in January. In the past the organizational sessions had been held early in January because the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme usually met in the latter half of that month. As that was no longer the case, the organizational session could begin later in the month in order to allow delegations more time to study the documents.

49. The PRESIDENT said that he was aware that a number of other delegations shared the view expressed by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. The matter could be considered further when dealing with the Council's future calendar.

50. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) noted that any change in the timing of the organizational session might require a revision of the Council's rules of procedure, which could be considered during the meetings on restructuring.

The provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1978 (E/1978/L.9) was adopted.

Special responsibilities of the Vice-Presidents

51. The PRESIDENT announced that, following consultations, the Council had agreed to assign the following functions to its Vice-Presidents: chairmanship of the First (Economic) Committee, Mr. Kaufmann (Netherlands); chairmanship of the Second (Social) Committee, Mr. Ehsassi (Iran); chairmanship of the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee, Mr. Mwangaguhunga (Uganda). Mr. Martynenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) would, in accordance with past practice, perform other functions, including negotiations and consultations on the composition of sessional working groups.

Closure of the session

52. The PRESIDENT declared closed the organizational session for 1978.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1978

Summary records of the 5th to 16th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters, New York, from 11 April to 8 May 1978

5th meeting

Tuesday, 11 April 1978, at 11.25 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.5

Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT said that 1978 would be a crucial year for the United Nations system and for the Economic and Social Council. He was confident that members of the Council and of the Secretariat would therefore exert their best efforts for the successful work of the Council and of the Organization during the year.

Election of a Vice-President

2. The PRESIDENT said that he had received a letter from Mr. Kaufmann (Netherlands) informing him of his decision to resign as Vice-President of the Council, having been given another assignment by his Government. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect a Vice-President in replacement of Mr. Kaufman. He understood that Mr. Hugo Scheltema of the Netherlands had been nominated by the group of Western European and other States.

Mr. Hugo Scheltema (Netherlands) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

3. The PRESIDENT said that Mr. Scheltema would assume the functions of Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee.

4. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) thanked the Council for electing him and pledged himself to fulfil his duties to the best of his ability.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1978/20, E/1978/L.18 and Add.1, E/1978/L.19 and Add.1, E/1978/L.20, E/1978/L.21)

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the provisional agenda for the session (E/1978/20), and drew attention to an error in the annotations to

item 14 (Elections). Under the heading "Committee on Natural Resources", paragraph (ii) should indicate that one member was also to be elected from Asian States, for a term expiring on 31 December 1978.

The agenda of the first regular session of 1978 (E/1978/20) was adopted.

6. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the organization of work as outlined in document E/1978/L.20. The proposals in that document had been made bearing in mind the decision of the Council to establish a sessional working group to consider agenda item 5 and the consultations held during the organizational session of the Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174. To enable that Committee to meet from 3 to 12 May, the Council might agree to close its first regular session of 1978 on 5 May instead of 12 May.

It was so decided (decision 1978/6).

7. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) asked whether, in view of the fact that many regional groups had not yet completed their discussion of candidatures for the various committees and commissions, consideration of item 14 might not be postponed.

8. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the schedule proposed in document E/1978/L.20 was purely tentative. However, certain delegations had indicated that elections to the Executive Board of UNICEF should take place early in the session. For that reason, and because the Secretariat would no doubt have received the necessary nominations by 13 April, the schedule should perhaps be maintained.

9. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, with the exception of UNICEF, his delegation would prefer elections to be held at the end of the session, since delegations needed time for consultation. In fact, elections to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, for example, could be post-

poned until the organizational session for 1979, or at least until the 1978 summer session. The Council should take a decision on the matter.

10. Mr. IYER (India) asked why it was necessary for the UNICEF elections to be held during the current week.

11. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said some delegations felt that the elections to the Executive Board of UNICEF should be held early in the session because the Board was to meet almost immediately after the end of the Council's session.

12. With regard to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the Council should take a position on a problem of interpretation. The status and procedure of the Committee had been changed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (resolution 32/60). The current membership had been elected under the old system for a term of office ending in 1978. However, the Council might take the view that, since a new system had been instituted and the purpose of that change was to enable the Committee to prepare for the next United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders with its new membership, the elections must take place before the next session of the Committee. If the Committee was to function in June with its new membership, the elections would have to be held at the current session of the Council; if, on the other hand, the Council wished the current membership to continue until the expiration of its term of office, then the elections could be postponed.

13. Mrs. OGATA (Japan) said that Japan was a member of the Executive Board of UNICEF. Although the UNICEF elections did not have to take place during the first week of the current session, it was necessary for them to be held before the end of the session.

14. The PRESIDENT said it appeared that the Council was willing to leave elections until the latter part of its session. With regard to the question raised by the representative of the Soviet Union, he recommended that members should bear in mind the alternatives put forward by the Secretary in order to be prepared to take a decision concerning elections to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in due time.

15. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed, but pointed out that the terms of office of the members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control would not expire until the end of 1978, so that there was no urgency in that regard. The matter should also be viewed from the standpoint of rationalization of work.

16. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the organization of work as outlined in document E/1978/L.20, with the understanding, first, that elections under item 14 would be held towards the end of the session, and, secondly, that each sessional committee would decide on the organization of its own work.

It was so decided.

COMPOSITION OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1978/L.19 AND ADD.1)

17. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take up the question of the establishment of the sessional working group to consider reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as provided under Council resolution 1988

(LX). With regard to the composition of the working group, he said that, in addition to the members of the Council listed in document E/1978/L.19 and Add.1, Austria, the Philippines and Tunisia had notified the Secretary-General of their interest in participating in the work of the group.

18. He recalled that it had been decided at the organizational session for 1978 (decision 1978/1, para. 3 (d)) that Mr. Martynenko, Vice-President of the Council, should be asked to carry out consultations among members on how to deal with the establishment of the working group. He invited Mr. Martynenko to report on the results of his consultations.

19. Mr. MARTYENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that in February and March he had held consultations with the Chairmen of all the regional groups. In the course of those meetings, suggestions had been made concerning the establishment of the sessional working group, including suggestions on the size of the group and qualifications for membership. The group of Eastern European States, the group of Asian States and the group of Western European and other States had submitted their views in writing; the African and Latin American groups had not yet done so.

20. The Eastern European group had expressed the view that the sessional working group should be composed of members of the Council which were parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The group of Western European and other States had felt that all members of the Council which had notified the Secretary-General of their interest in participating in the working group should be entitled to be members. The Asian group had indicated that each of its members might, if it wished, communicate its comments directly to the President of the Council.

21. At present, 20 members of the Council were parties to the Covenant. Of those which had thus far expressed interest in participating in the sessional working group, 11 were parties to the Covenant and 6 were not.

22. He recalled that, according to the decision taken at the organizational session, the Council's final decision on the composition of the sessional working group was not conditioned by notification of a desire to participate. Consultations concerning the composition of the working group were continuing, and he hoped that they would lead to positive results.

23. The PRESIDENT urged members to bear in mind the necessity of completing the work of the Council within the reduced time available. A start must therefore be made as quickly as possible with regard to the sessional working group, as well as on the other business of the Council. He suggested that, in view of the difficulties outlined by the Vice-President, the Council should consider three alternatives: first, limiting membership in the sessional working group to States parties to the Covenant; secondly, accepting a mixture of States parties and other States which were members of the Council, while maintaining an equitable geographical distribution; thirdly, failing those alternatives, it might be necessary to consider a working group of the whole. Those alternatives were merely suggestions, since it was still possible that consultations would quickly lead to a satisfactory solution.

24. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) thanked the Vice-President for his report and expressed the hope

that agreement would be reached by the end of the week. He pointed out that, when the Council had deferred a decision on the question at its organizational session, it had done so on the understanding that the decision would be taken at the beginning of the current session. It should be possible for members interested in the matter to hold the necessary consultations during the day, and reach a decision by the following day.

25. The PRESIDENT advised members to proceed accordingly, and suggested that a decision should be postponed until the next meeting of the Council.

It was so decided.

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS
(E/1978/L.18 AND ADD.1)

26. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the changes in the calendar of conferences and meetings proposed in document E/1978/L.18, and said that the foot-note on page 4 of the document could be deleted, as the Government of Turkey had approved the dates proposed for the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources. Document E/1978/L.18/Add.1 contained a statement of the financial implications of the change of dates for the eighteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

27. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to the annexes to document E/1978/L.18, reproducing invitations from the Government of Austria to act as host to the forthcoming sessions of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. It would be convenient to both the Austrian authorities and the competent services of the Secretariat to have an early decision by the Council, so that the necessary preparations could be made.

28. With regard to the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination that its eighteenth session should be divided into two parts, he informed the Council that the Secretariat was encountering difficulties in preparing the documentation required for the first part of that session. Accordingly, it might be necessary to propose a one-week postponement of that part of the session.

29. He understood that the officers of the Committee on Natural Resources had proposed that its third special session should be postponed until 1979. Since the Committee was to hold a regular session in that year, the topic originally scheduled for consideration at the special session might be taken up at that regular session.

30. Mr. ROS (Argentina) asked why the officers of the Committee had recommended that the third special session should be postponed.

31. Mr. SAAD (Sudan) said he would also like to know the reason for that recommendation. He recalled that, at its sixty-third session, the Council had stressed the importance of the follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan.¹

32. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, said that the purpose of postponing the third special session would be to enable the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for

Development to meet at a time which did not overlap with the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. In making its suggestion, the officers of the Committee on Natural Resources had also taken account of the fact that a number of proposals had been submitted with a view to making the agenda of the third special session more comprehensive. Accordingly, the Secretariat might need additional time to prepare for that session.

33. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that he would like to consult with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs regarding the precise position of the Secretariat on the question.

34. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take decisions on the matter at its next meeting.

It was so decided.

35. The PRESIDENT drew attention to Conference Room Paper No. 2, which had been prepared by the Secretariat in response to the request made by the Council at its informal meeting on 30 March 1978. He suggested that the Council should resume its informal meetings on its future approach to its work on the basis of that paper. In his view, significant progress should be possible at the current session.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session, 1978 (E/1978/L.22)

36. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at the organizational session, the Council had agreed to consider the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1978 at the beginning of the current session. He therefore invited the Council to consider the draft provisional agenda contained in document E/1978/L.22.

37. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) pointed out that the list of documents to be submitted to the Council under each item was contained in the Council's programme of work (decision 1978/1). It was his understanding that the agenda was not to be adopted at the current stage, because it would probably be adjusted in the light of decisions taken during the current session. However, some delegations had indicated that they wished to consider certain organizational arrangements to facilitate the work of the Council.

38. He wished to draw attention to the number of items which, for various reasons, had had to be scheduled for the resumed session. In that connexion, he wondered whether the Council might consider the possibility of authorizing the Secretary-General to submit directly to the General Assembly those reports which could not be submitted at the summer session, unless, of course, there was a reason for the Council to discuss them in detail. The experience of the previous year indicated that the Council had not considered any report at the resumed session, but had dealt with each by taking a procedural decision to submit it to the General Assembly. The suggestion he had made would not preclude the Council's discussing any item at the resumed session, but it would do so only if there was a desire to discuss it.

39. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) said that the general discussion referred to in item 3 of the draft provisional agenda should take into account the similar discussion which would have been held in the Committee Established under General Assembly

¹ Report of the United Nations Water Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

Resolution 32/174. Were the Secretariat to provide the Council with summary records of the Committee's meetings, that would avoid having two separate discussions without any link between them.

40. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) noted that the Committee on Conferences had decided unanimously that the recently established Committee should not have summary records. However, it was intended to submit to the Committee a formula which, if approved, would make records available.

41. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia) pointed out that all the members of the Economic and Social Council would be members of the Committee and would therefore have representatives present during its deliberations.

42. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) recalled that the issue had been discussed at the organizational session. Several points must be considered: (1) the relationship between the Economic and Social Council and the Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, and how to seek complementarity between them; (2) what action the Council should take to increase efficiency in connexion with restructuring; (3) how to help the General Assembly; and (4) how in that connexion to streamline the Council's own agenda; for example, progress reports might not require discussion. Some items would come before the General Assembly in any case.

43. The PRESIDENT agreed that the final agenda should be designed in terms of assisting the General Assembly. He suggested that the Council should resume consideration of the provisional agenda later in the session.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Standardization of geographical names (E/1978/17 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

44. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the recommendations contained in paragraph 16 of the report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held at Athens from 17 August to 7 September 1977 (E/1978/17 and Corr.1), and to the statement

of the programme budget implications of holding a fourth Conference in Iran in 1982 (E/1978/17/Add.1).

45. Mr. BAUCHARD (France) said that, since the Council was about to consider restructuring, it would be premature to reach any conclusions with respect to document E/1978/17.

46. Ms. MARTINEZ (Jamaica) drew attention in that connexion to paragraph 16 (b) of the Secretary-General's report, and said she wondered what its implications were in terms of the restructuring exercise.

47. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should decide: (a) to take note of the report of the Secretary-General; (b) to accept with appreciation the invitation of the Government of Iran to hold the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Iran during the first half of 1982, bearing in mind the programme budget implications and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/140; and (c) to request the Secretary-General to take, when appropriate, practical measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. In view of the comments made by the representatives of France and Jamaica, he had omitted from his formulation the last phrase of paragraph 16 (b) of document E/1978/17. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the decision he had suggested.

It was so decided (decision 1978/7).

48. Mr. DONNELLY (United Kingdom) said that implementation of the decision would involve certain practical difficulties. In particular, the United Kingdom did not agree with the recommendations in paragraph 6 (a) and (c) of the Secretary-General's report. It was studying the matter and would report its conclusions.

49. Ms. LADD (United States of America) said that her Government shared the reservations expressed by the United Kingdom representative. Writing systems should be a matter of preference and should not be imposed by international bodies.

50. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reaffirmed the position his country had taken at the Athens Conference.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

6th meeting

Wednesday, 19 April 1978, at 3.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.6

AGENDA ITEM 3

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including preparations for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1978/24 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/25 and Add.1, E/1978/26)

1. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Secretary-General of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) said that the preparations for the Confer-

ence were well under way and the various steps taken in that connexion were set out in document E/1978/26, prepared in accordance with decision 1978/1, adopted by the Council at its organizational session in January. Invitations had been sent to participants and observers on the basis of General Assembly resolution 32/129, and to other interested entities on the basis of their fields of competence. Any entity which had not received an invitation but believed that it ought to have received one should inform the Secretariat. The Council

might also wish to direct the Secretariat to invite some other organ or Committee not listed in document E/1978/26. He pointed out that the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade should be added to the list of specialized agencies and interested organs and bodies of the United Nations contained in that document. In accordance with the Assembly resolution, non-governmental organizations in consultative status and on the Roster which had, by 30 September 1977, submitted information on activities undertaken or contemplated in connexion with the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had been invited.

2. The list of documents to be submitted to the Conference could be found in annex II to document E/1978/26. In the annex to its resolution 2057 (LXII), the Council had mentioned the submission of national reports by Governments. Such reports could be extremely useful but, unfortunately, none had been received so far. If the Council adopted a resolution on the item under consideration, he believed that it would be advisable to include a provision urging Governments to submit such reports. The general introductory paper referred to in paragraph 4 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 2057 (LXII) was being prepared. In the letter of invitation, specialized agencies had been requested to submit relevant material for that document, but none had been received so far. He had subsequently sent a personal message to the executive heads of the organizations concerned and hoped that they would respond. The document dealing with the activities of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would shortly be sent for reproduction.

3. Every effort would be made to publicize the Conference, and the activities to be undertaken by the Office of Public Information were referred to in document E/1978/26, paragraph 15. The conclusions of the study *Racial Discrimination* by Hernán Santa Cruz had already been published in the autumn 1977 issue of *Objective: Justice*.

4. A number of permanent missions had made inquiries about the level of representation at the Conference, and the Council might wish to make appropriate recommendations on that subject in the light of paragraph 27 of the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference.¹

5. The Conference would be of only two weeks' duration, and in order to facilitate the work he intended, during the coming weeks, to consult with permanent representatives and regional groups with a view to reaching a preliminary agreement on various procedural and other questions. He hoped that all chairmen of regional groups and permanent representatives would extend their fullest co-operation to him and that all Member States invited to the Conference would be able to participate and help to ensure its success. He looked forward to receiving further guidance from the discussions in the Council and from any resolutions that it might adopt on the subject.

6. Mr. VAN BOVEN (Director of the Division of Human Rights) said that 1978 marked the mid-point of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In that crucial year, the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would be held, its task being to assess the activities already initiated within the Programme for the Decade and to give new impetus for future activities.

7. On the basis of the recommendation contained in Council resolution 2056 (LXII), the General Assembly had adopted resolution 32/10, in which it called for certain measures in support of the Programme for the Decade and to ensure the success of the World Conference. Further information was contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1978/24 and Add.1 and 2). In that connexion, he wished to point to the particularly significant step taken by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which had decided at its thirtieth session to consider, as a major part of its own contribution to the Decade, ways and means of using national courts, administrative tribunals and domestic forums to implement United Nations resolutions on racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid*, decolonization, self-determination and related matters. At its next session, the Sub-Commission would have before it a preliminary document prepared by the Secretary-General on the use of United Nations instruments, including declarations and resolutions, by churches, anti-*apartheid* movements, trade unions and shareholders' action groups and on other activities aimed at discouraging collaboration by banks and other transnational corporations with colonialist and racist régimes. As provided for in the Programme for the Decade, the Council had before it a document (E/1978/25 and Add.1) containing replies from Governments to a 16-point questionnaire sent to them by the Secretary-General and designed to reveal all the mechanisms available to them in their efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination.

8. In connexion with preparations for the World Conference, he drew attention to the adoption by the Commission on Human Rights of resolution 8 (XXXIV), in which it suggested a series of detailed measures which were enumerated in document E/1978/24, paragraph 26. The Commission had also appealed to the Conference to recommend the establishment of national and local recourse procedures which could be invoked by individuals against acts of racism and racial discrimination. At the urging of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the General Assembly had added to the agenda of the Conference an item dealing with full and universal implementation of United Nations decisions and resolutions on racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid*, decolonization and self-determination, and in particular wider ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex). The Committee had also decided to prepare two documents for the Conference, a popularized document on the Convention itself and a study on the work of the Committee in implementing the Convention.

9. The information before the Council reflected the variety of activities undertaken in accordance with the Programme for the Decade by Governments and by national and international organizations, all of which had an important part to play in the joint effort to eradicate racial prejudice and the practices of racism and racial discrimination. One example of the contribution of non-governmental organizations had been the four international conferences held under the auspices of the Sub-Committee on racism and racial discrimination of the Special Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights. A fifth conference, on *apartheid*, was scheduled to take place at Geneva in September 1978.

¹ E/5922.

10. In reviewing and analysing those developments, both in the Council and at the forthcoming World Conference, the purpose would be to propose new directions and initiatives which would enable the world community to achieve the ultimate goals of the Decade.

11. The PRESIDENT suggested that the list of speakers on the item should be closed at 6 p.m. on the following day.

It was so decided.

12. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the current session of the Council must make a new and substantial contribution to the struggle for the speedy elimination of racism, *apartheid* and all forms of colonialism, and in that connexion he welcomed the Secretary-General's report. The activities of the United Nations in combating racism enjoyed wide support but still required further intensification.

13. The Soviet Union's position of principle against all forms of racism, racial discrimination, exploitation and oppression of peoples was rooted in the very nature of the socialist State and firmly anchored in its new Constitution, which guaranteed equal rights to all Soviet citizens regardless of race or national origin.

14. As had been proclaimed at the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR, the Soviet Union believed that one of the most important international tasks was the complete elimination of all vestiges of colonial oppression, infringements of the equality and independence of peoples and all breeding-grounds of colonialism and racism. Accordingly, it urged universal implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, especially General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), by which the Assembly had adopted the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In preparing the Programme, it had been recognized that racism was rooted in certain social conditions and that it could be eradicated only through consistent, relentless and purposeful struggle. In that connexion, he particularly stressed the fact that the Decade was specifically designated as a decade for action, and implementation of the measures provided for in the Programme brooked no further delay.

15. One of the most revolting manifestations of racism was the *apartheid* still being maintained in southern Africa through a combination of terror at home and aggression abroad. It was no secret that the racist régimes in that part of the world could persist in flouting the legitimate demands of the United Nations only because of the massive economic, military, political and other support they received from the imperialist monopolies and certain Western Powers which stood behind them. Especially alarming was the large-scale military aid, including nuclear assistance, given by certain members of NATO to South Africa. Urgent steps must be taken to prevent South Africa from developing nuclear weapons, in order to avert the danger which that would represent.

16. The imperialist monopolies supported the system of *apartheid* and the racist régimes because of the vast profits they could extract from the exploitation of the human and material resources of southern Africa, and they therefore constituted the main obstacle to the genuine national liberation of the peoples of that area. His country accordingly fully supported General Assembly resolution 32/14 as well as the call for the complete international isolation of the racist régimes in southern

Africa contained in the Programme for the Decade. It particularly welcomed the decisions taken at the World Conference for Action against *Apartheid*,² held at Lagos from 22 to 26 August 1977, and at the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia,³ held at Maputo from 16 to 21 May 1977, as well as the Declaration of the United Nations Council for Namibia,⁴ adopted during the extraordinary plenary meetings it held at Lusaka in March 1978. The latter in particular rightly drew attention to South Africa's criminal military aggression against the people of Namibia.

17. The elimination of the remaining breeding-grounds of colonialism and racism would be a serious contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security. His country urged the mobilization of the entire international community to ensure the immediate implementation of the relevant United Nations decisions, and also the speedy ratification by all States of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex). The USSR had been one of the first countries to sign that Convention and was strictly complying with its provisions.

18. Finally, he noted that the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was an important step in the right direction, but stressed that it was essential that it should be prepared in a proper manner.

19. Mr. PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, said that the peoples and Governments of those countries unreservedly condemned racial discrimination as defined in article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which was contrary to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. The nine States members of EEC all firmly adhered to the principles of that Convention and had therefore consistently opposed racial discrimination in southern Africa. They intended to give their full support and contribute positively to International Anti-*Apartheid* Year. They were strongly committed to the eradication of *apartheid* and would continue to apply their collective weight in order to influence South Africa to abandon that abhorrent policy.

20. It was the hope of the nine Governments for which he spoke that the World Conference would provide many new avenues for practical measures, and they expected to be able to participate in it. He stressed, however, that the scope of the Conference must be kept within the framework of the programme established by the General Assembly in its resolution 3057 (XXVIII), if it was to be acceptable to all, including the members of EEC. In view of the attitude of the sponsors of resolutions on the subject adopted in the Commission on Human Rights, the Council and the General Assembly, they were confident that that would be the case. During the current session of the Council, everything possible must be done to ensure that

² See A/CONF.91/9 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.XIV.2 and corrigendum).

³ See *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1977*, document S/12344/Rev.1, annex V.

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-9/4)*, sect. VI.

the Conference would be a success and would have lasting results. The members of EEC therefore hoped that the consensus which had hitherto prevailed with regard to the preparation of the Conference would continue to guide the Council's deliberations. With consensus and joint efforts, the Conference could become the highlight of the Decade.

21. Mr. CARPIO-CASTILLO (Venezuela) said that, as the representative of a country where many ethnic groups lived together in harmony, he saw the proclamation of the Decade as a confirmation of the need to adopt practical measures to intensify the struggle against one of the most ignoble and aberrant evils in the history of mankind.

22. Preparations for the World Conference were reaching a final stage, and the Conference should constitute a further advance on the steps already taken to eradicate racism. It was impossible to divorce the current political situation in southern Africa and the problem of racism and racial discrimination from the principles and purposes of the Charter. The situation in southern Africa was a direct consequence of the continued existence of the racist régimes and the grave violation of human rights represented by *apartheid*. In view of the initiatives that had been taken, his delegation hoped that it would be possible to achieve the decolonization of Namibia and Zimbabwe and to solve the problem of racist and colonialist practices in South Africa. For that reason, it had consistently supported resolutions in other United Nations forums to defend the interests of the indigenous populations of those territories. It was confident that the special session of the General Assembly on Namibia would help to throw new light on the situation, and believed that a solution could be found to safeguard the interests of the Namibian people. It trusted that the international community would take the necessary legislative, economic and educational measures to isolate the racist régimes and, above all, intensify the campaign of public information, directed particularly to young people, to eradicate traditional erroneous concepts which perpetuated ideas of racism and racial discrimination. The World Conference would undoubtedly contribute to the more effective implementation of human rights throughout the world, particularly in southern Africa.

23. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that, in accordance with Chapter I of the Charter of the United Nations, Member States were committed to achieving international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. During the past 30 years, the elimination of racial discrimination had become the single most important human rights concern of the overwhelming majority of the world community. In response to resolutions, declarations, conventions and programmes of action, Governments and world public opinion had been mobilized and pressure had mounted against States that continued to practise racial discrimination in defiance of the United Nations and in violation of the Charter. Collectively and individually, the world community had a responsibility to take action in the form of political, legal and economic pressure against such States and to assist the victims of racial discrimination.

24. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Pro-

gramme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the binding Security Council resolutions directed against racist régimes in southern Africa were the most important achievements of the United Nations in that field. The Nordic countries had repeatedly pledged their support for the goals defined in those documents and believed that it was appropriate that measures taken during the Decade should focus on the suppression and abolition of the policy of *apartheid* which was an institutionalized and legalized violation of the human rights of the vast majority of the population of South Africa.

25. At the mid-point of the Decade, and on the occasion of International Anti-*Apartheid* Year, the Nordic countries regarded the World Conference as an opportunity not only to assess the progress made, but to rededicate themselves to the goal of eradicating racial discrimination and *apartheid*. It would provide an opportunity for the whole international community to agree on further effective action to that end. The commitment of the Governments and peoples of the Nordic countries to take action against racial discrimination and *apartheid* was well known, and they had both advocated and taken practical measures in that regard. They continued to work for the adoption of Security Council resolutions against new investments in South Africa and against trade with that country. Strict observance of Security Council resolution 418 (1977) on the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa was crucial. The Nordic Ministers for Foreign Affairs had adopted a joint programme of action to discourage new investments in and trade with South Africa, to discontinue sporting and cultural contacts with the *apartheid* régime and to step up support to refugees, liberation movements and victims of *apartheid*. Those measures had been taken in the hope of contributing to the common goal of eliminating racial discrimination and *apartheid*. However, consensus was a crucial prerequisite for further international action, and the spirit that had prevailed at the launching of the Decade should continue to prevail throughout the preparation and proceedings of the World Conference.

26. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) said that, as the end of the first five years of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was approaching, the time had come to make a serious analysis of the activities carried out and results achieved and to lay down guidelines for further action to ensure the successful achievement of the objectives of the Decade. Despite some successes, the results achieved so far were unfortunately not encouraging. Racism and racial discrimination were still practised in many parts of the world, and the fact that their main strongholds in southern Africa had not yet been liquidated gave cause for particular concern. The racist régimes, regardless of the increasingly intense struggle of the African population, numerous United Nations resolutions and pressure brought to bear on them by the international community, continued obstinately to pursue their racist policy, which had become a symbol of the most abhorrent form of humiliation of the human person, of ruthless exploitation of peoples and denial of the fundamental right to human dignity, self-determination and independence.

27. There was no doubt that the impudent behaviour of the racist régimes in violating the basic principles of the Charter and ignoring all the resolutions of the United Nations had been facilitated by foreign elements which were lending economic, military and other

assistance to them, either directly or indirectly. It was therefore essential to step up international action against racism, particularly in southern Africa, if the Programme for the Decade was to be implemented. First and foremost, it was necessary to prevent the racist régimes from resorting to so-called "internal solutions" and other machinations to postpone the genuine solution of problems in southern Africa. The total abolition of *apartheid* and the establishment of majority rule provided the only solution to those problems. It was equally necessary to take effective measures to isolate the Vorster and Smith régimes, particularly by putting an end to the operation of foreign-owned enterprises in southern Africa. At the same time, the international community should step up moral, political and material assistance to the peoples in southern Africa and their liberation movements.

28. His delegation was therefore of the opinion that the World Conference should concentrate on the problems of southern Africa, while paying due attention also to racial discrimination in other parts of the world. Practical measures should be taken to ensure full implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions in order to ensure a speedy, just and lasting solution of the question of decolonization and elimination of racism in southern Africa. That would constitute a decisive step towards the achievement of the basic aims of the Decade. However, it required more persistent and more sincere efforts on the part of Member States, especially those that were in a position to exert decisive pressure on Vorster and Smith. His delegation felt that some of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies could make a greater contribution to the preparations for the Conference and the implementation of the Programme for the Decade. He commended as a positive example the activity of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which had prepared an excellent study for the Conference.

29. Yugoslavia had been very active in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination for many years and was fully implementing all the relevant United Nations resolutions. It did not maintain any relations with the racist régimes in southern Africa, and its Government and socio-political organizations were extending moral, political and material assistance to the peoples and liberation movements of that region. A high-level co-ordinating body had been set up to make preparations for the participation of the Yugoslav delegation at the Conference.

30. He would stress once again that it was high time for the international community to take effective measures to eliminate racism in general and *apartheid* in particular. Future generations might not forgive a failure to deal more effectively with that evil. However, the World Conference and International Anti-*Apartheid* Year offered an opportunity to prove that the international community was equal to the task confronting it.

31. Mr. DOLGUCHITS (Observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the Byelorussian SSR had fully supported the goals and tasks proclaimed in the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It supported all efforts to combat racism and *apartheid*, and accordingly fully supported both the World Conference and the International Anti-*Apartheid* Year. His Government welcomed the important steps against colonialism, racism and *apartheid* which had recently

been taken by the United Nations in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity. It fully supported General Assembly resolution 32/10, and was convinced that the forthcoming Conference would also make an important contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Decade.

32. He wished to draw particular attention to the economic basis for the persistence of *apartheid* and racism in southern Africa, where Western imperialist monopolies and hundreds of large capitalist corporations extracted huge profits by plundering the region's material resources and exploiting the people. The colonial and racist régimes in that part of the world could survive only with the broad support of the imperialist circles of the West.

33. The social consequences of *apartheid* and racism were well known. Political organizations of the black majority in South Africa were prohibited and multi-racial political organizations were illegal. Many leaders of the black population had either been arrested or been forced to emigrate or go underground. Protests resulted in tragedies of the kind which had occurred at Sharpeville and Soweto, as the racist régimes resorted to increasing terror and repression at home and armed aggression abroad in order to maintain their power.

34. The situation in southern Africa constituted a direct threat to international peace and security, thereby making international action to combat racism all the more urgent. While welcoming the activities described in document E/1978/24 and Add.1 and 2, he noted that not all international organizations connected with the United Nations were acting in the same spirit. In that connexion, he cited the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which were also mentioned in General Assembly resolution 32/36. The Western Powers were in fact using IMF to help the Vorster régime to obtain huge loans to cover its military expenditures. The use of certain international organizations by the Western Powers to help the racists in southern Africa was not only extremely dangerous but also unmasked the spuriousness of their so-called peace initiatives. The Byelorussian SSR favoured the imposition of effective sanctions, as provided for in Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, against the racist régimes in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa.

35. Unfortunately, racism and racial discrimination were not confined to the African continent. They also caused suffering to millions in a number of other countries, including a huge army of migrant workers from countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and affected every area of social life, including employment, education and political and social activity. In his own country, the full equality of all citizens irrespective of race or national origin was firmly established as a result of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which proved convincingly that only socialism could bring about genuine equality and brotherhood between nations and peoples. Full equality derived from the very nature of socialism, which eliminated the social and economic roots of discrimination and oppression. The Byelorussian SSR had recently adopted a new Constitution, which reaffirmed the equality of citizens of different races and nationalities, and in its foreign policy it consistently upheld the principles of equality and self-determination of peoples and favoured isolating and boycotting the racist régimes in southern Africa.

36. Mr. SOBHY (Observer for Egypt) said his delegation hoped that the appointment of Mr. Narasimhan

as Secretary-General of the World Conference would expedite the preparatory work, which had already been unduly delayed. With regard to publicity for the Conference, his delegation believed that the efforts made so far had not been sufficient. Lastly, the documents to be submitted to the Conference, as listed in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1978/26), did not seem to cover adequately all the items on the provisional agenda;⁵ additional documentation would be needed for items 9, 10 and 11 in particular.

37. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) said that the adoption of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1973 had been a milestone in the history of United Nations efforts to implement the principles and objectives set forth in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. His delegation had whole-heartedly supported General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) and all other resolutions relating to the Programme for the Decade and the World Conference.

38. It was fitting that the Conference should be held during the International Anti-Apartheid Year, at the mid-point of the Decade and on the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He noted that it was during the first half of the Decade that the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, which the Philippines had ratified, had entered into force.

39. The World Conference would provide an unprecedented opportunity to take stock of the progress made in attaining the objectives of the Decade and would constitute a further step towards the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. His delegation therefore noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in preparing for the Conference and would support any effective measure proposed at the Conference that would lead to the definitive elimination of racism in all its forms.

40. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Secretary-General of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination), referring to the points raised by the observer for Egypt, pointed out that, of all the major world conferences convened under United Nations auspices in recent years, the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was operating on the smallest budget. The total budget for the Conference was \$32,000, of which \$23,700 was for publicity. He would certainly convey the concern expressed by the observer for Egypt to the officials of the Office of Public Information involved in preparations for the Conference and would ensure that the resources available for publicity were put to the best possible use.

41. With regard to documentation for the Conference, the national reports to which he had referred earlier would be relevant to items 9, 10 and 11 of the provisional agenda. The Secretariat was also preparing a general background paper which would touch upon those items. That paper, for which the papers being prepared by the specialized agencies would be a useful input, was expected to be available by the end of June.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (continued) (E/1978/L.18 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/L.21)

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS (continued) (E/1978/L.18 AND ADD.1 AND 2)

42. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the changes in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1978 and 1979 proposed in document E/1978/L.18 and Add.2. The programme budget implications of the change of dates for the eighteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination were given in document E/1978/L.18/Add.1.

43. He suggested that the Council should take up each proposed change separately, on the clear understanding that any decisions adopted did not prejudice any other actions that might be taken by the Council at its current session, including those that might be taken in the context of restructuring.

It was so decided.

44. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) informed the Council that projected delays in issuing documents for the eighteenth session of CPC made it necessary to delay by at least one week the start of the first part of its session. Accordingly, the dates proposed for that part of the session were 22 May to 9 June and not 15 May to 2 June, as indicated in document E/1978/L.18.

45. With regard to the status of documentation relating to items which CPC planned to take up at the first part of its session, consideration of item 4 (Cross-organizational programme analysis) would have to be deferred until the second part of the session, as the relevant documents would not be available in time. In any event, CPC itself had decided to consider one of the reports under that item during the second part of its session. Most of the documentation relating to the remaining items should be available at the beginning of May, the exceptions being two reports relating to the programme in public administration and finance and the programme in social development and humanitarian affairs respectively.

46. The only alternative to holding a session in two parts would be to hold one session of six weeks' duration from 7 August to 15 September. However, the second regular session of the Council was scheduled to end on 4 August, leaving little travel time for members of the Council wishing to attend the CPC session. The holding of the CPC session in August would also adversely affect the work of the Council at its second regular session, since most of the reports of CPC were required by the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee of the Council.

47. Mr. BAUCHARD (France) said that either of the alternatives suggested by the Secretariat might cause problems for many delegations. He would like to know what were the real reasons for postponing the session of CPC. At the organizational session of the Council, it had been suggested that units of the Secretariat affected by restructuring would not be able to prepare their parts of the medium-term plan in time for the CPC session, but it did not seem that any of those units were involved in preparing documents for the first part of the CPC session.

48. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social

⁵ A/CONF.92/1.

Matters) said that a number of documents had been submitted late to the reproduction services, which were already overburdened because of the number of meetings that had been added to the calendar, including special sessions of the General Assembly, and the large volume of documentation for the Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174.

49. Mr. PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark) said that in the past the report of CPC had been an important input to the work of the summer session of the Council. The ideal, therefore, was for the session of CPC to be completed sufficiently in advance of the summer session of the Council. However, that was not feasible in 1978 and, in the circumstances, his delegation preferred the proposal to divide the session into two parts.

50. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that, when CPC had considered the question of documentation for its session during its informal meetings, it had received assurances from the Secretariat that all documents scheduled to be considered at the first part of the session would be available in time. However, the Council was not informed that—for reasons which were still unclear—at least one document would not be ready and other documents would not be available until mid-May, thereby complicating the task of delegations in preparing for the session and violating the Council's rule that documents should be made available at least six weeks in advance of its sessions. Another important document which would deal with programmes that were outmoded, obsolete or of marginal usefulness had not even been mentioned by the Assistant Secretary-General, despite the fact that identifying such programmes was one of the most important tasks of CPC.

51. With regard to the document on the programme in public administration and finance, his delegation saw no great obstacle to preparing it on time, since it was to be based on a study by the Joint Inspection Unit that had already been completed.

52. It was not the first occasion on which documents for a session of CPC had not been ready in time. During the informal CPC consultations, it had even been suggested that the session should be cancelled altogether, on the pretext that the restructuring exercise was being carried out. His delegation, for its part, categorically rejected that suggestion.

53. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the reason why the document on cross-organizational programme analysis would not be ready for the first part of the CPC session was that, in accordance with the established procedure, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination was required to consider the matter. ACC had only recently completed its session, and it had made extensive revisions in the document. Other documents to which the representative of the Soviet Union had referred were being prepared under item 3 and would be ready at the beginning of May. The question of outmoded or obsolete programmes would be dealt with in a document on evaluation,⁶ which would be available in May.

54. Mr. BAUCHARD (France) agreed with the observer for Denmark that the holding of a two-part session was the only solution which would enable the Council to consider the work of CPC at its summer session.

55. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would not object to the new dates for the first part of the CPC session, but hoped that they were definitive.

56. In document E/1978/L.18/Add.1, the Secretary-General indicated that the holding of the eighteenth session in two parts would entail additional expenditure amounting to \$36,400 for travel. He recalled the decision taken by CPC at its preceding session to dispense with summary records and noted that, for some reason, no mention had been made of the savings resulting from that decision. During its informal meetings in February, CPC had again agreed to limit the number of summary records of its meetings. The Secretariat should therefore consider using the resulting savings to defray the extra travel costs incurred by the decision to divide the CPC session in two.

57. The PRESIDENT assured the representative of the Soviet Union that his remarks would be taken into account by the Secretariat.

58. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided that the eighteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be held in two parts, the first from 22 May to 9 June 1978 and the second from 28 August to 15 September 1978.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (a)).

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

59. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) noted that a decision to reschedule the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would have implications for the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources. The Group of 77 had carried out a preliminary discussion of the matter but needed time to consider it further. If the Council took a decision on the session of the Preparatory Committee at the current stage, it would be closing the door on any subsequent rearrangement of the dates for the two meetings. He therefore requested that the decision on both sessions should be deferred until a later stage.

It was so decided.

Commission on Transnational Corporations

60. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the offer made by the Government of Austria to hold the fourth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations at Vienna from 16 to 26 May 1978, instead of from 15 to 26 May at Headquarters. In that connexion, he indicated that 15 May was an official holiday at Vienna.

61. Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria), noting that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would overlap with the session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, said that countries with small delegations would find it easier to be represented at those meetings if they were both held in New York. Many African countries were deeply concerned with one item in particular on the Commission's agenda, but their representatives most familiar with the item were stationed at Headquarters and might not be able to travel to Vienna.

62. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided

⁶ E/AC.51/91/Add.2.

to accept the offer made by the Government of Austria and that the fourth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations would be held at Vienna from 16 to 26 May 1978.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (b)).

Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

63. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to accept the offer made by the Government of Austria and that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control would meet at Vienna from 5 to 16 June 1978.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (c)).

Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women

64. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) suggested that any decision the Council might take with regard to the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women should be without prejudice to any subsequent decision on the membership or size of that Committee, since the entire question of the composition of organs was under consideration in the context of restructuring.

65. Mr. SOBHY (Observer for Egypt), Mr. LAMB (Observer for Australia) and Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) suggested that it would be best to defer a decision on the meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

66. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said that obviously a preparatory committee for the World Conference would have to meet at some time, and it was necessary to take a decision in order to facilitate the task of the host Government in making physical preparations for the meeting.

67. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) recalled that it had already been decided that the Preparatory Committee would have 23 members, who would be appointed by the President of the Council on the basis of equitable

geographical distribution. Her delegation was therefore somewhat confused by the first statement made by the representative of Jamaica and did not see what bearing restructuring had on the membership of the Preparatory Committee. The regional groups were holding consultations and would present their candidatures before the end of the Council's session. In the circumstances, a decision on the venue for the meeting of the Preparatory Committee might be deferred, but it should be clearly stated that the establishment of the Preparatory Committee had been decided once and for all by a resolution of the General Assembly adopted by consensus.

It was so decided.

68. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria) expressed the gratitude of his Government to the Council for accepting its invitation to hold the sessions of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at Vienna. The Austrian Government was aware of and sensitive to the concerns expressed by the representative of Nigeria and, in its capacity as host Government, would do its utmost to facilitate the work of delegations to the fourth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

Organization of work

69. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the Special Representative of the Director-General of FAO for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development was in New York to hold consultations on preparations for the Conference. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to invite the Special Representative to address it at its next meeting on the progress made in preparing for the Conference.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

7th meeting

Friday, 21 April 1978, at 11.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica)

E/1978/SR.7

Statement by the Special Representative of the Director-General of FAO for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

1. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Special Representative of the Director-General of FAO for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development), after expressing his appreciation to the Economic and Social Council for inviting him to report on the progress made in the preparations for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, drew attention to the support which the Council had given to the convening of that Conference, which was destined to play a prominent part in the struggle to combat under-development. He mentioned, in particular, Council resolution 1967 (LIX) on rural development, in which the Council had recommended the participation of other organizations in the United Nations system, a recommendation which was in keeping with the view of the Director-General of FAO

that, in order to promote rural development and to strengthen international co-operation to that end, it was necessary to deal with a number of issues which lay also within the sphere of competence of other organizations in the United Nations system that were concerned with development and which supplemented national and international policies for an integrated approach to the existing situation. FAO had therefore organized interagency co-operation, which had borne fruit.

2. Co-operation was taking place at all levels, namely, between the heads of the organizations, in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in an inter-agency committee, by means of his own visits to the respective headquarters, through contacts between specialists and through the contributions which all organizations in the system were making to ensure that the working papers reflected the sum of their experience. That work was being carried out by task forces in each of the organizations. Thus, the preparatory

stage of the Conference provided an opportunity for FAO and the other organizations in the system to air fresh ideas.

3. The Director-General of FAO hoped that, in the realization that the situation was without parallel in seriousness and scope, interagency co-operation would be maintained after the Conference, which was to be the catalyst for vigorous joint action encompassing the promotion of rural development in all its dimensions.

4. Bearing in mind that the preparatory activities for the Conference had been fully reported to the United Nations and that the Council, at its summer session, would undoubtedly discuss the substantive questions, it would not be timely for him to describe in detail the preparatory work and he would therefore merely indicate some matters which might be of special interest.

5. The provisional agenda and the background documentation for the Conference were based principally on the decisions of the nineteenth FAO Conference, which clearly stated the objectives for a policy on agrarian reform and rural development: eliminating poverty, improving the quality of life, increasing production, promoting employment and augmenting real demand, and ensuring the effective participation in development of small farmers and other needy rural groups. To that end, it was necessary to discuss the role to be played by agrarian reform in that process and to identify alternative strategies, which should be tailored to the social and economic conditions in the different regions, and the obstacles hampering their implementation.

6. With the valuable co-operation of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, special attention was being given to the growing role which women must assume in all aspects of rural development. In addition efforts were being made to ensure that members of representative organizations, such as farmers' and rural workers' associations, were included in the national delegations to the Conference and to ascertain the views of the inhabitants in rural areas of developing regions who were the direct victims of social and economic backwardness, which prevented them from being part of national society.

7. In the preparatory work immense importance had been attached to direct contact with Governments so that a clear picture would be formed of the opinions, positions and views of the different regions and that their special problems would be known. In addition, States Members of the United Nations and of other bodies in the system which were not members of FAO had been invited to participate in the Conference and, as their contributions were likely to be highly significant, it was hoped that they would respond positively.

8. The provisional agenda was divided into two parts; one part related to international policies in the field of agrarian reform and rural development, and its first item was the analysis of those questions in the context of a new international economic order. There was a close interrelationship between the reforms of the existing international economic order and the possibility of speeding up rural development in the underdeveloped countries. Another important factor in bringing about the prompt establishment of a new global economic order was the adoption by developing nations of dynamic policies to transform the rural sectors. Thus FAO was hoping that the Conference would

help to shed light on some of the components of the new world order.

9. As FAO was one of the most vital centres of international co-operation for accelerating development, it was a matter of great significance to FAO that his explanations should have in some degree heightened the Council's interest in supporting the FAO initiative.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/1978/L.18 and Add.2, E/1978/L.21)

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS (*continued*) (E/1978/L.18 AND ADD.2)

10. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the changes in its calendar of meetings for 1978 and 1979 proposed in documents E/1978/L.18 and Add.2.

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

11. In response to Ms. MARTINEZ (Jamaica) who, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, reiterated the request which the Group had earlier made, namely, that the adoption of a decision on the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be deferred until the following week, as the Group had not yet been able to complete its discussion, the PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to the request made by the Group of 77.

It was so decided.

Committee on Natural Resources

12. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters), speaking with reference to a suggestion made at a previous meeting by the representative of Sweden (5th meeting, para. 32) on behalf of the Committee on Natural Resources to the effect that the Committee's third special session should be postponed, said that the most advisable course of action would be simply to postpone that session and to decide at a later stage the date of its convening.

13. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) said that paragraph 1 (c) of the document under consideration was related to paragraph 1 (b), and that a decision to postpone the session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would require the postponement of the session of the Committee on Natural Resources. He suggested that the session should be postponed for a short time only and that the nature of the meeting should be maintained. In the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings, it would not be possible for the Committee on Natural Resources to convene before January 1979.

14. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should defer its decision on the matter as it was connected with the previous question; if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to that suggestion.

It was so decided.

*Preparatory Committee for the World Conference
of the United Nations Decade for Women*

15. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to accept the offer made by the Government of Austria and that the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women would be held at Vienna, from 19 to 30 June 1978.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (d)).

16. Ms. MARTINEZ (Jamaica) said that it was her delegation's understanding that the Council had decided that the preparations for the Conference had already begun and that they would not therefore fall within the scope of the relevant paragraphs of the resolution on restructuring.

17. Mr. ORTNER (Austria) expressed his appreciation to the Council for accepting his Government's invitation to hold the session of the Preparatory Committee at Vienna and pledged full co-operation to make the session a success.

*Ad Hoc Working Group I of the Advisory Committee
on the Application of Science and Technology to
Development*

18. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided that *Ad Hoc* Working Group I of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development should meet in Paris from 22 to 27 May 1978.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (e)).

*Ad Hoc Working Group II of the Advisory Committee
on the Application of Science and Technology to
Development*

19. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to postpone until October 1978 the meeting of *Ad Hoc* Working Group II, which was scheduled to convene at Geneva for five days during the third quarter of 1978.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (f)).

*Regional Group for ECLA Countries of the Advisory
Committee on the Application of Science and Tech-
nology to Development*

20. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided that the Regional Group for ECLA Countries, which had been scheduled to meet at Santiago for three days during the first or second quarter of 1978, should meet at Mexico City.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (g)).

Statistical Commission

21. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided that the twentieth session of the Statistical Commission should be held at Headquarters from 20 February to 2 March 1979, instead of from 15 to 26 January 1979.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (h)).

*Committee on Natural Resources and Working Group
II of the Committee for Development Planning*

22. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council noted that

the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources would be held at Ankara from 5 to 15 June 1979, and that the meetings of Working Group II of the Committee for Development Planning scheduled to be held at Geneva on dates to be determined in 1978 had been cancelled.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 2 (a) and (b)).

*Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the
Problem of Corrupt Practices*

23. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America) said that her delegation supported the request of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices to hold a resumed fifth session at Geneva in late June or early July. The Working Group had made considerable progress at a highly technical legal level towards defining and clarifying problems yet to be resolved, but had only peripherally dealt with some major issues. Thus, it clearly needed more time to continue its work and a meeting at Geneva would be preferable to a meeting in New York in a small conference room, since the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women would not be meeting.

24. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the only possibility at the present time was to hold the meeting of the Working Group at Headquarters. The Council could decide that the meeting should be held at Headquarters on the dates indicated, authorizing the Secretary-General to study the possibility of holding it at Geneva if there were no financial implications.

25. Miss LOJ (Observer for Denmark) said that the countries of the European Economic Community supported the Working Group's request. The Working Group had made considerable progress in drafting an international agreement to prevent and eliminate illicit payments in connexion with international commercial concessions, but some time was still needed in order to complete the draft text and to submit it to the Council at its summer session. The precise place and date of the meeting should be such as to enable the majority of the members of the Working Group to be present.

26. Mr. AOYAGI (Japan) said that, in order to enable the Working Group to make further progress, not only in the technical aspects but also in the substantive drafting of the international agreement, it would be appropriate to convene a resumed fifth session. He supported the United States proposal, which respected the agreed view of the Working Group.

27. Mr. BOTERO (Colombia) said that the Group's resumed fifth session would make it possible to prepare a better text of the international agreement. Colombia would prefer the meeting to be held in New York, but would have no objection if the majority decided to hold it at Geneva.

28. Mr. MONTEMAYOR (Mexico) supported the Working Group's proposal to hold its resumed session before the summer session of the Council, and said that he would have no objection if the Group met at Geneva.

29. Mr. BAUCHARD (France) said that the preparation of the text of the draft international agreement to prevent and eliminate illicit payments in connexion with international commercial concessions presented difficult legal and technical problems and, despite the

progress made, there was still much to be done before the Council could receive a final report. Out of the 14 articles envisaged in the draft agreement, five had hardly been discussed. Part B, concerning other relevant proposals and options, had been the subject of only preliminary discussions. In addition, it had not yet been possible to complete the drafting of the nine articles that had been discussed thoroughly. Continuation of the discussions would make it possible to prepare a text on which all members of the Working Group agreed. It was therefore essential to hold the resumed fifth session and, accordingly, his delegation could accept the solution suggested by the Secretariat.

30. Mr. AYENI (Nigeria) said that his delegation had participated actively in the work of the Working Group, which had been able to improve upon the draft agreement in document E/6006, in accordance with its mandate in Council resolution 2041 (LXI). At its resumed third session, the Group had identified a number of unresolved issues, such as the collaboration of transnational corporations with the illegal minority racist régimes in southern Africa. At a future session, the Group would have to grapple with the question of the payment of royalties and taxes by some transnational corporations to the minority régimes.

31. The dates suggested by the Secretariat in paragraph 2 of document E/1978/L.18/Add.2, namely, 26 to 30 June 1978, might not be convenient because the second session of the Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 was scheduled for 21 to 30 June. His delegation favoured a meeting at Geneva from 3 to 7 July, since some members would be at Geneva in any case for the Council's second regular session, so that the Working Group would be able to continue its important work.

32. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) supported the Working Group's proposal, because he felt that its resumed fifth session would enable it to prepare a very satisfactory text. He would prefer the session to be held at Geneva.

33. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed that a resumed fifth session of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices would be held at Headquarters from 26 to 30 June 1978, on the understanding that the Working Group would meet in a small conference room, and authorized the Secretary-General to convene the session at Geneva if facilities became available without financial implications.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (i)).

34. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reiterated his delegation's position of principle that the characteristic corrupt practices of transnational corporations should be considered within the framework of the code of conduct being prepared in the United Nations.

35. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) giving a clarification concerning the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, said that the Secretariat understood, from statements made at the 5th meeting, that the term of office of the current members of the Committee would terminate at the end of the year and that the elections would be held the following year. Consequently, it was not possible to send invitations for the meeting to be held the following year.

36. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council accepted that interpretation and decided to hold the elections to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in 1979.

It was so decided (decision 1978/39).

STATUTE OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (E/1978/L.21)

37. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General on the Statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to transmit the Statute to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa at its fourteenth session, in accordance with General Assembly decision 32/428 B.

It was so decided (decision 1978/8).

AGENDA ITEM 3

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including preparations for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1978/24 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/25 and Add.1, E/1978/26)

38. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) said that his country had from the outset supported the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had taken steps to implement the Programme for the Decade as laid down in the annex to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). The World Conference would provide an opportunity for the international community to review progress to date and to recommit itself to the development of a coordinated and effective programme to eradicate the racial discrimination existing in many parts of the world. Racial equality was fundamental to the way of life of New Zealand, whose history had shown that discrimination had no place in a just and equitable society and that racial harmony was essential to its well-being as a nation, which was true of all multi-racial societies. No continent or country was free from racial prejudice—it existed everywhere in differing shapes and forms and in varying degrees—but none was more insidious than the institutionalized racism that pervaded every aspect of life in South Africa. A policy whereby racial discrimination had become the basis for the organization of a whole society was diametrically opposed to the principles on which New Zealand Society was based.

39. New Zealand supported without reservation the declaration adopted by the World Conference for Action against *Apartheid*,¹ held at Lagos from 22 to 26 August 1977. It had been a consistent contributor to the three United Nations funds which rendered humanitarian assistance to the victims of *apartheid* and colonialism in southern Africa, and had again in the current year renewed its contributions to those funds.

40. It was to be expected that the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would focus on the overriding problems of racial discrimination in southern Africa, but he hoped that it would also consider specific measures to combat racial discrimination in other parts of the world. Items 9, 10 and 11 of the provisional agenda for the Conference provided the basis for a wide-ranging discussion of

¹ See A/CONF.91/1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.XIV.2 and corrigendum).

problems common to all societies, regardless of ideology or state of development. His delegation welcomed the appointment of Mr. Narasimhan as Secretary-General of the Conference and wished him well in his work. In the constructive proposals made by the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, he noted the emphasis on the promotion of public education, which was vital if the root causes of racial discrimination and other violations of human rights were to be examined. Legislation alone would not ensure the elimination of racial discrimination: they must be accompanied by changes in long-standing attitudes. His delegation hoped that the international community would unite in a common struggle against one of the greatest violations of the United Nations Charter and against the obstacles to development that existed today.

41. Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary) said that the complete and final elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, and of colonial oppression and exploitation, was an objective of utmost importance for the United Nations. Although the day was not far away when the last strongholds of colonialism and racism would fall, there was still a long way to go. In various parts of the world, especially in southern Africa, racism and different forms of racial domination were still being practised.

42. The situation in southern Africa had deteriorated considerably during the past year, with the regrettable result that, in spite of their criminal policies and the serious violations of human rights which they committed, the racist régimes were being strengthened by the assistance of some Western Powers in defiance of the resolutions of the United Nations and in complete contradiction to the measures proposed in the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Notwithstanding the repeated appeals of the United Nations and other international forums, a number of Western States had failed to take appropriate measures to put an end to the activities of the monopolies which were co-operating closely with the racist régimes and deriving enormous profits from the cruel exploitation of the African population. In addition, the military build-up in South Africa, achieved with the collaboration of certain industrialized countries, posed a serious threat not only to the people of that country, but also to the independent African States, endangering the peace and security of the whole continent. The alarming consequence was that some countries had extended their co-operation with Pretoria to the nuclear field.

43. Convinced that the freedom and self-determination of colonial peoples, based on the complete liquidation of colonialism and all forms of racial discrimination, were essential prerequisites for their economic, social and cultural advancement, his delegation had, from the outset, supported the launching of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which it considered to be a major landmark of the struggle against all manifestations of colonial and racial oppression, and a firm commitment on the part of the international community to do away with the illegal rule of the racist régimes. The Government of Hungary had always been on the side of the peoples of Africa in their just struggle, and had supported the aspirations of the Palestinian people. That principle of active solidarity with the peoples suffering from

colonial and racial subjugation constituted the basis for Hungary's programme for the Decade and continued to guide its implementation, for which the Hungarian Solidarity Committee was responsible. The Committee co-ordinated the initiatives of Hungarian society with action by progressive peoples everywhere against all forms of colonial and racial oppression. Its objective was to promote the struggle of peoples for independence, to support their action against racism and *apartheid*, and to foster and strengthen international solidarity among the peoples and progressive forces of the world.

44. Hungary had signed all important international instruments designed to combat racial discrimination and violations of human rights. It welcomed the convening of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and pledged its support and co-operation. The main objective of the Conference should be to devise concrete and practical measures aimed at the full implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations, since that was an essential condition of the fulfilment of the Programme for the Decade. Another important task of the Conference should be to mobilize world public opinion in favour of the struggle against the evils of racial discrimination, and to focus attention on the criminal activities of the racist régimes and the responsibility of those who lent them assistance.

45. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan) said that his country was strongly opposed to all forms of discrimination, and firmly supported the efforts of the United Nations to combat racism and racial discrimination, which were flagrant violations of human dignity and were contrary to the spirit and principles of the United Nations Charter. More than half a century ago, Japan had raised its voice against racial discrimination in the League of Nations. Its present Constitution provided that no person should be prevented from enjoying any of the fundamental human rights, and that there should be no discrimination in political, economic or social activities on the grounds of race, creed, sex, social status or family origin. Regrettably, racism and racial discrimination persisted in the contemporary world, and the world community must strive to eliminate them. For that reason, Japan had consistently supported the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and likewise supported the convening of the World Conference, which was to mobilize world opinion against racism and racial discrimination and to formulate effective plans to combat them.

46. In order to achieve its goal, the Conference should constitute a demonstration of world solidarity, which would require the list of participants to be broadened in order to enlist maximum support from all the countries which opposed the evils in question. His delegation agreed that the main objectives of the Conference should be, first, to identify the obstacles to the elimination of racism and discrimination and to ensure the efficacy of the methods employed to overcome them and, secondly, to formulate effective methods and concrete measures for securing the complete eradication of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. With regard to the second objective, the measures should be of a practical character and should be applicable in each of the participating countries. Thus, greater emphasis should be placed on the importance of long-range educational programmes, both in schools and through the mass media, designed to inculcate in-

ternational understanding and respect for human rights and to overcome ignorance, fear and misinformation. Moreover, the measures adopted by the Conference relating to concerted action by the international community should be of a peaceful and practical nature. If the Conference discussed those topics in a constructive manner, and if all the participating States successfully prevented it from becoming a forum for political confrontation, it was bound to achieve significant results. For its part, Japan hoped that the Conference would perform a constructive task, and was willing to co-operate with other countries to make it a success.

47. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria) said that the sad events of previous decades had lent even greater importance and urgency to the promotion of human rights. Against that background, the international community must apply all its efforts to the final elimination of racism and *apartheid*. Such action must not be restricted to the promulgation of legal norms but must include educational and informational measures designed to strengthen the basis of a policy of non-discrimination.

48. His country, which whole-heartedly identified itself with the efforts of the international community to eliminate racial discrimination and, in particular, the policy of *apartheid*, had associated itself with the specific measures which had been adopted and had, *inter alia*, contributed to the various funds of the United Nations for the provision of material assistance to the peoples of southern Africa. The Government of Austria had also communicated to the Secretary-General its assent to the policy for a mandatory arms embargo laid down in resolution 418 (1977) of the Security Council. It had also supported General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), proclaiming the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and continued to back the struggle of the nations of southern Africa, which was daily marked by the heroic sacrifices of the national liberation movements. Final victory, which would take time, called for a sustained effort by the international community on the basis of a wide-ranging and comprehensive programme.

49. Austria subscribed to the definition of racial discrimination given in article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex), of which it was a signatory.

50. Austria sincerely welcomed the convening of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and hoped that, as well as ratifying fundamental principles, the Conference would establish the necessary machinery to implement them. It also considered particularly auspicious the appointment of Mr. Narasimhan, an official of proven experience and dedication, as Secretary-General of the Conference.

51. At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly had adopted a number of resolutions which had extended the basis of the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. The fact that many of them referred to southern Africa, although it had elicited some criticism, was fully justified in that the peoples of that region were subjected to the most odious form of discrimination, *apartheid*. It was to be hoped that the end of the Decade not only would find the Members of the United Nations united as never before in the struggle against racism and discrimination, but also

would mark the approach of the hour of liberation for those who suffered from the injustices inflicted by those evils.

52. Mr. ZACHMANN (Observer for the German Democratic Republic) drew attention to the special importance of the year 1978 for the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. The World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to be held in August, and the Council debate on the item under consideration would give fresh impetus to the final elimination of such inhuman practices.

53. One of the important tasks of the World Conference was to study in what form United Nations resolutions against racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* could be fully implemented. Although more than four years had passed since the adoption of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the United Nations must continue to deal with the struggle against those evils.

54. The danger to peace and security, to independence and sovereignty and to economic and social development which the racist régimes represented was evident. A discussion on how to implement energetically the tasks and aims of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination required above all the consideration of effective measures to isolate the racist régimes and terminate any form of collaboration with them. To that end, full use should be made of all the possibilities provided in the United Nations Charter.

55. The documents of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and other United Nations bodies showed that certain States and imperialist monopolies had contributed to the military strengthening of South Africa. The régimes which practised *apartheid* must be prevented from obtaining access to weapons of mass destruction; that was precisely the intention of Security Council resolution 418 (1977), which established a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

56. His country fully supported the demands of the African States for the expansion of sanctions in the economic field, especially the cessation of investments and the establishment of an oil embargo. All Governments should adopt consistent measures to put an end to activities in southern Africa which were contrary to international law. Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, had sent to the Secretary-General a message confirming that position, in which he stated that the liberation struggle in southern Africa had entered a decisive phase, in which the people of the region needed more effective assistance from the United Nations. He had added that the sacred right of peoples to fight with all the means at their disposal for their liberation must not be limited.

57. Education played an important role in the elimination of racism and racial discrimination but was not sufficient unless it was linked to effective guarantees against the resurgence of those evils.

58. His delegation had observed with deep concern that in some countries certain circles had been able to glorify the crimes of fascism with impunity. It hoped that in the discussion on educational matters connected with the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, special attention would be given to those phenomena.

59. There could be no doubt that extensive preparatory work for the Conference had been carried out and that the broad participation in the Conference of important social forces in international life seemed to be assured. Further efforts in the struggle for the elimination of racism were required of all anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist forces. His delegation hoped that the Conference could adopt specific measures for the second half of the Decade.

60. The possibilities for fighting effectively against colonialism, racism and the imperialist threat to national independence would improve as world peace became more secure. That relationship should be duly taken into consideration during the conferences of the International Anti-Apartheid Year.

61. His country was prepared to participate actively in the preparation of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and would support activities aimed at the final elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

62. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that, since the proclamation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the international community had been unceasing in its efforts to achieve the final eradication of those scourges and to promote a free and responsible society from which all forms of discrimination based on race, religion and so forth would be totally eliminated. Unfortunately, it was clear that certain regions of the world continued to endure the suffering which racism and racial discrimination inflicted on peoples who were subject to various sorts of foreign domination. On the other hand, many Governments had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex). Also, at a regional level, for example, within the framework of the Organization of African Unity, the active mobilization of an entire continent had begun in support of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa, who were subjugated and exploited in the most inhuman and repulsive manner in the history of mankind by a régime which called itself the guarantor of Western civilization in Africa.

63. The Pretoria régime was defying the international community with the complicity of some Member States, which were attempting to defend their special interests and were thus encouraging that régime by providing it with political, economic and military support. The arrogance of the *apartheid* régime was especially evident in its aggression against the people of Namibia, its alliance with the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia and its military intervention against independent neighbouring African States. The dangerous situation was further compounded by a specific threat against international peace and security, namely, the possession of nuclear weapons by South Africa and the preparations for forthcoming tests in the Kalahari Desert.

64. The similarities in the behaviour of the racist minority régimes in southern Africa and the Zionist régime had been noted more than once by the United Nations, and it was no coincidence that the General Assembly each year found it necessary to adopt a resolution devoted exclusively to the multifaceted co-operation between South Africa and Israel. The permanent Israeli aggression against the martyred people of Palestine had been one of the major subjects of

concern for the United Nations since 1948, a concern which would remain alive until a final solution was reached which would provide full justice to that people. Her country, for its part, would continue its unflinching support for the Palestine people in their legitimate struggle. The two cases she had mentioned were the most striking and abhorrent examples of the violation of the basic rights of peoples.

65. The international community should intensify its joint efforts so as to achieve the goals of the Decade; in that connexion, the contribution of such organizations in the United Nations system as UNESCO and the ILO, within the framework of the implementation of the Programme for the Decade, should be mentioned.

66. Her delegation welcomed the holding of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination at the mid-point in the Decade, which coincided with the proclamation of 1978 as International Anti-Apartheid Year.

67. Mr. WU Hsiao-ta (China) said that the armed struggles of the peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe and the anti-repression struggles of the masses of Azania supported each other, merging into one great force which dealt heavy blows against the reactionary rule of the white racists of southern Africa. However, Vorster, Smith and the like were putting up a last-ditch struggle on the eve of their fall, resorting to their habitual counter-revolutionary tactics of coupling brutal repression with political subterfuge. On the one hand, they continued to expand their armaments, strengthen their Fascist rule and wantonly massacre the black masses; moreover, they launched armed invasions against the front-line African States for their resolute support of the just struggles of the peoples of southern Africa and carried out military intimidation against them. On the other hand, they indulged in political subterfuge, such as the "internal settlement" and the "improvement of racial relations". However, far from deceiving the African people, those acts would quicken their political awakening and would help them in their struggle to eliminate the racist régimes, control their own destiny and become masters of their own land.

68. The just cause of the national liberation and independence of the peoples of southern Africa had received, and would surely continue to receive, strong support from the third world countries and all justice-loving countries and peoples. Meanwhile, one super-Power, in order to maintain its interests in southern Africa, was still trying by various means to protect the reactionary régime there. The other super-Power, acting in the context of its global strategic needs, was stepping up its infiltration and expansion in the African continent. It was sowing the seeds of discord among the national liberation organizations so as to undermine the development of the revolutionary struggle in southern Africa, thus feeding the reactionary arrogance of Vorster and Smith. Although the rivalry between the two super-Powers rendered the liberation struggle of the peoples of southern Africa more complicated and difficult, it also served to educate those peoples to the need to integrate their struggle against the hegemony of the super-Powers in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism, so as to win genuine national liberation and independence.

69. In the five years since the adoption of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the peoples of southern

Africa had scored significant achievements despite difficulties and obstacles. It was to be hoped that the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which was to be held soon, would be of value in promoting the solidarity of the peoples of the world and in providing firm support to the liberation struggle of the peoples of southern Africa in their opposition to imperialism, colonialism, racism and hegemony. His

delegation felt that, on the eve of the World Conference, it was necessary to heighten vigilance, make all necessary preparations to ensure the success of the Conference and prevent any obstruction or sabotage on the part of the super-Powers, in order to ensure that the Conference would run smoothly.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

8th meeting

Monday, 24 April 1978, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.8

AGENDA ITEM 3

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including preparations for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1978/24 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/25 and Add.1, E/1978/26)

1. Mr. SAMHAN (United Arab Emirates) noted that the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) had marked the beginning of a new era in United Nations efforts to eradicate the evils of racial discrimination and *apartheid*. The crude and cruel form of racism found in South Africa, Namibia, Israel and Southern Rhodesia was only one aspect of an extremely complex issue. Many States continued to pay mere lip-service to the idea of a racially integrated society. His delegation therefore appealed to all States and organizations, both national and international, to lend full support to the goals of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to participate constructively in the World Conference.
2. His delegation considered the Secretary-General's report on the preparations for the World Conference (E/1978/26) to be a useful document but had reservations with regard to some of the non-governmental organizations that were to be invited to the Conference.
3. As an expression of its opposition to racial discrimination and racism, his country had become a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex) and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex). Its constitutional provisions were based on the principles of equality and justice without distinction as to whether an individual was a citizen or not, and the Constitution provided that the United Arab Emirates would spare no efforts to aid those engaged in the just struggle for their fundamental human rights. The international community must put an end to all foreign domination and racial discrimination so that indigenous populations could exercise their fundamental rights, including the right to return to their homelands.
4. Tremendous efforts were needed if aspirations for peace, freedom, justice, equality and development were to be realized and the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was to be victorious. His delegation

therefore believed that the World Conference should focus on identifying effective measures for eliminating all forms of racial discrimination throughout the world, and particularly in South Africa, Israel, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia. The Conference should also endeavour to reach agreement on future action to ensure the implementation of resolutions previously adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council. With regard to publicity, his delegation believed that the United Nations and its Member States should share the responsibility for bringing the Conference and the issue of racial discrimination and *apartheid* to the attention of the public throughout the world.

5. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said her delegation was satisfied that preparations for the World Conference were proceeding satisfactorily, and it therefore looked forward to the Conference and the action which it would take. Iran had consistently condemned all forms of racism and racial discrimination, particularly *apartheid*, which was the most reprehensible institutional expression of racism. The international community had been waging a long battle against the evils of racism and racial discrimination and, although the process was slow, progress was being made. The adoption in 1973 of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex) had provided a basis for the taking of effective measures at the international and national levels which could lead to tangible and substantial progress. The World Conference for Action against *Apartheid*, held at Lagos from 22 to 26 August 1977, had marked yet another important step forward, and the adoption of the Lagos Declaration for Action against *Apartheid*¹ by consensus had demonstrated the unanimous will of the international community to overcome *apartheid*. The forthcoming World Conference was the next step, and her delegation would do everything in its power to ensure its full success.

6. While the international community must concentrate its efforts on eliminating racism as a social, economic and political system, its ultimate goal must be, as indicated in document E/1978/24, paragraph 4, the elimination of the racist state of mind. In that endeavour, education and public information activities had a very important role to play. Her delegation

¹ A/CONF.91/9 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.XIV.2 and corrigendum), sect. X.

shared the concern expressed by the observer for Egypt (6th meeting, para. 36) regarding the insufficient publicity which had so far been given to the Conference, and regretted that the budget for the Conference would not permit the Secretariat to do more in that field. The problems of racism and racial discrimination were often discussed behind closed doors and were not regularly brought to the attention of the general public. The Conference should therefore be used as an opportunity to inform and mobilize public opinion.

7. The World Conference should provide a new impetus to efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination. One of the most effective measures which could be taken to that end was the ratification of international instruments concerning human rights in general and racism and racial discrimination in particular. Many States had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and her delegation hoped that it would soon become universal so that racism would be condemned and punished by the domestic law of all countries. In pursuance of the recommendation made by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Iranian Parliament had recently adopted a new penal law to prevent and punish all racist propaganda and acts.

8. The Conference should focus its attention on the situation in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, with a view to putting an end to the suffering and mass violations of human rights in those countries. Her country was not under the illusion that the Conference could resolve the situation overnight, but it hoped that it would be the decisive step towards the final elimination of racism and racial discrimination and the achievement of self-determination in those countries.

9. Mr. MARTYNYENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted with satisfaction that the national liberation struggle of peoples, supported by the socialist countries and all progressive forces throughout the world, had secured great successes in the cause of the elimination of colonialism and racism. Nevertheless, at the mid-point of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, millions of people were still suffering under the yoke of colonial and racist régimes, and the indigenous inhabitants of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia were still being denied their fundamental rights and human dignity and were being kept in virtual slavery by régimes which had made racial discrimination a State policy. It was significant that in the context of the Decade the United Nations was concentrating attention on the problems of southern Africa, where inhuman cruelty and the denial of human rights and dignity were at their worst. The year 1978 had been proclaimed International Anti-Apartheid Year precisely because the elimination of racial discrimination and *apartheid* was one of the most urgent problems of contemporary times.

10. Every year the question arose why racism still existed in southern Africa and what was sustaining it. The many years of experience of the Ukrainian SSR in the work of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* had convinced it that the main reason why colonialism, racism and *apartheid* continued to exist in southern Africa was the all-round aid and co-operation given by the imperialist Powers and transnational corporations to the racist régimes. That conclusion had

frequently been confirmed by the overwhelming majority of Members of the United Nations and had been reflected in decisions of the General Assembly. The overwhelming majority of Member States were strictly implementing the General Assembly resolutions calling for the severance of all ties with the racist Pretoria and Salisbury régimes and the isolation of those régimes. However, the goal of the United Nations could only be attained if those resolutions were complied with by all States. Links with one or more of the major imperialist States were enough to enable the Pretoria régime to pursue with impunity its criminal policy of *apartheid*, cruel colonial exploitation of the black and Coloured population of South Africa and suppression of the national liberation movement. That was the root of the problem of racism and *apartheid*.

11. The blame for those evils must therefore be borne not only by the racist Vorster and Smith régimes, but also by their accomplices and protectors who condemned *apartheid* in words but in reality did not hesitate to violate United Nations resolutions so as to sustain those criminal régimes. Because of their inability to prevent changes in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, the accomplices of *apartheid* had been attempting to promote the implementation of measures in southern Africa which would be advantageous to them. As had been noted in the report of the Sub-Committee on the Implementation of United Nations Resolutions and Collaboration with South Africa,² those measures were only marginal reforms which did not change the foundations of the system of *apartheid*, and they were designed to deceive international public opinion.

12. The Pretoria régime, relying on the co-operation of its protectors, believed that it could act with impunity and was openly seeking to acquire nuclear weapons; that would create a qualitatively new situation in southern Africa, fraught with the most serious consequences for peace, particularly in view of the dangerous aggression already committed by the Pretoria régime against neighbouring independent African States. His delegation believed that the United Nations should take the most decisive measures to prevent the racists of Pretoria from violating the system for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and should also call on South Africa's partners to cease all co-operation with the racist régime so as to put an end to that shameful and inhuman system in southern Africa.

13. The United Nations, in addition to encouraging a greater number of States to accept obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, should promote the broad implementation of the provisions of the two Conventions.

14. It was the duty of the United Nations constantly to increase aid and support to the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe engaged in their struggle for liberation and against racism, *apartheid* and colonialism. In keeping with their consistent policy of solidarity with the national liberation struggle of the peoples of southern Africa, the Government and people of the Ukrainian SSR had provided and were continuing to provide those peoples with aid and support in their just and legitimate struggle. Indigenous students from southern Africa were attending educational establishments in the Ukrainian SSR, which also made reg-

² A/AC.115/L.490.

ular contributions to the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa. Public organizations, and the press and other mass media, were providing all-round support to the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa.

15. The Ukrainian SSR was fully complying with all decisions of the United Nations and other international organizations aimed against *apartheid*, racism and colonialism, and had been one of the first to ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. The reports which it submitted under article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination provided full information on the absence of any socio-economic conditions in Ukrainian society that might lead to racial discrimination. The new Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR guaranteed equality of rights to Ukrainian citizens irrespective of their racial or national origin, and also guaranteed the rights and freedoms of foreign nationals and stateless persons in Ukrainian territory; it granted the right of asylum to participants in revolutionary and national liberation movements, freedom fighters and persons who were being persecuted because of their social, political, scientific or other activities.

16. The Ukrainian SSR fully supported the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; its participation in the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, held at Maputo from 16 to 21 May 1977, in the Lagos Conference and in the extraordinary plenary meetings of the United Nations Council for Namibia, held at Lusaka from 20 to 23 March 1978, had led it to believe that, with careful preparation and appropriate organization, the World Conference would play a significant role in mobilizing international and national efforts to bring about the full implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It was convinced that the World Conference would be a major landmark in co-ordinating international efforts to support the peoples struggling for freedom, independence and progress, and it hoped that specific measures would be devised to hasten the elimination of racism and *apartheid*. One of the most important tasks of the World Conference was to outline effective ways and means of ensuring the full and comprehensive implementation of United Nations decisions aimed at prohibiting co-operation with racist régimes, isolating the *apartheid* régime and, in the long run, bringing about the final elimination of *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination. In the light of past experience in the liquidation of the colonial system, the final elimination of racism was inevitable; the more co-ordinated and energetic the efforts of States Members of the United Nations were, the sooner it would come about.

17. Mr. RAHAMTALLA (Sudan) said that the continued practice of racial discrimination, the *apartheid* policies of the Vorster régime in South Africa and the ignoring of the facts of life by the racist régimes in Southern Rhodesia and the occupied Palestine and Arab lands called for urgent action by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to eradicate the evils of racism and racial discrimination. General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) constituted a sound basis for concrete action towards that end.

18. His Government attached great importance to the forthcoming World Conference and shared the views of other delegations regarding the need for speedy

action with regard to preparations and publicity for the Conference.

19. The Sudan deplored the defiance of United Nations resolutions by certain Powers and demanded that all countries providing support to the Vorster régime should desist forthwith from so doing. In accordance with its Declaration of Political Action, the Government of the Sudan had decided to open an African Liberation Centre at Khartoum for the purpose of disseminating information on the liberation struggle and enlisting moral support for the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

20. The international community must strengthen its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination by stepping up political and material support to all liberation movements in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, invoking Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter to impose an arms embargo and economic sanctions against the South African Government, enforcing the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* and intensifying the campaign for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners detained or restricted in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

21. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that racism and racial discrimination could not be complacently regarded as evils which existed in other countries but had been eliminated in one's own. Unfortunately, racial bias and bigotry could appear unexpectedly and anywhere, like a malignant growth. Consequently, it was necessary to remain alert and take every possible precaution to avoid their occurrence. The Decade for Action had provided a special opportunity to focus the attention of the public on ways of combating racism and racial discrimination. In that connexion, he drew attention to the recommendations contained in resolution 8 (XXXIV) of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the education of children, youth and the public in general in the spirit of respect for human rights and against all policies, practices and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination.

22. The most important instrument in the United Nations arsenal for combating racial discrimination was the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. While almost 100 Member States had become parties to the Convention, only six had made the declaration, provided for in article 14, that they recognized the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider communications from individuals and groups of individuals within their jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation of any of the rights set forth in the Convention. A meaningful contribution to the Decade could be made if a greater number of States parties to the Convention would take the opportunity of the World Conference to make the declaration under article 14.

23. The most virulent form of racism was the abhorrent policy of *apartheid* in South Africa. The people and Government of the Netherlands had consistently condemned and rejected racial discrimination and racism, particularly *apartheid*, and they would continue to pursue that policy vigorously. His Government had not only given its full support to the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa (Security Council resolution 418 (1977)) but was on record as favouring strong economic pressure as well. The Netherlands had

suspended governmental guarantees for medium-term and long-term credits to South Africa and had recently cancelled an agreement on the cashing of giro-cheques. Together with its partners in the European communities, it had established a code of conduct on employment practices for companies having subsidiaries or branches in South Africa. Possibilities for further measures were under active consideration.

24. His country had also made increasing contributions to provide humanitarian help for the victims of *apartheid* through the various United Nations and other international funds. It had also made substantial contributions to the two main movements in South Africa fighting against *apartheid*, the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.

25. The decision of the Amsterdam City Council to name an important square in honour of Stephen Biko attested to the solidarity of the people of the Netherlands with the oppressed majority of South Africa.

26. His Government had decided in principle to participate in the World Conference on the basis set out by the observer for Denmark in his statement on behalf of the members of the European Economic Community at the 6th meeting.

27. Miss MANGANARA (Greece) said that her country viewed racial discrimination as one of the most flagrant violations of human dignity and considered its institutionalized form, *apartheid*, to be a crime against humanity. Greece had always condemned racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* because they were completely contrary to its principles of freedom, democracy, equality and respect for human rights. It had consistently supported the principles of self-determination throughout the historic process of decolonization and would continue to support all people struggling for racial equality and freedom. It had demonstrated its position by signing and ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, by actively participating at the Lagos Conference and by supporting the International Anti-*Apartheid* Year. It had also made many contributions to the various United Nations funds providing assistance to the victims of racial discrimination.

28. Greece had whole-heartedly subscribed to the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had voted in favour of all the resolutions on its implementation. Despite the support received by the Decade from various organizations and from Member States, many individuals continued to suffer from restrictions of all kinds and were victims of racial prejudice. The time had therefore come to review the activities carried out during the first half of the Decade and lay down guidelines for more effective action in the years ahead. The World Conference would provide an opportunity for such a review aimed at identifying practical measures to ensure the full implementation of United Nations decisions and resolutions relating to the eradication of colonialism, racism and *apartheid*.

29. The World Conference should focus on the situation in South Africa, which constituted the worst form of colonial domination and exploitation, while at the same time paying due attention to racial discrimination in other parts of the world. The Conference should also stress the role that the mass media and education could play in eliminating the root causes of racial discrimination and other violations of human rights. Lastly, the Conference would provide another oppor-

tunity to mobilize world public opinion in support of peoples struggling for racial equality.

Mr. Ehsassi (Iran), Vice-President, took the Chair.

30. Mr. WEITZ (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) stressed the importance attached by the Director-General of FAO to programmes and activities designed to combat racism and racial discrimination. Most recently, the Director-General had underlined the commitment of FAO in that regard in messages to the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia on the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with the People of Namibia and Their Liberation Movement the South West Africa People's Organization (27 October 1977), and to the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, on the occasion of its fifteenth anniversary and of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March 1978).

31. The activities of FAO relating to the elimination of racial discrimination were described in document E/1978/24/Add.2. The objective of FAO was to provide economic assistance to peoples directly involved in the liberation of Territories and in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, with a view to helping them to achieve their goals. Given the breadth of FAO programmes related to action against racism and racial discrimination and the underlying commitment of the Director-General to that cause, he was confident that that organization would make an important contribution to the forthcoming World Conference. FAO stood ready to make such a contribution and to play its part in the common effort.

32. Mr. MOHAMMED (Bangladesh) said his delegation was pleased with the excellent state of preparations for the World Conference and with the Secretariat's meticulous adherence to the legislative directives of the Council and the General Assembly in that regard. With the maximum publicity and widest possible participation, the Conference would certainly succeed in formulating practical measures to ensure the full implementation of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations. In that connexion, his delegation supported the appeal of the Commission on Human Rights that the Conference should recommend the establishment of national and local recourse procedures which could be invoked by individuals who were victims of acts of racism and racial discrimination.

33. The international community's condemnation of the abhorrent practices of racial discrimination and *apartheid* had unfortunately not been matched by effective action. For example, despite the adoption of the Programme for Action for the Decade, the racist Pretoria régime had pursued its bantustan policy, which sought to condemn the black majority to perpetual cultural, social and political backwardness and to being used as a source of cheap labour for South Africa. His delegation condemned and rejected that policy.

34. Racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* were flagrant violations of the dignity of man and a direct challenge to all that the United Nations stood for. His delegation was therefore committed to the total and complete eradication of the scourge of racism in all its manifestations and, accordingly, had expressed its solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa in their struggle. In 1977, the President of Bangladesh had made a policy statement affirming the country's support of the right of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa to self-determination and majority rule. Bangladesh had also supported the Declaration

and Programme of Action adopted by the Maputo Conference³ and the 1978 Lusaka Declaration of the United Nations Council for Namibia.⁴ Despite financial constraints, it had pledged financial support to the Support and Solidarity Fund for the Liberation of Southern Africa.

35. Discrimination was the product of ignorance. Thus, while the immediate concern was to eliminate racism as a social, economic and political system, the ultimate aim must be to eliminate the racist state of mind. To that end, education systems, the media and advisory services in the field of human rights could and must play a significant role in imparting a sense of respect for human dignity.

36. Dr. MALAFATOPOULOS (World Health Organization) reaffirmed the deep commitment of WHO to contribute to the elimination of racial discrimination and social justice, particularly in the framework of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

37. On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March 1978), the Director-General of WHO had issued a message reasserting that organization's condemnation of *apartheid* and racial discrimination as contrary to the WHO Constitution. The Director-General had also participated in the World Conference for Action against *Apartheid*, held at Lagos in August 1977, at which he had outlined the position of WHO in support of the struggle for the elimination of *apartheid* and had emphasized the need for all intergovernmental organizations to plan and mobilize resources for future requirements, to design programmes and, above all, to train future leaders and planners of health care.

38. The measures taken by WHO in the past few years directly related to the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination fell into four main categories. First, WHO had continued and intensified the collection and dissemination of information on the effects of racial discrimination and *apartheid* on health and well-being. An ongoing study on the health and psychosocial implications of *apartheid* had been initiated and two reports had so far been released. The study had made it clear that *apartheid* in the area of mental health services led to gross inequality in the availability and quality of mental health care for the different population groups in South Africa. Secondly, WHO had disseminated information through articles and features, radio programmes, interviews and photo coverage. For example, the December 1977 issue of *World Health*, the official magazine of WHO, had contained an article devoted to racism, *apartheid* and mental health. Thirdly, WHO had continued and expanded its assistance programmes. One example was the project concerning the Multinational Liberation Movement Training Centre at Morogoro, United Republic of Tanzania. The objectives of the project were to provide training for health personnel and fellowships for medical and paramedical staff. It would also provide emergency medical supplies and equipment for the populations with which the liberation movements were concerned and would organize seminars and technical workshops for health personnel. With additional

financial resources, that project could be expanded to include assistance to liberation movements in setting up health planning units and the provision of health and psychosocial services in reception centres for refugees. Health assistance was also being provided to the South West Africa People's Organization in Zambia, under a project financed by UNDP and executed by WHO and UNICEF. Fourthly, in support of the Nationhood Programme for Namibia, WHO had offered to assist in setting up a health planning unit within the Institute for Namibia and to collaborate in the preparation of the preliminary country health programming exercise for Namibia.

39. WHO would continue its efforts and activities within the framework of the Decade and would collaborate with the United Nations bodies and other specialized agencies. It would be represented at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to which a report reviewing its activities in the field of *apartheid* would be submitted.

40. Mr. ROS (Argentina) said that it was essential for Governments to participate actively in preparations for the World Conference and to be adequately represented at the Conference itself. His Government was planning to present a brief report at the Conference, based on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The entry into force of the Convention had made States and public opinion more sensitive to the dangers of racism in all its forms and had given a new impetus to the process of educating the public, which was the surest way of instilling respect for human rights without distinction as to race, colour, descent or origin.

41. The World Conference, which would mark the mid-point of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, was the appropriate occasion for reflecting on the progress made and the obstacles which the international community had yet to overcome. It would be taking place at a crucial time, because colonialism, which was based on the notion of racial supremacy, was putting up a desperate struggle in its last strongholds. The injustices that were being perpetrated in Southern Rhodesia and Namibia were a clear example of the fruits of a racist colonial policy.

42. The direct relationship between colonialism and racism was also shown in the measures recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: all the cases on which the Committee had taken special decisions related to territories occupied by foreign powers.

43. His delegation fervently hoped that the World Conference would usher in the final stage of the irreversible process of liberation referred to in the preamble to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)).

44. Miss FLOREZ (Cuba) said that her delegation had repeatedly expressed its unconditional support for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It was encouraging to note the successes of the national liberation movements in recent years, which had resulted in the accession to independence of Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe. At the same time, the struggle of the peoples of Namibia,

³ See *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1977*, document S/12344/Rev.1, annex V.

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-9/4)*, sect. VI.

Zimbabwe and South Africa for the exercise of their inalienable rights to self-determination, independence and sovereignty was intensifying. The repeated atrocities and flagrant violations of human rights committed by the South African racists, including the Soweto massacre and the torture and murder of the student leader, Stephen Biko, had not diminished the desire of those peoples for freedom.

45. The activities of the racists, which were directed not only against the national liberation movements but also against neighbouring independent African States such as Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia and which were carried out with the material and spiritual support of their Western allies, had been condemned by the countries of the third world and the socialist countries at a number of international conferences. Recently, in the light of the report submitted by its *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts,⁵ which had once again disclosed the inhuman treatment inflicted on freedom fighters detained by the racist régime in South Africa and by the illegal minority régime in Zimbabwe, the Commission on Human Rights had adopted its resolution 5 (XXXIV) reaffirming the inalienable right of the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa to self-determination and independence, denouncing the ill-treatment of prisoners in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe and the deaths of individuals subjected to police brutality during peaceful demonstrations against *apartheid* after the Soweto massacre and condemning the criminal acts perpetrated against children who had been protesting against *apartheid*.

46. Although South Africa was the focal point of racism and racial discrimination, such practices were not, of course, unknown in other parts of the world, such as the Middle East, where the situation in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, was a continuing cause of dismay to the international community, which had expressed its indignation at the fact that the persistent discriminatory practices of the Zionists were preventing the exercise of the inalienable rights of the peoples of those territories, particularly the Palestinian people.

47. In the United States, Indians and Mexican-Americans were the victims of racism and racial discrimination, and the people of Puerto Rico were prevented from exercising the right to self-determination and independence.

48. The World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was of particular importance, coming as it did at the mid-point of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Much remained to be done in order to achieve the objectives set forth in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). Concrete and effective measures must be taken to eliminate racism and racial discrimination. In that connexion, her delegation supported resolution 8 (XXXIV) of the Commission on Human Rights.

49. Mr. ABDALLAH (Tunisia) said that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination had produced only limited results. It was to be hoped that the forthcoming World Conference would result in more specific measures for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination through the implementation of United Nations resolutions.

50. The evil of racial discrimination was not confined to Africa, but existed also in the Middle East. Tunisia, as both an African and an Arab nation, was keenly aware of that fact. All Member States should pledge their support for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination by enacting appropriate legislation. Tunisia had always made every effort in that regard, and Tunisian law provided severe penalties for acts of discrimination of any kind.

51. His delegation joined in condemning racism and racial discrimination and wished to express its solidarity with the oppressed peoples of southern Africa and Palestine. The Tunisian Government had been among the first to ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* and hoped that other Governments would do likewise. On the eve of the World Conference, the international community should dedicate itself to the elimination of the scourge of racism and racial discrimination.

52. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the peoples of Namibia, Palestine, South Africa and Zimbabwe struggling for independence and dignity and called on all States which rejected racism and racial discrimination to take whatever measures were necessary against the racist régimes in those countries and against those providing them with assistance, who were responsible for their continued existence.

53. Mr. OULD SIDI AHMED VALL (Mauritania) said that the forthcoming World Conference would undoubtedly have very far-reaching and beneficial effects. Consideration should be given forthwith to measures which might be taken to isolate still further the racist minority régimes of southern Africa and other basically racist systems throughout the world, particularly in Palestine. Increased world-wide awareness of the shameful policy of racial discrimination was the best guarantee that the régimes involved would not escape notice. The World Conference could provide an opportunity to define practical measures for combating racism and racial discrimination. He noted, in particular, the measures recommended by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-fourth session, as set out in document E/1978/24.

54. The intensive, continuous and systematic use of the information media to expose the horrors of policies and acts of racism and racial discrimination was a priority objective and should be relatively easy to achieve. In addition, support for the liberation movements of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Azania and Palestine should be intensified and greater pressure brought to bear on transnational corporations which continue to co-operate with the racist régimes.

55. Apart from its odious and unacceptable nature, the system of racial discrimination constituted an unquestionable danger to international peace and security and a serious obstacle to the economic development and political stability of a number of developing countries. The United Nations could play a very important role in expediting the elimination of racial discrimination and the liberation of peoples still subject to minority racist régimes. His Government would spare no effort to achieve that goal.

56. Ms. MARTINEZ (Jamaica) said that at the mid-point of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination it was appropriate to evaluate what had been done and to establish concrete priorities and programmes of action for the rest of the

⁵ E/CN.4/1270.

Decade. The United Nations, in proclaiming the Decade, had called on its Members to act at two levels: to mobilize world public opinion so as to bring about the final eradication of the most heinous and brutal manifestation of racism in the contemporary world, in South Africa and in neighbouring régimes of a similar type, and, as a legacy to future generations, to institute systems and measures in individual countries to ensure that racism and racial discrimination would never re-emerge.

57. Jamaica's position on both aspects of the question had been summed up by its Prime Minister in his address to the Maputo Conference. Jamaica had a non-racial society, and the Constitution ensured protection against discrimination and provided legal recourse. Jamaica had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, and it strongly supported the elaboration of a convention against *apartheid* in sport. It had given moral, political and, within its severely limited resources, material support to the victims of *apartheid* and racial discrimination in southern Africa and to their liberation movements. A group of students from Zimbabwe had recently arrived in Jamaica for professional training. A National Committee for the International Anti-*Apartheid* Year had been established and would report to the Secretary-General in due course on its programmes and activities, from which it was hoped that voluntary contributions could be raised to supplement the Government's efforts. Jamaica also hoped to participate fully in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

58. The situation in southern Africa gave little cause for optimism. It was regrettable that the slight change for the better in certain sections of world public opinion was due more to the increasing repressiveness and brutality of the South African Government than to anything the United Nations had done. A stronger commitment was needed on the part of the United Nations, not only in words, but also in deeds. Changes in views and policies came about when the people of a particular country became convinced that its Government needed to act. Her delegation joined others in calling for greater publicity by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations on the existing situation and on what should be done.

59. It must be recognized that when the repressive régimes of southern Africa fell, as fall they would, racism and racial discrimination would still not be eradicated from the world. Jamaica had a particular interest in the subject of the eradication of racism and racial discrimination because many Jamaicans, for economic reasons, had been forced to go to other countries to find work. Her Government therefore hoped that the World Conference, in addition to testifying to the most terrible forms of racism, would draw up programmes of national and regional action involving the sharing of experience and a search for means of action, so that the principles of the Decade would be translated into reality.

60. Ms. VON ROEMER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) said that, in its Constitution, ICFTU had committed itself to strive for the elimination of racial discrimination anywhere in the world. The battle against the heinous oppression of

apartheid had always been one of its top priorities. In 1977, as a protest against the systematic efforts of the Pretoria régime to suppress the growing African trade union movement through arrests and bannings, ICFTU had launched a vigorous campaign, beginning with a week of world-wide action. Trade unionists inside South Africa had repeatedly confirmed that that international show of solidarity had had a strong impact on the Vorster régime, which was well aware of the power of organized labour.

61. As a follow-up to the 1977 campaign, the governing bodies of ICFTU had decided on a new plan of action for 1978, including a week of internationally co-ordinated intensive action beginning on 13 March and ending on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On the occasion of the week of solidarity, as well as to mark the launching of the International Anti-*Apartheid* Year, ICFTU had published a booklet containing a detailed and up-to-date description of the situation of the African worker under the *apartheid* régime and the Confederation's demands aimed at bringing an end to his oppression. It had also updated its list of companies with investments and interests in South Africa; that would enable its members to step up pressure on those companies and to insist that they should abide by internationally recognized labour standards or withdraw. The campaign would continue as long as African workers continued to be oppressed.

62. ICFTU welcomed the United Nations arms embargo against South Africa, as well as the steps taken by a number of countries, such as the Nordic States and the Netherlands. However, much more needed to be done. The South African Government was currently considering legislation to strip Africans of the last vestiges of civil rights. As the South African journalist, Donald Woods, had stated before the Security Council,⁶ the whole issue had assumed a deadly urgency not only for the people of South Africa but also for wider international relationships. ICFTU again urged the States Members of the United Nations to impose mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa before it was too late.

63. Mr. DIENE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that, since representatives of UNESCO had already given accounts, at recent meetings of other United Nations organs, of some aspects of the very wide range of activities undertaken by UNESCO as a contribution to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, he would confine himself to informing the Council of activities during the current year in the context of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

64. UNESCO was currently preparing a draft declaration on race and racial prejudice, which represented the culmination of the organization's work since its creation on the problems of racism and science. The four previous UNESCO Declarations on the subject had dealt primarily with the biological and anthropological aspects of racism and with social, economic and cultural factors. To supplement those Declarations, prepared by experts in their personal capacity, the General Conference of UNESCO had decided at its nineteenth session that a draft declaration on race should be prepared by representatives of Governments.

⁶ Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-third Year, 2056th meeting, para. 49.

The draft declaration would be addressed to world public opinion, and would serve as a basis for defining and analysing socio-economic situations characterized by manifestations of racism; it would constitute a powerful instrument for mobilizing individuals, organizations and Governments and enabling them to take appropriate social and legal steps to eliminate the causes and effects of racism and racial prejudice. A preliminary draft, prepared by a group of eminent specialists in human rights, had been submitted to a committee of government experts in March 1978; representatives of the Governments of 100 States members of UNESCO had participated in the meeting, together with representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. At the end of the meeting, a draft declaration on race and racial prejudice had been adopted by consensus. The document was to be submitted to the General Conference of UNESCO at its twentieth session in October 1978 for final adoption. The draft declaration, which recalled the particular role of UNESCO arising from the interdisciplinary nature of its competence, reaffirmed the desire of the General Conference to associate itself with the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The draft declaration was a synthesis of all the data—anthropological, cultural, scientific, economic, social and legal—which had previously been dealt with separately.

65. UNESCO had organized a round table on *apartheid* on 21 March 1978, the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, to mark the launching of the International Anti-*Apartheid* Year. The round table had made specific suggestions for effectively combating *apartheid*, including the elaboration of a convention to provide a virtually automatic right of asylum to any members of a liberation movement from southern Africa, the installation of a radio transmitter in an appropriate region of Africa to broadcast in African languages to southern Africa and the establishment, along the lines of the Institute for Namibia, of other training institutes for the benefit of liberation movements in southern Africa.

66. A number of publications announced in the previous report of January 1977 had been issued, and others would appear very shortly. Those which had already appeared were *Southern Rhodesia: The Effects of a Conquest Society on Education, Culture and Information*, which analysed how a racist society was constituted and perpetuated; *Namibia: The Effects of Apartheid on Culture and Education*, which sought to determine the influence of minority white power in the fields of culture and education in Namibia; *Race and Class in Post-Colonial Society: A Study of Ethnic Group Relations in the English-speaking Caribbean, Bolivia, Chile and Mexico*, which was one of a series of research papers on race and ethnicity; and *Ethnicity and the Media: An Analysis of Media Reporting in the United Kingdom, Canada and Ireland*, being a study of the coverage of racial problems in the British national press and, with regard to Indians, in the Canadian press, and also of how the crisis in Northern Ireland was being covered by the Protestant and Catholic press. The publications to appear shortly were *Trends in Ethnic Group Relations in Certain Countries of Asia and Oceania*, which analysed relations between racial groups in New Zealand, Nepal, India and the Philippines; *The Press and Southern Africa*, which

studied how much coverage was given to racial questions and discrimination in South Africa by the press in various countries and by the four major Western press agencies; and *The Effects of Apartheid on the Status of Women in Southern Africa*, a study prepared in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam.

67. Lastly, he confirmed the commitment of the Director-General of UNESCO to contribute effectively to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

68. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that Poland supported international measures to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, at the bilateral and multilateral levels. The basic principles of the socialist system excluded any form of racial discrimination, and the tremendous losses suffered by Poland because of Nazi occupation in the Second World War had given a historical dimension to its position on the indispensable need to combat all forms of racial discrimination. That goal should be included in programmes for the education of young people and children.

69. Poland believed that there was a direct link between racial discrimination and colonialism, whether in the form of the direct subjugation of peoples by metropolitan Powers or of the oppression perpetrated by racist régimes in southern Africa. It therefore consistently supported the struggle of the national liberation movements and believed that their success would be the most effective way of eliminating racial discrimination. His delegation endorsed the comments made by the representative of the Ukrainian SSR, and in particular shared his concern about the situation in southern Africa.

70. Poland had not only expressed its support for international measures against racial discrimination in the context of the United Nations but had also initiated some of those measures. For example, it had proposed the inclusion in the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child of draft article X to protect children from all forms of discrimination. It believed that the elaboration and adoption of international instruments in legally binding form was of great importance for the elimination of racial discrimination, and that efforts should be made to bring about universal ratification of the various conventions which translated progressive international principles into legal provisions within individual States. Poland had ratified nearly all the United Nations instruments relating to racial discrimination and attached particular importance to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. The detailed views of his Government and the measures it had taken could be found in the reports it had submitted to the United Nations under the relevant articles of the various conventions.

71. Poland had always supported United Nations resolutions against colonialism, racism and *apartheid*; it had provided political, material and moral support to the national liberation movements and would continue to do so until all the evils of racism were eliminated. It had therefore participated in the elaboration and implementation of plans for the Decade and hoped that the World Conference would elaborate further effective measures to combat racism and racial discrimination. His Government had submitted its views on the Conference to the Secretariat.

72. Mr. HUSSAIN (Iraq) said it was of particular significance that the Council was making an outstanding contribution to the efforts being exerted by the progressive world in the context of the International Anti-Apartheid Year, which set out to eliminate from international life an evil that weighed heavily on the conscience of mankind. During the time that had elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), the determination of the United Nations and all its organs and agencies to eradicate racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* had further increased. The World Conference would be a milestone on the road to the elimination of racism, including its most heinous forms, zionism and *apartheid*, and would promote the implementation of the Programme for the Decade. His delegation stressed the shared responsibility of those providing political and military support to the racist régimes in occupied Palestine and

southern Africa. It hoped that the Conference would contribute in a constructive way to the efforts to eliminate racism and racial discrimination, and it would support all necessary measures to ensure the success of the Conference. In that connexion, it stressed the importance of action in the fields of finance and publicity.

73. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Secretary-General of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) thanked delegations for their expressions of support for the World Conference, the success of which would clearly depend on the contribution of Governments. He therefore welcomed the appeals that had been made to Governments to submit their national reports as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

9th meeting

Wednesday, 26 April 1978, at 11.25 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.9

AGENDA ITEM 5

Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1978/8 and Add.1-8, Add.8/Corr.1 and Add.9-16, E/1978/22, E/1978/27)

COMPOSITION OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COVENANT (*continued*)* (E/1978/L.19 AND ADD.1)

1. Mr. MARTYNENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) recalled that he had already informed the Council at its 5th meeting about the results of the consultations held in February and March 1978 with the Chairmen of the regional groups on the question of establishing a sessional working group to consider reports from States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding the implementation of the Covenant. A broader range of participants—representatives of nearly 30 States members of the Council and observers for several other States—had taken part in the intensive informal consultations in April with a view to finding a generally acceptable solution to the question; he noted with satisfaction that all five regional groups had been represented and that both members and non-members of the Council and both States parties and States not parties to the Covenant had been able to express their views. The first stage of the April consultations had involved representatives of States members of the Council which were parties to the Covenant, and at the second stage they had been joined by representatives of other interested countries, including States which were not parties to the Covenant but had officially signified their desire to participate in the sessional working group.

2. The overwhelming majority of the delegations of States parties to the Covenant, both members and non-

members of the Council, had advocated that the sessional working group should be composed solely of members of the Council which were parties to the Covenant. That view had been put forward by representatives of the countries of Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa, on the basis of generally accepted principles of international law. They had stressed that, in ratifying the Covenant, States assumed responsibilities and also acquired particular rights, so that it would be illogical for States parties and States not parties to the Covenant, as members of the sessional working group, to have the same rights in considering reports from States which had ratified the Covenant.

3. The representatives of a number of States, mainly in Western Europe, had taken the opposite view, advocating that the sessional working group should be open-ended, so that both States parties to the Covenant and States not parties could participate in its work. Those representatives had referred to Council resolution 1988 (LX), particularly paragraph 9, in support of their view. However, the majority of the participants in the consultations had felt that paragraph 9 of the resolution referred to only one category of members of the sessional working group, namely, States parties to the Covenant. Those in favour of an open-ended group had also argued that in the light of article 16 of the Covenant, under which all reports were to be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council for consideration, the sessional working group should not be limited to parties to the Covenant. Others had stressed that the establishment of a sessional working group composed of parties to the Covenant alone would not preclude the consideration of reports by the Council in plenary meetings at a later stage.

4. In view of the two diametrically opposed approaches to the question, the delegation of Iran had put forward an informal compromise proposal envisaging that the sessional working group should consist of States parties to the Covenant which were mem-

* Resumed from the 5th meeting.

bers of the Council; that other members of the Council, and States parties to the Covenant which were not members of the Council, could be invited to take part in meetings of the working group as observers, as could representatives of specialized agencies concerned when matters falling within their respective fields of competence were considered; and that the Council, at its first regular session of 1980, should review the decision, taking into account the number of States parties to the Covenant and the principle of equitable geographical representation. The majority of the participants in the consultations had felt that the Iranian proposal could form the basis for working out a compromise decision, and the Eastern European group, as well as a number of delegations from Asian and African countries, had supported that proposal. A few Western European delegations and others had also taken a favourable view of the compromise proposal. However, some of the participants in the consultations had declared that they could not support the proposal, and it was for that reason that it had been brought before the Council. The informal consultations had at least clarified the positions of individual countries and groups of countries, which would help in reaching a decision on the very complex question involved.

5. Mr. FAURIS (France) said that, when he had requested a discussion in plenary meetings on the establishment of the sessional working group, he had done so in the belief that the composition of the working group was only one aspect of the question, rather than the whole issue. The Council must also decide what tasks the working group was to perform. According to article 16 of the Covenant, the Council must consider reports submitted by States parties; it could not delegate that task completely to a limited sessional body. Consequently, the Council must also decide on the methods and the procedure for considering such reports. The form and composition of the sessional working group would be determined by the nature of the tasks entrusted to it and could therefore be determined only after the methods of work and the procedure for considering reports had been established. Moreover, the procedure adopted would have an effect on the number of States ratifying the Covenant in the future, as many Governments would ratify it only when they knew how their reports were to be dealt with.

6. With regard to the specific question of the composition of the sessional working group and whether or not it should include members of the Council which had not ratified the Covenant, he recalled that at its organizational session for 1978 the Council had decided to invite all members wishing to participate in the group to make a formal request to the President before 15 March 1978 (see decision 1978/1, para. 3 (d)). As a result, Argentina, Austria, France, Japan, Portugal and the United States had all applied to participate, although they were not yet parties to the Covenant. The group's composition must be based on the entire membership of the Council and not simply on States parties to the Covenant. He therefore found it difficult to understand why the consultations of the past weeks had taken the form of a meeting of States parties in which other States had been allowed to participate only when it had no longer been possible for them to do so effectively.

7. Mr. MARTYNENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, as he had mentioned, the consultations had taken place in three stages, involving at

first the Chairmen of the regional groups, then States parties to the Covenant and, finally, open-ended consultations to which States parties and all members of the Council had been admitted. Only one meeting had taken place among States parties alone.

8. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) pointed out that the issue of the composition of the sessional working group raised a number of fundamental problems which would have to be solved by the Council as a whole. The main problem was that of equitable geographical representation in the group. Whenever the Council had established a subsidiary body in the past, it had done so on the basis of equitable geographical representation of Members of the United Nations as a whole or members of the Council; it had never established working groups composed solely of interested parties. Moreover, the proposal that the working group should consist only of States parties to the Covenant had been discussed and rejected at the time of the adoption of the Covenant by the General Assembly. The Council could not take a decision which contradicted an earlier decision by the Assembly. It might therefore be advisable to seek a legal opinion on the whole issue.

9. The situation could be resolved by making the entire membership of the Council directly responsible for examining the reports submitted by States parties and disregarding the provisions of resolution 1988 (LX) which were in any case extremely ambiguous. Alternatively, in order to avoid further arguments about the need for equitable geographical distribution and about the correct interpretation of that resolution, the Council could establish a very small working group consisting of one representative from each region and could ask the regional groups to give priority to States parties to the Covenant when choosing their representatives. Such a procedure would make it clear that the Council had over-all responsibility for examining reports from States parties.

10. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America) stressed that implementation of the Covenant and the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights in all countries required that the reports submitted by States parties should be examined by a broad-based working group. Both the language of the Covenant and the provisions of Council resolution 1988 (LX) reflected that view; in particular, paragraph 9 (a) of the resolution provided both for appropriate representation of States parties and for equitable geographical distribution. The summary records of meetings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly at the twenty-first session showed that a very open approach had been adopted to the issue, and the same spirit had prevailed at the Council's organizational session for 1978, when all members wishing to participate in the working group had been invited to notify the President.

11. The Council was so deeply divided on the issue of the composition of the working group that there could obviously be no compromise until certain legal aspects were clarified. Accordingly, she suggested that the Council should either seek a legal opinion on the interpretation of resolution 1988 (LX) or consider revising that resolution.

12. Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, as a State party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Byelorussian SSR was very interested in the question of establishing a ses-

sional working group. The great importance of that question had been reflected in the numerous contacts and consultations that had taken place both during the Council's organizational session for 1978 and during the current session.

13. His delegation believed that a just solution to the question should be sought on the basis of two main factors: the general principles of contemporary international law and international practice and the relevant statutory instrument, Council resolution 1988 (LX). Careful consideration of those two factors showed the only correct approach, namely, that the working group should consist of States parties to the Covenant which were members of the Council. If States not parties to the Covenant were allowed to join the sessional working group the States parties to the Covenant would be placed in an unequal situation, as the non-party States would have no obligations but would have the right to discuss the reports of other States while the States parties, in addition to that right, would have their obligations under the Covenant. That situation would be in contradiction with one of the basic principles of contemporary international law or, in other words, of *jus cogens*, namely, the sovereign equality of States. Under contemporary international treaty law, international instruments created rights and obligations for the parties only, and any bodies that might be established to consider reports submitted under a convention were composed of representatives of or experts from States parties. Clear examples of that were the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Council resolution 1988 (LX), paragraph 9 (a), said nothing about the participation in the working group of States not parties to the Covenant, but referred directly to States parties and to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, which would of course be applied if there were so many States parties to the Covenant that they could not all be members of the sessional working group without destroying its character as a subsidiary working body. Thus, contemporary international law, international practice in relation to multilateral treaties and the relevant resolution of the Council all showed that the group should consist of States parties to the Covenant. Representatives of specialized agencies concerned could take part in the proceedings of the group as observers when matters falling within their fields of competence were considered.

14. The Byelorussian SSR had ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and had been a party to the Covenant from the time of its entry into force. Since then, the new Constitution of the USSR establishing the rights, freedoms and duties of citizens had been adopted, marking a new historical stage in the development of socialist democracy. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet had recently stressed that a steady raising of the standard of living of the Soviet people was at the centre of all the country's plans. The Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR had also adopted a new Constitution providing broad democratic rights and freedoms to Byelorussian citizens and guaranteeing the implementation of all the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other United Nations instruments on human rights.

15. The Byelorussian SSR attached great importance to economic, social and cultural rights and, as a State party to the Covenant, was concerned that the work of the United Nations in connexion with the Covenant and the establishment of a sessional working group should be based on justice and respect for the basic principles governing international relations.

16. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said the delegations which had participated in the consultations on the establishment of the sessional working group had realized just how much Council resolution 1988 (LX) had left unsaid. It was a matter of opinion whether the ambiguity and imprecision of that resolution were to be condemned or applauded.

17. In the course of the consultations, four guiding principles had emerged. First, due recognition must be accorded to those countries which had contributed to the purposes of the Covenant by ratifying it and submitting reports on its implementation. Secondly, under the terms of the Covenant, the Council was clearly responsible for monitoring progress in implementing it. Thirdly, although there were obscurities in resolution 1988 (LX), the reference to equitable geographical distribution was not in the least obscure. It was clear that the working group must be established on the basis of that principle, the importance of which all delegations recognized. Clearly, any working group established in defiance of that principle could not function effectively. Fourthly, States which were not parties to the Covenant but were interested in participating in the examination of reports should, as far as possible, be able to do so.

18. The Council had never in the past had to reconcile four such principles simultaneously when establishing a working group and it would be easier to do so now if members had a more precise idea of what purpose the group was to serve. According to resolution 1988 (LX), the group was to assist the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties. That provision could be interpreted as meaning either that the group would make an expert evaluation of reports before they were considered by the Council or that the group would make a more substantive examination of them and submit a general report to the Council, so as to reduce the work to be done in plenary meetings. The composition of the group would, of course, depend on which of the two interpretations prevailed.

19. His delegation favoured the first interpretation; in that case, the group should be as small as possible and should be based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Council would then discuss the group's work when dealing with human rights questions as a whole, rather than under a separate agenda item on the implementation of the Covenant. If the second interpretation prevailed, what would be required would be not a sessional working group but some form of consideration of reports in the Council itself, either in plenary meetings or in a committee of the whole. It was because the kind of group so far envisaged fell somewhere between those two alternatives that it was proving so difficult to establish it on the basis of principles on which all members of the Council were agreed.

20. Mr. TÖRNUDD (Finland) pointed out that, under the terms of the Covenant, the Council did not have sole responsibility for considering the reports of States parties. The Commission on Human Rights and

the specialized agencies shared that responsibility and an expert committee of the ILO had in fact recently submitted a report on the implementation of the Covenant by States parties. The proposed sessional working group should simply help to prepare for the Council's general discussion of reports from States parties. It should therefore be relatively small and should review reports on a global basis, article by article, rather than country by country, and in a spirit of consensus.

21. The principle of equitable geographical distribution could be interpreted in two different ways. If the working group was to take decisions by voting, the distribution of seats should be based on the entire United Nations membership; if it was to work on the basis of consensus, the regional groups should be represented equally so that the views of all of them were heard. If all the guiding principles for the establishment of the working group were to be taken into account, a number of combinations were possible. His delegation would prefer a small working group composed of two representatives from each regional group, working on the basis of consensus and with no rigidly predefined procedures. Such a group would perform an expert function and would simply help the Council to consider reports in a more general fashion.

22. Mr. ABDALLAH (Tunisia) said that, as a party to the Covenant, Tunisia had participated in the informal consultations on the establishment of a sessional working group. His delegation had been concerned to see that positions had crystallized and a simple problem of procedure had become a major problem of principle. It had appeared that a compromise was about to be reached, but then everything had again been called in question. His delegation had been prepared to agree to the compromise proposal, despite its position of principle that only those members of the Council which were parties to the Covenant should form part of the group, thus avoiding a legal anomaly whereby the reports of States parties to an international instrument would be submitted to an outside body. In article 16 of the Covenant it was clearly stated that the Council should consider the reports of States parties; thus, a legal anomaly had already been created by the adoption of Council resolution 1988 (LX) providing for the establishment of a working group. In domestic law, it sometimes happened that legislation, after being enacted, was found to be unenforceable and became a dead letter. By analogy, the Council, rather than trying to implement resolution 1988 (LX) at all costs, should follow article 16 of the Covenant. If a working group was nevertheless to be established, his delegation could agree that it should be composed of members of the regional groups which were parties to the Covenant. However, it believed that the Council must either adopt the compromise proposal, or apply article 16 of the Covenant by considering reports in plenary meetings.

23. Mr. ZACHMANN (Observer for the German Democratic Republic) said his delegation believed that the sessional working group should consist of representatives of States parties to the Covenant which were members of the Council. That would be fully in keeping with the principles of contemporary international law and international practice, and would take into account the positions of the majority of the States parties to the Covenant.

24. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had been somewhat

surprised at the course of the discussions; although the meeting had been convened to discuss the methods of work of the working group, representatives had been repeating the positions they had already stated during the informal consultations. His delegation had expressed its views on the working group during the consultations and had done all it could to seek a compromise satisfactory to all delegations. No objection had been raised to the idea that the working group should be set up in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX) and there had been a general understanding that the group should be small. The majority of the participants had believed that, in accordance with that resolution, the working group should consist only of States parties to the Covenant. Thus, the majority view would seem to have been that, as a compromise, the working group could be established on the basis of equitable geographical representation of States parties to the Covenant. His delegation had proposed that the working group should consist of 20 members, or four from each regional group. During further consultations it had emerged that most members of the Council felt that the group should consist of 15 members to reflect the number of States parties to the Covenant at the time. The role of the Council would remain, as it would consider the reports of the working group established to assist it. A similar practice had been followed in the cases of other international agreements such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Although at the organizational session of the Council for 1978 it had been said that the working group should be open to all members wishing to take part in it, it had also been agreed that that would not predetermine the question of the group's composition. Since 16 States had expressed the wish to join the working group, it would clearly be advisable for it to be small in size.

25. The basic task of the group would be to assist the Council in considering reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant. In accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX), reports were to be submitted in biennial stages, covering groups of articles of the Covenant; the wish of the Council at the time had therefore clearly been that the working group should consider the reports in general, by groups of articles. Resolution 1988 (LX) was the point of departure for deciding on the methods of work of the working group; the group would not consider the report of each country in detail, but would submit general views on the implementation of groups of articles of the Covenant by States parties as a whole and on any difficulties encountered by States in implementing particular articles. Thus, there should be no need for the working group to take any votes, and the question whether the application of the principle of equitable geographical representation should be based on the membership of the United Nations as a whole, on the membership of the Council or on the geographical distribution of the States parties to the Covenant did not arise.

26. The Council had a firm legal foundation for reaching an acceptable decision on the composition of the working group. Consultations were continuing, and his delegation was sure that a compromise decision could be reached. The question of the methods of work of the working group could be discussed either in the Council or in the working group itself, taking into account the provisions of the Covenant and of

resolution 1988 (LX), with a view to making proposals to the Council. The latter approach would not affect the decision on the group's composition.

27. Mr. OLDAEUS (Sweden) endorsed the suggestions put forward by the representative of Finland, which took into account the major principles raised during the consultations, namely the responsibility of the Council for monitoring the implementation of the Covenant, the special interests of States parties and equitable geographical distribution.

28. Mrs. OGATA (Japan) said that her delegation shared the regret of the French delegation that some members of the Council had been unable to participate in the consultations from the very beginning.

29. Japan had responded to the invitation issued at the organizational session and had expressed its interest in participating in the sessional working group. Both article 16 of the Covenant and Council resolution 1988 (LX) made it clear that the Council was the principal organ for promoting the observance of economic, social and cultural rights and that in pursuing that task it should operate in an open manner. In recognition of the special rights of the States parties to the Covenant, her delegation was willing to agree that they should constitute a majority in the working group. The ideal would be to set up a small expert group which would lay the groundwork for a broad discussion of the reports from States parties in the Council itself. However, an agreement on that arrangement seemed unlikely at the current stage. In the circumstances, the most practical course would be to consider the reports already submitted in plenary meetings of the Council, until a clearer indication emerged of how members wished to proceed with regard to the working group.

30. Mr. FAURIS (France) noted that several delegations favoured a working group composed exclusively of States parties to the Covenant. If that was the general view, he wondered why the Council had invited all members wishing to participate in the group to inform the President.

31. In the view of his delegation, Council resolution 1988 (LX) was unambiguous; "appropriate representation of States parties to the Covenant" clearly meant that States parties would be one category of members of the group. However, some delegations had put forward different interpretations of that resolution and had even suggested that the Council should disregard it entirely. In that case, the Council would have to base its decision on article 16 of the Covenant, which, although it had been described as a legal anomaly by one representative, assigned the responsibility for examining reports to the Economic and Social Council.

32. If the working group was to play a purely technical role, in laying the groundwork for subsequent consideration of reports by the Council, his delegation would prefer a small group composed of five members, chosen in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. If the group was to have broader functions, a larger membership would be preferable. In any event, the most important task was to determine the work methods and procedures of the working group.

33. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) recalled that his delegation had been prepared to accept the Iranian compromise solution, which paid due regard to the rights and duties of States parties to the Covenant on the one hand and the criterion of equitable geographical

distribution on the other. In discharging its responsibility under article 16, the Council should adopt an approach similar to that taken in connexion with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. In all those cases, only States parties participated in the consideration of reports. It was not impossible to reconcile the exclusive participation of States parties and the principle of equitable geographical representation.

34. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany), referring to the view that article 16 of the Covenant was a legal anomaly, pointed out that it had not been an accident that a different arrangement had been adopted for the consideration of reports from States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. At its twenty-first session, the General Assembly had rejected a number of proposals to set up a group of experts from States parties on the grounds that the States parties themselves would be free to decide whether to establish a new organ or make use of some existing organ to review their reports, that the Economic and Social Council functioned on the basis of Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations, and that a new organ might not be fully representative of the world's legal and political systems.

35. He recalled the Council's previous decisions that States parties should submit reports on groups of articles. It would therefore be best for the reports to be considered on an article-by-article rather than a country-by-country basis. The working group could then prepare an analytical paper to facilitate the task of the Council, thus maintaining the latter's over-all responsibility under the Covenant.

36. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) agreed that the States parties to the Covenant should have a pre-eminent position, and felt that the Iranian proposal provided the best basis for a compromise solution.

37. The PRESIDENT noted that the issue of the size of the working group and the issue of its functions were interrelated. The representative of Japan had suggested that, pending the establishment of a working group, the Council should take up in plenary meetings the reports already submitted. Time was running out, and the Council should decide whether it wished to encourage those who still believed that a compromise solution could be reached.

38. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America) said that efforts towards a compromise should be continued, while at the same time a legal opinion should be sought on resolution 1988 (LX), paragraph 9 (a).

39. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that a solution to the problem of the membership of the working group was close at hand, and efforts towards that end should be continued. The Secretariat would be placed in a very difficult position if it was asked to provide a legal opinion on paragraph 9 (a), in view of the widely divergent interpretations held by Member States.

40. Mr. FAURIS (France) agreed that discussions aimed at reaching a compromise solution should be continued. However, the Council should take up the preliminary question of the working group's role and procedures, since the size and composition of the group hinged on that question.

41. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) said it had emerged during the informal consultations that there might be differences in the various language versions of Council resolution 1988 (LX), paragraph 9 (a). That matter should be clarified.

42. He requested the Secretariat to consult the summary records of the 1397th to 1401st meetings of the Third Committee, at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, to determine whether any limitations had been placed on the Council's right to establish a working group and decide on its composition.

43. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America) said that paragraph 9 (a) was not the only matter on which a legal opinion was needed. For example, the Iranian compromise solution raised the question whether a member of the Council could have only observer status in one of its subsidiary bodies. There were also legal questions with regard to the precedent which the establishment of the working group would set.

44. Ms. MARTINEZ (Jamaica) asked whether any of the States which had ratified the Covenant had entered reservations regarding the competence of the Council to examine reports from States parties. She agreed with the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany that the Secretariat should determine whether the various language versions of paragraph 9 (a) concurred.

45. Mr. ABDALLAH (Tunisia) said that his delegation was not in favour of seeking a legal opinion. The wording of paragraph 9 (a) was clear: there was no question of States other than States parties being members of the working group. The Council traditionally endeavoured to avoid placing the Secretariat in delicate positions and the Secretariat, being neutral, was not supposed to play the role of an arbiter. In the final analysis, the problem was political and not legal.

46. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) agreed that the Council should not put the Secretariat in a difficult position. Many issues had been raised, and he was not clear as to how the request for a legal opinion would be formulated.

47. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the task of the Secretariat in providing legal opinions regarding all the matters raised by delegations would be complicated, especially in view of the limited time remaining in the session. The United States representative had referred to a legal opinion on the compromise solution. That solution had not yet been formalized, and it would be difficult for the Secretariat to give its views on a proposal which did not yet officially exist. Accordingly, the best course was simply to pursue efforts to reach a compromise; if those efforts were successful, the views of the Secre-

tariat could then be sought on the solution when it was formally introduced in the Council.

48. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America), replying to the comments of the representative of Poland, said that her delegation wished to seek a legal opinion from the Secretariat regarding the meaning of the phrase "with appropriate representation of States parties to the Covenant, and with due regard to equitable geographical distribution" in Council resolution 1988 (LX), paragraph 9 (a).

49. The PRESIDENT noted that a second question on which a legal opinion had been sought was whether a member of the Council could have only observer status on one of its subsidiary bodies.

50. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) emphasized the importance of putting in writing the questions which would be submitted to the Secretariat.

51. Mr. FAURIS (France) said that it was perfectly normal to request a legal opinion as a help in reaching a consensus. There was no need to take a vote on whether to request such an opinion, as the opinion would not be binding on the Council.

52. Mr. ABDALLAH (Tunisia) said that the whole point of the consultations held in recent weeks had been to avoid resorting to a vote. A compromise solution had been proposed, and it would be better to allow consultations to proceed on the basis of that compromise than to seek an opinion which might crystallize the positions of the various delegations.

53. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America) said that her delegation did not wish to insist on a vote; instead, it suggested that members of the Council wishing to do so should hold informal consultations with legal representatives of the Secretariat.

54. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that, as far as he knew, representatives of the Secretariat could not participate in consultations on the same footing as members of the Council.

55. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in order to take full account of the views expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union and to prevent any further crystallization of the positions of different delegations, the Council should allow members wishing to do so to bring legal officers into the consultations. Clearly, the views expressed by those officers would not be binding on the Council. Nor could he, as President, lay down any hard and fast rules as to how such consultations should be organized. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt his suggestion.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.

10th meeting

Tuesday, 2 May 1978, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.10

In the absence of the President, Mr. Martynenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (E/1978/56, E/1978/L.27)

1. Mr. BERKOL (United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (E/1978/56), said that the main conclusion of the report was that the basic problem in distributing relief was the lack of internal transport. Although there had been no significant improvement in the situation, the Government's *ad hoc* trust fund for the purchase of vehicles had received a further contribution of \$100,000 from the Lutheran World Federation. A donor Government had also pledged five more trucks to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission on a bilateral basis and UNICEF would seek to make 15 to 20 trucks available to the Logistic and Technical Support Project for Food Aid Transport. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees intended to provide 20 trucks to be used for the victims of the conflict in the Ogaden region. Further efforts were nevertheless needed to provide the transport required, and the Ethiopian Government had recently informed his Office that air-lifting of trucks from their place of manufacture to Ethiopia might be necessary in order to save the lives of many who were exposed to the dangers of famine.

2. The situation in the port of Assab was also extremely serious. Food-laden ships had to wait for up to three months for berths, thus dramatically increasing demurrage charges. It was estimated that imports through Assab during the remaining months of 1978 would total 264,000 tons, comprising 160,000 tons of commercial imports, 36,000 tons of fertilizers and 68,000 tons of pledged food aid, including 41,000 tons of grain and vegetable oil from the World Food Programme and 20,000 tons of grain and other food items from the European Economic Community. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission estimated that 150,000 tons of additional food assistance would be required for western Wollo, and FAO had contacted selected donor Governments and EEC concerning a possible multi-donor assessment mission to appraise emergency food needs in Ethiopia. Twenty thousand tons of the extra amount requested was in process of shipment from EEC and WFP. Although the port of Assab could not at present handle such large quantities, it was estimated that a discharge rate of 15,000 tons a month could probably be sustained. The study to improve bulk grain discharge and storage in Assab, referred to in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report, had been completed, and the proposals submitted to the Ethiopian authorities included the use of evacuators capable of handling 50 tons per hour and tractor/trailers to transport the grain to storage depots for

bagging, or the use of barges into which grain would be discharged through evacuators while ships were anchored outside the port. However, further means of road transport were essential in order to solve the distribution problem.

3. According to reports received, rainfall had recently been inadequate in Wollo, and more than 600,000 people were affected by food shortages in that province alone. Well over a million people, including those affected in northern Shoa, Tigre and Begemdir, might need food assistance during the remainder of 1978, but the large-scale operation launched by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission would be hampered by the over-all lack of transport.

4. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had appealed for \$5 million to meet the immediate requirements of displaced persons in the Ogaden region. A multi-donor mission to Ethiopia was under consideration by UNDR0, UNHCR, FAO and WFP.

5. Mr. OLCSE (Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme) recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 32/55, had requested the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Administrator of UNDP, UNICEF and other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue and intensify their assistance to Ethiopia. Such international assistance was to be used for the sole purpose of relief and rehabilitation.

6. The inadequate food supply in Ethiopia was clearly caused not only by the drought but also by an inadequate internal food transportation and distribution system, and the situation had been aggravated by the displacement of population in certain areas. Following the drought of 1973-1974, UNDP had allocated \$2 million to Ethiopia from its Programme Reserve for relief and rehabilitation assistance, and a further \$109,000 had been committed under its Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries. A number of drought-related projects started at that time were still in progress, particularly in the fields of agricultural research, settlements and reforestation. Of the funds carried over into the second programming cycle, \$220,000 was still available for the current year. The UNDP programme of assistance financed from the indicative planning figure had also been restructured in order to finance activities related to the Government's rehabilitation efforts, and the UNDP Resident Representative in Ethiopia had been involved in the task of mobilizing support from WFP and UNDR0 for Government relief work. The Government had undertaken several rehabilitation projects under the auspices of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, with financial contributions from several donors, particularly the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP and WFP.

7. Transport remained a serious problem. At the end of 1977, 87,000 tons of grain had been awaiting trans-

port at the port of Assab. The national distribution bottleneck had also affected the transport of coffee. To help to deal with that problem, UNDP/ILO project ETH/77/025 (Logistic and Technical Support for Food Air Transport) had been approved in November 1977. It would provide a team of experts, at a total cost of \$702,000, to manage an emergency transportation fleet of 150 trucks for the movement of approximately 100,000 tons of food aid and fertilizers a year to distribution centres in the affected areas. The trucks were to be purchased from an *ad hoc* trust fund of \$10 million, of which \$5.4 million had been made available and had been used for the purchase of 94 trucks, which were expected to arrive in the country at the beginning of June.

8. Further funds, to support the Government's medium-term and long-term rehabilitation endeavours, had been provided by the United Nations Capital Development Fund, which in 1975 had approved \$1,266,000 for equipment, vehicles and materials for rural water supply, and \$1,793,000 for the building and rehabilitation of rural roads. Savings from the two projects, amounting to \$277,000 and \$700,000 respectively, were being used for supplementary assistance, a sum of \$455,000 having been approved in March 1978 for the provision of vehicles to the Ethiopian Water Resources Authority (EWRA). Those vehicles would ensure the timely delivery of materials and supplies needed for the IPF-financed projects "Assistance to EWRA" (ETH/75/005) and "Assistance to EWRA in Wollo" (ETH/77/006). Supplementary assistance for a second rural road project was still under consideration.

9. In order to improve disaster preparedness, an early warning system had been established with the assistance of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), UNICEF and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). A UNDP/UNDRO meeting aimed at improving the capacity of UNDP resident representatives to deal with natural disasters would take place at Dakar early in June and would be attended by the Resident Representative in Ethiopia.

10. Mr. CHABALA (Observer for Zambia), introducing draft resolution E/1978/L.27 on behalf of the sponsors, expressed deep appreciation to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for his untiring efforts to organize and co-ordinate assistance to the drought-stricken areas. The report of the Secretary-General (E/1978/56), together with the statements of the Co-ordinator and of the Deputy Assistant Administrator of UNDP, gave an up-to-date picture of the magnitude of the task facing the international community in assisting the relief operations of the Ethiopian Government. Ethiopia had suffered from drought for six years and much remained to be done, despite the generous response of Member States, United Nations organs and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and voluntary bodies. The situation was increasingly critical in Bale, Hararghe, Shoa and Sidamo, and more than a million people would require food assistance in the next four months. The food supply had been directly affected by crop failure, drought, pests and flooding, and the distribution of available food was seriously hampered by the logistical impasse described in the Secretary-General's report. Attention must therefore be focused on solving the transport problem. Despite the fortitude and determination of the Ethiopian people and

Government, the task was too immense to be tackled by Ethiopia alone, and the international community must demonstrate its solidarity in concrete terms and on a scale commensurate with the problem. Generous aid had already been given, but it was essential to continue and increase assistance.

11. Draft resolution E/1978/L.27 emphasized the urgent need to resolve the internal transport problems. It recalled the previous resolutions of the Council on aid to the drought-stricken areas in Ethiopia and the appeals already made to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies, and urged the various United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue and intensify their assistance to Ethiopia in its relief and rehabilitation effort, in implementation of the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Council. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

12. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country had great sympathy for Ethiopia's efforts to overcome the consequences of drought. The Soviet Union provided considerable assistance to countries affected by natural disasters, including Ethiopia. Co-operation between the Soviet Union and Ethiopia in the economic, technical and cultural fields was developing successfully on the basis of mutual respect for national sovereignty. In May 1977, the two countries had issued a joint communiqué announcing that they had signed a protocol on economic and technical co-operation, an agreement on cultural and scientific co-operation and a consular convention. Both sides had emphasized their respect for the principles of self-determination and non-interference in internal affairs. They had also stressed their support for the struggle being waged by developing countries to eliminate imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, to ensure that all peoples exercised full control over their national wealth and to restructure international economic relations on the basis of justice and equality. In April 1978, the Soviet Union and Ethiopia had issued a further communiqué announcing the establishment of an intergovernmental commission on questions of economic, scientific and technical co-operation and trade. His delegation supported draft resolution E/1978/L.27 and wished the Ethiopian people success in its efforts to achieve further social and economic progress.

13. Mr. FELDMANN (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that on 12 April 1978 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had launched an appeal for \$12,150,000 to provide assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa. The appeal was related in part to a programme of assistance amounting to some \$5 million for displaced persons in Ethiopia. The UNHCR programme in the Ogaden region was complementary to the programmes of other United Nations agencies in the area. Acting in close co-operation with the Ethiopian Government, and in particular with the relief and Rehabilitation Commission, UNHCR had provided assistance to some 150,000 of the most seriously affected persons in the region. UNHCR would stay in close contact with the other components of the United Nations system and with the Government of Ethiopia.

14. Mr. ZACHMANN (Observer for the German Democratic Republic) reaffirmed his country's solidarity with Ethiopia. With respect to the report of the Secretary-General, his delegation agreed that Ethio-

pia's problems were no longer directly connected with drought. They were, above all, a consequence of the country's feudal past and the concomitant oppression and exploitation of the people. With regard to the close bilateral co-operation that existed between Ethiopia and the German Democratic Republic, the Joint Economic Commission set up by the two countries had agreed in 1977 to embark upon a long-term programme of co-operation in the fields of agriculture, transport and industry. The German Democratic Republic had also provided the Ethiopian people with large quantities of food-stuffs, clothing, medical supplies and other items. His country would make every effort to develop its fraternal co-operation with the Ethiopian people in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/55, paragraph 3. His delegation supported draft resolution E/1978/L.27 and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

15. Mr. WEIBGEN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that Ethiopia was in need of large-scale food assistance. As a result of an initiative by FAO, 20,000 tons of grain, contributed in part by the European Economic Community and in part by the World Food Programme, were being shipped to Ethiopia. In addition, WFP was currently implementing three projects, valued at almost \$30 million, in Ethiopia. Representatives of FAO had recently met with the Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation to discuss a multi-donor mission to Ethiopia, and it was intended that the mission should be on its way by about mid-May. FAO had already contacted representatives of several countries in connexion with the mission, and it invited all interested potential donors to come forward. The mission would attempt to undertake an over-all assessment of the situation in Ethiopia. The possibility of additional allocations of FAO/WFP emergency food aid was also under active consideration.

16. Mr. OLDAEUS (Sweden) said that in 1977 his country had made a substantial contribution to the *ad hoc* trust fund for emergency relief to drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia, and in April 1978 his Government had decided to contribute 5 million Swedish kronor to UNHCR for its work in the region.

17. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) said that the report of the Secretary-General showed the generous contribution made by the international community to alleviate the suffering of the population of Ethiopia. Somalia had also been seriously affected by drought in 1974 and 1975 and, although the Government had received assistance from the international community and had been able partially to remedy the situation, further assistance was required. Many of the people affected by the drought in the Ogaden region had entered Somalia, placing a tremendous burden on a country which already had its own serious problems. His Government was trying to deal with the situation as best it could with the resources available to it, but the displaced persons were mainly nomads and were scattered over a large area. His Government had asked UNHCR for assistance with a view to resettling half a million people, but UNHCR had not had the necessary funds and the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner had not had time to consider the matter. Fortunately, other Governments had helped.

18. Draft resolution E/1978/L.27 dealt with the situation of people affected by drought; however, drought was not the only problem that faced the Governments of Ethiopia and Somalia. His delegation therefore sup-

ported the draft resolution, but with the inclusion of an additional paragraph which had been agreed upon by Somalia and Ethiopia. The text of the proposed paragraph had been submitted to the sponsors of the draft resolution for their consideration.

19. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation favoured the provision of additional assistance to Ethiopia and supported draft resolution E/1978/L.27. Poland would continue to support multilateral assistance programmes for Ethiopia and would pursue its bilateral co-operation with Ethiopia within the framework of the friendly relations that existed between the two countries. His delegation recognized that the needs of Ethiopia were genuine and would transmit draft resolution E/1978/L.27 to the Polish Government without delay.

20. Ms. VARRATI (United States of America) said that the United States supported draft resolution E/1978/L.27. The United States Government had long been a leading advocate of humanitarian assistance to many countries of the world, and that had been particularly true recently in the context of increasing emphasis on human rights. Her country's concern for the victims of natural and man-made disasters had been demonstrated not only by its bilateral assistance programmes but also by its support for the establishment and strengthening of UNDRÖ. In Ethiopia, the United States bilateral economic assistance programme, which included an ongoing Food for Peace programme administered by voluntary agencies, had been aimed at the rural poor, and in focusing on drought-stricken areas her Government hoped to develop a comprehensive package of inputs, which might include seeds, food, medicines and transportation support. To that end, an *ad hoc* task force had been set up within the Government to consider the humanitarian and economic assistance requirements of the whole Horn of Africa, including Somalia and Djibouti as well as Ethiopia. The United States had recently contributed \$2 million to the *ad hoc* trust fund established by the Ethiopian Government for the purchase of trucks to transport relief supplies to victims of both drought and war.

21. Mr. CHABALA (Observer for Zambia) announced that Kenya, Rwanda and Togo had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1978/L.27, which had been revised to include a new operative paragraph, reading as follows:

"4. *Calls upon* all concerned to ensure, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/55, that the international assistance provided shall be used for the sole purpose of relief and rehabilitation".

The existing paragraph 4 would become paragraph 5.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.27, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/2).

22. Mr. ADUGNA (Observer for Ethiopia, Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation), referring to paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report, said that the main Kiremt rains had been inadequate in western Wollo and northern Shoa and even the small rains in February and March had failed, resulting in crop losses of 50 to 100 per cent in subsistence agricultural areas. That fact was accepted by the UNDP Resident Representative and the other relevant United Nations bodies such as FAO, WFP and UNICEF.

23. He had suggested on previous occasions that the emergency fund of \$200,000 directly administered by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator should

be included in the programme budget, so that the Co-ordinator could act with speed. The Secretary-General's report gave the impression that \$20,000 had been made available to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission but had not been used. What had actually happened was that rehabilitation funds had been used to meet the flood emergency in the hope that they would be at least partly replaced by UNDRO assistance, but reimbursement had not been allowed by UNDRO although the Commission had spent over \$100,000 to assist the flood victims.

24. The report also stated that the factors determining the situation in Ethiopia were no longer directly connected with drought. However, the UNDP Resident Representative's assessment was that natural factors were at work, compounded by transport and distribution difficulties and by the fact that some surplus producing areas were now in deficit as a result of recent armed conflict. That statement reflected the situation as it existed in Ethiopia.

25. The task of relief and rehabilitation was made more difficult by the existence of three basic problems. First, the drought continued to affect the country and was becoming increasingly serious in the Wollo, Tigre and Shoa regions. Secondly, the impact of the drought in Hararghe, Bale and Sidamo had been aggravated by the consequences of recent armed conflict in the south and south-eastern parts of the country, which had left almost a million people homeless and without means of livelihood. Thirdly, the critical shortage of vehicles and other logistic factors had made the distribution of relief assistance extremely difficult. That problem must be tackled with vigour and speed.

26. With regard to the prevalence of natural disasters, Ethiopia continued to face the problems of pests and of unreliable and erratic rainfall or failure of the rains in the most populous regions. Disaster was once again in the offing in those regions. The situation was rapidly becoming critical in western Wollo, south-western Tigre and northern Shoa. It was estimated that about 1.5 million people would urgently require food assistance over the next 12 months and that at least 150,000 tons of food assistance would be needed. As Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation, he had submitted a request for assistance to the Director-General of FAO, who was preparing an appeal.

27. The people in the war-torn areas were also desperately in need of assistance in the form of food, reconstruction materials, seed, tools and medicine. UNHCR had made an appeal which might provide the bare essentials for some of those affected. The recent armed conflict had contributed significantly to the deterioration of the situation and had further aggravated an already serious logistic problem. All measures taken to mitigate the effects of the drought in the south-eastern part of the country prior to the outbreak of hostilities had been undone by the conflict.

28. The critical shortage of transport remained a serious impediment to effective relief work, despite Ethiopia's pleas to the international community over the past four years and its own efforts to mitigate the problem. It was necessary to use helicopters for a bridging period of at least two months to deliver food to areas which were otherwise inaccessible during the rainy season.

29. The Ethiopian Government had used all means at its disposal to combat the ill effects of natural disasters and of the war and had called on Member States,

international organizations and voluntary agencies for support. He expressed his Government's appreciation to all who had provided humanitarian assistance, particularly those countries and organizations which had generously contributed to the *ad hoc* trust fund for the purchase of vehicles. He appealed to States Members of the United Nations, the international organizations and the voluntary agencies to continue to assist the Government's efforts to provide relief and rehabilitation services to all those affected by natural disasters and by the war. Without prompt and generous action, the current drought problem in Ethiopia could have effects as disastrous as those of 1973. He earnestly hoped that timely assistance would be forthcoming and that history would not repeat itself.

30. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 2.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including preparations for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued)* (E/1978/24 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/25 and Add.1, E/1978/26, E/1978/L.24, E/1978/L.25)

31. Mr. SEVAN (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out a drafting change in the French text of draft resolution E/1978/L.24.

32. Miss NURU (United Republic of Tanzania), introducing draft resolutions E/1978/L.24 and E/1978/L.25 on behalf of the sponsors, said that, in the latter text, paragraph 4 of the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly had been revised to read:

"Calls once again upon all Governments which have not yet done so to take legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in southern Africa, in order to put an end to such enterprises".

33. The sponsors of draft resolution E/1978/L.24 were deeply concerned at the persistence of racism and racial discrimination, particularly in southern Africa, and hoped that their text would be adopted without a vote.

34. She announced that Bangladesh, the Philippines, Togo, Tunisia, the United Republic of Cameroon and the Upper Volta had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1978/L.24; India had become a sponsor of draft resolution E/1978/L.25; and Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan had become sponsors of both draft resolutions.

35. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Observer for Ghana) noted that Ghana was not listed among the sponsors of draft resolution E/1978/L.24 and E/1978/L.25, in spite of the fact that the Secretariat had been informed earlier of his delegation's wishes in that regard. Ghana should therefore be added to the list of sponsors of both draft resolutions.

36. Mr. ACEMAH (Uganda) said that Uganda also wished to become a sponsor of draft resolutions E/1978/L.24 and E/1978/L.25. His Government attached great importance to the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Dis-

* Resumed from the 8th meeting.

crimination and to the forthcoming World Conference, and hoped that they would make a significant contribution to the elimination of the evils of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, which still flourished in southern Africa and other parts of the world. His Government pledged its co-operation in implementing the Programme for the Decade and urged all Governments to do likewise.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.24 was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/3).

37. Mr. MEZVINSKY (United States of America) said that his delegation had not participated in the decision on draft resolution E/1978/L.24. His Government's commitment to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination remained deep-seated, as evidenced by the progress made in that respect in the United States itself. Nevertheless, for the reasons already stated on a number of occasions, the United States would continue to pursue a policy of non-participation in the Programme for the Decade and would therefore be unable to take part in the forthcoming World Conference.

38. Mr. HERZOG (Observer for Israel) recalled that, when in 1973 the Third Committee of the General Assembly had recommended the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Israel had supported it firmly and unequivocally. Its support had flowed not merely from an abhorrence of the very notion of discrimination based on race, colour or creed, but from the fact that for centuries the Jewish people had been the victim, indeed the classical victim, of racism in different parts of the world.

39. The Jews were a multiracial people, whose religion could be freely adopted by all, regardless of race,

colour and sex. As a democracy and having regard to its diverse ethnic, religious and linguistic grouping, the State of Israel had from its very inception been guided by the principles of freedom, justice and peace, and had done its utmost to ensure equality of social and political rights for all its inhabitants, including, despite the sea of hostility which surrounded it, its Arab citizens, who were represented in every walk of Israeli life, ranging from the parliament and Government to the defence forces. With much to contribute, Israel had been eager to participate in the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

40. In 1977, Israel had explained to the Council the reasons why it had been obliged to withdraw its support from both the Decade and the World Conference. It regretted that those reasons still obtained. The prospect that the Conference would be contaminated by extraneous issues, such as the infamous resolution on Zionism, still existed, so that an important opportunity to address the critical issue of racism—on which there could be no doubt about Israel's position—would be lost. His delegation must therefore reiterate that it would be unable to participate in the Conference.

41. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Secretary-General of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) said that he had done everything possible to expedite preparations for the World Conference, which he hoped would receive the widest possible support. With regard to draft resolution E/1978/L.24, paragraph 5, the Office of Public Information had already taken a number of steps to ensure maximum publicity for the Conference and would continue to carry out intensive publicity campaigns before, during and after the Conference.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

11th meeting

Tuesday, 2 May 1978, at 3.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.11

In the absence of the President, Mr. Scheltema (Netherlands), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Elections (E/1978/20, E/1978/40 and Add.1-3, E/1978/73, E/1978/L.4 and L.10-17)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, at the request of the Chairman of the group of Asian States, he would delay the start of proceedings in order to enable the members of that group to complete consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/1978/L.17)

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members of the Commission for Social Development for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1979.

3. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were four vacancies for African States but only three endorsed candidates, Chad, Senegal and Togo. Cyprus, India and Thailand were candidates for the two vacancies for Asian States. There were two vacancies for Latin American States, and Bolivia and Nicaragua were the endorsed candidates of the Latin American group. The group of Western European and other States had endorsed Norway and the United Kingdom for the two vacancies for that group. The endorsed candidate for the vacancy to be filled by a socialist State of Eastern Europe was Romania.

4. The PRESIDENT pointed out that, in the case of the Latin American States, the Western European and other States, the socialist States of Eastern Europe and the African States, the number of candidates was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group. He therefore proposed that the candidates of those groups should be elected by acclamation.

*Bolivia, Chad, Nicaragua, Norway, Romania, Senegal, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Commission for Social Development by acclamation.**

5. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should postpone until a later session the election to fill the remaining vacancy for an African State.

*It was so decided.**

6. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect two members from among the three candidates for the vacancies for Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nelli (Italy) and Mrs. Villa (Philippines) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
India	50
Cyprus	31
Thailand	24

*Having obtained the required majority, Cyprus and India were elected members of the Commission for Social Development.**

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (E/1978/L.17)

7. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Commission on Human Rights for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1979.

8. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were three vacancies for African States, for which the African group had endorsed Benin, Burundi and Morocco. Fiji, Iraq and Jordan were candidates for the one vacancy to be filled by an Asian State. Cuba and Uruguay were the endorsed candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American States. There were three vacancies for Western European and other States and five candidates, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom. Bulgaria was the endorsed candidate for the vacancy reserved for a socialist State of Eastern Europe.

9. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should elect the candidates for the vacancies for African States, Latin American States and the socialist States of Eastern Europe by acclamation.

*Benin, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cuba, Morocco and Uruguay were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights by acclamation.**

10. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from among Asian States and three from among the Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wiesner (Austria) and Mr. Aoyagi (Japan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Required majority:	27

Number of votes obtained:

Asian States:

Iraq	22
Jordan	19
Fiji	11

Western European and other States:

Portugal	43
Federal Republic of Germany	30
Canada	28
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	28
Netherlands	25

*Having obtained the largest number of votes and the required majority, the Federal Republic of Germany and Portugal were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.**

11. The PRESIDENT announced that, since the remaining candidates had either not obtained the required majority or had tied, a second ballot would be held; the ballot would be restricted to the two unsuccessful candidates from each group that had obtained the greatest number of votes in the first ballot, namely Iraq and Jordan for the Asian group, and Canada and the United Kingdom for the group of Western European and other States.

Result of the ballot:

Asian States:

Iraq	27
Jordan	24

Western European and other States:

Canada	34
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	17

*Having obtained the required majority, Canada was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights.**

12. The PRESIDENT observed that the restricted ballot among the Asian candidates appeared to be inconclusive. He would therefore settle the question by drawing lots.

Jordan, having been chosen by lot, was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights.¹

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/1978/L.17)

13. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members of the Commission on the Status of Women for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1979.

14. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) indicated that there were three vacancies for African States and three candidates endorsed by the group, namely, Ghana, Senegal and Uganda. The endorsed candidates for the two vacancies for Asian States were Iraq and Malaysia. There was one vacancy for a Latin American State and the endorsed candidate was Panama. Finland, the United Kingdom and the United States were the endorsed candidates for the three vacancies for Western European and other States,

* See decision 1978/40.

¹ A procedural discussion ensued. At the following meeting, the decision was revised.

* See decision 1978/40.

the Netherlands having withdrawn its candidature. The endorsed candidates for the two vacancies for socialist States of Eastern Europe were Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed by the regional groups.

*Czechoslovakia, Finland, Ghana, Iraq, Malaysia, Panama, Senegal, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women by acclamation.**

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION
(E/1978/L.15)

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to nominate seven members for election to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session. The members would serve for a period of three years from 1 January 1979.

17. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the candidates proposed by the regional groups were: Pakistan for Asian States; Trinidad and Tobago for Latin American States; Romania and Yugoslavia for socialist States of Eastern Europe; and Belgium, Denmark and the United Kingdom for Western European and other States.

18. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies in each group, the Council should nominate those candidates for election by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

*Belgium, Denmark, Pakistan, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia were nominated for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.**

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(E/1978/L.16)

19. The PRESIDENT said that the election of members of the Commission on Human Settlements would be conducted in two stages: first, the election of 19 members for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1979; and secondly, the election, postponed from the organizational session for 1978 (4th meeting, para. 1), of two members from African States—for terms beginning on the date of election and expiring, for one member, on 31 December 1979 and, for the other, on 31 December 1980—and of two members from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring, for one member, on 31 December 1979 and, for the other, on 31 December 1980. The terms of those four States would be decided by lot, in accordance with the decision of the Council at its organizational session.

20. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that, with regard to the first part of the election, five members were to be elected from among the African States, and the candidatures of Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Togo and the United Republic of Cameroon had been proposed. Five members were to be elected from among the Asian States, and the can-

didatures of Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam had been proposed. Two members were to be elected from among the Eastern European States, and the candidatures of Czechoslovakia and Poland had been proposed. Three members were to be elected from among Latin American States and the candidatures of Chile, Guatemala and Venezuela had been proposed. Four members were to be elected from among Western European and other States, and the candidatures of Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece and Italy had been proposed.

21. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to elect those countries by acclamation.

*Australia, Bangladesh, Chile, Czechoslovakia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Poland, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Togo, the United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela and Viet Nam were elected members of the Commission on Human Settlements by acclamation.**

22. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that with regard to the second part of the election, the candidatures of Benin and Tunisia had been proposed for the two remaining seats for African States, and those of Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic for the two remaining seats for Asian States.

23. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to elect those States by acclamation.

*Benin, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia were elected members of the Commission on Human Settlements by acclamation.**

*The Council then decided by the drawing of lots that the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia would serve for a term expiring on 31 December 1979, and that Benin and Pakistan would serve for a term expiring on 31 December 1980.**

COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

24. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect the 13 members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1979. In accordance with rule 80 of the rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect five members from African and Asian States, two from Eastern European States, two from Latin American States, and four from Western European and other States.

25. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the candidates endorsed by African and Asian States were Ghana, India, Iraq and Kenya. Those endorsed by Eastern European States were the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR. Those endorsed by Latin American States were Chile and Cuba. Those endorsed by Western European and other States were France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

26. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should elect by acclamation those States whose names had just been read out.

Chile, Cuba, France, Ghana, India, Iraq, Kenya, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the

* See decision 1978/40.

* See decision 1978/40.

*United States of America were elected members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations by acclamation.**

27. The PRESIDENT suggested that the election to fill the remaining vacancy for a member from African and Asian States should be postponed until a later session.

*It was so decided.**

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (E/1978/L.12)

28. The PRESIDENT said that the election to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development would be conducted in two stages: first, the election of 18 members for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1979; and secondly, the election of one member from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1979.

29. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were three candidates—the Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Tunisia—for the three vacancies for African States; two candidates—India and Pakistan—for the three vacancies for Asian States; four candidates—Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago—for the four vacancies for Latin American States; four candidates—France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States—for the four vacancies for Western European and other States; and four candidates—Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Poland and Romania—for the four vacancies for the socialist States of Eastern Europe.

30. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by acclamation the States whose names had just been read out members of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

*Brazil, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ecuador, France, India, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were elected members of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development by acclamation.**

31. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to postpone until a future session the election of one member from Asian States.

*It was so decided.**

32. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that, with regard to the second part of the election, the candidate proposed for the vacancy for Asian States was Fiji.

*Fiji was elected a member of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development by acclamation.**

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES (E/1978/L.11)

33. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 27 members of the Committee on Natural Resources for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1979, one member from African States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1980, and one member from Asian States for a term beginning

on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978.

34. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out the following list of candidates for membership of the Committee for a period of four years: for the six vacancies for African States: Chad, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Uganda; for the six vacancies for Asian States: Bhutan, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan; for the two vacancies for Latin American States: Argentina and Trinidad and Tobago; for the nine vacancies for Western European and other States: Australia, Austria, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America; and for the four vacancies for socialist States of Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Poland and Yugoslavia.

35. The PRESIDENT observed that the number of candidates for the African, Asian, Latin American and Eastern European seats was equal to or less than the number of vacancies and suggested that they should be elected by acclamation.

*Argentina, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Chad, the German Democratic Republic, Iran, Iraq, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Senegal, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Yugoslavia were elected members of the Committee on Natural Resources by acclamation.**

36. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect nine members from among the candidates proposed for the vacancies for Western European and other States.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	53
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	53
<i>Required majority:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Italy	50
France	48
Finland	47
Spain	47
Sweden	47
Netherlands	44
United States of America	44
Turkey	43
Australia	41
Austria	40
Norway	2
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1

*Having obtained the largest number of votes and the required majority, Australia, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America were elected members of the Committee on Natural Resources.**

37. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there was no candidate for the vacancy for an Asian State for a term expiring on 31 December 1978 and that Egypt was the only candidate for the vacancy for an African State for a term expiring on 31 December 1980.

* See decision 1978/40.

* See decision 1978/40.

38. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect Egypt a member of the Committee on Natural Resources by acclamation.

*Egypt was elected a member of the Committee on Natural Resources by acclamation.**

39. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to defer the election of one Asian State for a term expiring on 31 December 1978 and to postpone until a future session the election of two Asian States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1979.

*It was so decided.**

COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS
(E/1978/L.14)

40. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1979.

41. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out the following list of the candidates endorsed by their respective groups: for the seats allotted to African States: Algeria, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Swaziland; for the seats allotted to Asian States: India, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan; for the seats allotted to Latin American States: Jamaica, Peru and Venezuela; for the seats allotted to Western European and other States: Canada, Italy and Turkey; for the seats allotted to the socialist States of Eastern Europe: Poland and Yugoslavia.

42. The PRESIDENT suggested that since the number of candidates in each group was equal to the number of seats for the group, the Council should elect by acclamation the States whose names had been read out by the Assistant Secretary.

*Algeria, Canada, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Swaziland, Turkey, Venezuela and Yugoslavia were elected members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations by acclamation.**

43. The PRESIDENT said that there were also vacancies for two Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1980. As there were no candidates, he suggested that the election to fill those vacancies should be postponed until a future session.

*It was so decided.**

* See decision 1978/40.

COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL
(E/1978/40 AND ADD.1-3, E/1978/73)

44. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had earlier decided to hold elections to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control the following year (7th meeting, para. 36). The Secretary-General had, however, recommended (E/1978/73, para. 2) that the Council should appoint Mr. Stanislav V. Borodin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) to fill the unexpired term of one member of the Committee who had resigned. He invited the Council to agree to that appointment.

*It was so decided.**

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

45. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since there was no candidate for the vacancy in the Statistical Commission for an African State, the election should be postponed until a later session.

*It was so decided.**

COMMITTEE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

46. The PRESIDENT suggested that since there was only one candidate, the Ivory Coast, for the four vacancies for African States for a term expiring on 31 December 1981, on the Committee on Review and Appraisal, the Council should elect the Ivory Coast by acclamation.

*The Ivory Coast was elected a member of the Committee on Review and Appraisal by acclamation.**

47. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should postpone until a future session the elections to fill the remaining vacancies for African and Asian States.

*It was so decided.**

48. The PRESIDENT suggested that since it might require balloting, the election of members of the Executive Board of UNICEF and of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should be postponed until a later meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.

* See decision 1978/40.

12th meeting

Wednesday, 3 May 1978, at 11.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.12

AGENDA ITEM 5

Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*)* (E/1978/8 and Add.1-8, Add.8/Corr.1 and Add.9-16, E/1978/22, E/1978/27)

1. Mr. FIGUEROA (Argentina) said that his Government had strong reservations about two of the documents before the Council at the current session. Documents E/1978/8/Add.9 and E/1978/22 reproduced the reports of the United Kingdom on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and in them the Malvinas islands were discussed—under another name—as if they constituted a non-metropolitan territory of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom was therefore representing itself to the Council as possessing the sovereignty which really belonged to the Argentine Republic, but which his country was unable to exercise because of the continuing illegal occupation of the islands by the United Kingdom in defiance of the United Nations and world opinion.
2. The General Assembly resolutions on the subject recognized that a dispute existed between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas and that the dispute should be solved by direct negotiation between the two Governments. In resolution 31/49 the General Assembly expressed its gratitude for the continuous efforts made by the Government of Argentina, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly, to facilitate the process of decolonization and to promote the well-being of the population of the islands. His Government firmly supported the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes and was engaged in negotiations with the United Kingdom, as both Governments had reported to the Secretary-General.
3. In any event, documents E/1978/22 and E/1978/8/Add.9 departed, in his delegation's view, from the Secretary-General's instructions concerning references in documents to the Territory in question; an information circular¹ of March 1966 instructed that the dual name of the Territory was to be used in all Secretariat documents, with certain specified exceptions, and that any reference bearing upon the question of sovereignty over the Territory should be accompanied by a note or foot-note calling attention to the dispute between the two Governments or by the standard disclaimer. He therefore requested that that practice should be followed in future.
4. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that, while he did not accept the legal position outlined by the representative of Argentina, he concurred with the reference to negotiations between the two Governments

on the question. As document E/1978/8/Add.9 was a national report, amendments to it were the prerogative of the Government which had submitted it.

COMPOSITION OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COVENANT (*continued*)* (E/1978/L.19 AND ADD.1, E/1978/L.26)

5. Mr. MARTYNENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), introducing draft decision E/1978/L.26, said that the consultations among interested delegations had produced a compromise text which should be acceptable to all delegations. The purpose of the draft decision was to establish a sessional working group to assist the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Representatives of States from all regional groups, including States which were parties to the Covenant and States which were not, had participated in drafting the document.
6. The sponsors of the draft decision had decided to revise paragraph (b) by replacing the words "paragraph 1 above" by "paragraph (a) above" and deleting the remainder of the paragraph. The reason for the change was that the sessional group was to be established on a provisional basis, so that there was no real need to fill seats by appointing States parties to the Covenant which were not members of the Council. In paragraph (e), the words "in relation to the" should be replaced by "and the increase in the".
7. The sponsors had consulted the majority of Council members, and they therefore hoped that the draft decision would be adopted by the Council.
8. Mr. SEVAN (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft decision E/1978/L.26. When the Council had decided, by its resolution 1988 (LX), to establish the sessional working group, the statement of programme budget implications (E/L.1718) which it had then had before it had been based on the assumption that the working group would meet twice daily for a period of two weeks, and that it would require 1,000 to 1,500 pages of pre-session, 100 pages of in-session, and 100 pages of post-session documentation. On that basis, the total cost of conference services, excluding summary records, in 1978 would be approximately \$179,000, with a similar amount being required for 1979 and subsequent years. The Secretary-General had also indicated that if the Council continued to consider human rights matters at Headquarters, it would be necessary to bring two staff members of the Division of Human Rights from Geneva to New York in order to assist the working group on technical matters; as from the second regular session of 1978 of the Council, an estimated amount of \$3,500 per annum would be required to cover the travel and subsistence costs of the additional staff. In the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, financial provision had

* Resumed from the 9th meeting.

¹ ST/ADM/SER.A/1084.

been made for the resources required to service the proposed sessional working group, and the adoption of draft decision E/1978/L.26 would not, therefore, give rise to any additional programme budget implications during the current biennium.

9. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said that all representatives who had participated in the consultations had worked hard to achieve the compromise draft decision. Council resolution 1988 (LX) did, perhaps, lend itself to different interpretations. Her own delegation had participated in the consultations in a spirit of compromise, appreciating how essential it was to establish the sessional working group. All States, especially the developing countries, attached importance to the implementation of the Covenant, and it was hoped that by 1979 a large number of States would have ratified it. She therefore appealed to the Council to adopt the draft decision by consensus.

10. Mr. FAURIS (France) said that, according to article 16 of the Covenant and the provisions of resolution 1988 (LX), the Council alone was responsible for considering reports submitted by States parties. Any member of the Council was therefore entitled to participate in the sessional working group established to assist the Council. Moreover, the working group was intended to be an ephemeral body, not a permanent subsidiary body of the Council, and it could therefore not replace the Council in the consideration of reports. In view of the arrangements for equitable geographical representation in all Council bodies, the allocation of three seats to each of the five regional groups was unsatisfactory, and should be altered as soon as further ratifications of the Covenant permitted.

11. The establishment of a working group was not an end in itself, and the Council should itself decide on the procedures to be used in considering the reports of States parties to the Covenant. The Secretary-General might be asked to prepare for the Council at the following session an analysis of the reports submitted in response to the questionnaires sent to States parties. Such a document would be a valuable tool and would, in any event, be necessary at some stage.

12. While his delegation hoped to be able to support draft decision E/1978/L.26, it had some difficulties with the wording. He therefore proposed that paragraph (b) should be amended to read: "The President of the Council may appoint to the working group, after consultations with the regional group or groups concerned, members of the Council which are not at the time States parties to the Covenant", and that the part of paragraph (e) following the words "equitable geographical distribution" should be deleted.

13. Mr. OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania) said that his delegation could support the draft decision if it was to be adopted by consensus, but that it doubted the advisability of including paragraph (c), on the participation of observers. The working group should be constituted in accordance with rule 75 of the Council's rules of procedure, and he therefore suggested that subparagraph (c) (iv) should be replaced by a new paragraph (d), to read "The representatives of the specialized agencies concerned will be invited to participate in the deliberations of the working group, in accordance with rule 75 of the rules of procedure of the Council", the existing paragraphs (d) and (e) being renumbered (e) and (f).

14. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that, in his view, the draft decision adequately represented the

views of all members of the Council on the composition of the sessional working group. If further amendments were submitted, the basic issues which had caused difficulty during consultations would be reopened. He accordingly appealed to the French representative not to press his amendments. With regard to the amendment proposed by the representative of Mauritania, he suggested that it would be best not to complicate the work of the working group by introducing additional elements; the point raised by that representative could be considered by the group itself at a later stage.

15. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) observed that as early as January 1978 his delegation had submitted a proposal on the possible composition of the sessional working group, but it had not been consulted on the provisions of draft decision E/1978/L.26 until shortly before the meeting. The text raised considerable difficulties for his delegation. In particular, the idea in paragraph (e) of establishing equitable geographical distribution in relation to the number of States parties to the Covenant had been an entirely new procedure. His delegation was still uncertain about the precise significance of the draft decision as orally revised; after all, it was the first time that the Economic and Social Council had contemplated establishing a working group with a membership not based on the principle of equitable geographical representation. Moreover, paragraph (b), as revised, seemed to mean that those regional groups in which there were fewer than three States parties to the Covenant which were also members of the Council would lose one or more of their seats on the working group for at least one session. The amendment proposed by France to that paragraph would at least obviate such a situation.

16. However, paragraph (e) could still be interpreted in at least two different ways. He took it to mean that any defects in the application of the provisions of paragraph (a) would be rectified in 1981 by re-establishing the traditional principle of geographical representation of all members of the Council. However, it was clear that the same problems which had arisen at the current session with regard to the interpretation of resolution 1988 (LX) and the principle of equitable geographical distribution would have to be faced again in 1981. Accordingly, while his delegation did not wish to oppose a consensus decision on the document, it had sufficient difficulties with the text as it stood to cause it to abstain if a vote was taken.

17. Mrs. OGATA (Japan) expressed support for the amendments proposed by France. Her delegation had particular difficulty with paragraph (a), which did not reflect any principle of geographical distribution so far applied within the United Nations. If the amendments proposed by France were accepted, her delegation would be prepared to join in a consensus on the draft decision.

18. Mr. MEZVINSKY (United States of America) said that his delegation had always maintained that the language of resolution 1988 (LX) was very clear and that the reference to "appropriate representation" of States in the working group meant that the group should be composed of both parties and non-parties to the International Covenant which were also members of the Council. His delegation and others had obtained an opinion from the Legal Counsel which had confirmed their interpretation of resolution 1988 (LX). Draft decision E/1978/L.26 was, however, based on a different interpretation of that resolution, and his

delegation's opposition to the proposal was therefore based on matters of substance.

19. His delegation also saw no reason why, as provided in paragraph (e), the Council should have to wait until 1981 to apply the principle of equitable geographical distribution. That principle should be applied as of the current session. Moreover, the figure of three representatives per regional group did not constitute equitable geographical representation and did not fulfil the requirements of Council resolution 1988 (LX); the draft decision accordingly set a number of disturbing and dangerous precedents. Throughout the history of the United Nations no other working group had been constituted in the manner contemplated in paragraph (a). The draft decision also contravened the Council's rules of procedure and resolution 1988 (LX) by providing in paragraph (c) that members of the Council which were not States parties to the Covenant could participate in the working group only as observers. For those reasons, the issues at stake were crucial, not only in so far as they affected the working group itself but also in so far as they created a precedent which violated the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the rules and decisions of the Council.

20. Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) said that, after four weeks of intensive informal consultations on the issue, his delegation had decided to become a sponsor of draft decision E/1978/L.26, even though it was fully aware that the proposal did not resolve all the issues at stake or satisfy all delegations. It had done so in the belief that the draft decision was sufficiently satisfactory to enable the Council to proceed without delay to the examination of periodic reports already submitted by States parties to the Covenant.

21. Throughout the consultations, his delegation had been in favour of reaching a compromise which reconciled the duties imposed on the Council by article 16 of the Covenant, the rights and obligations which the Covenant imposed by States parties and the provisions of resolution 1988 (LX) concerning the principle of equitable geographical representation.

22. During those consultations, it would have been possible for Finland to accept various solutions to the dilemma. His delegation had become a sponsor of draft decision E/1978/L.26 on the understanding that the working group would take its decisions by consensus; that if the working group were to take decisions, the distribution of seats would be in accordance with the membership of the Council; and that if the group were to vote, the distribution of seats would be in accordance with the membership of the General Assembly. However, because the working group would only assist the Council in the examination of the reports, it was important that various geographical regions should be represented in numbers small enough not to have an adverse effect on the "working character of the group" but large enough to cover the variety of views within each region. In the absence of specific rules of procedure, the difference between the role of members and that of other participants would be, in practice, an optical one.

23. If the Council adopted the draft decision, it would still bear the over-all responsibility for examining the reports from States parties, but the rights and obligations of States parties would also have to be taken more fully into account. Moreover, the draft decision provided for any procedures established thereby to be reviewed in 1981. His delegation therefore urged the

Council to adopt the draft decision, so that the work of examining periodic reports could begin without further delay.

24. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that his delegation still had difficulties with the draft decision, and supported the amendments proposed by France because they reflected the obligations imposed on the Council under resolution 1988 (LX). His delegation was also concerned at the number of significant omissions from the text. For instance, there was no indication of when the working group was to be established or of how long it would take to formulate recommendations on its methods of evaluating reports from States parties. Moreover, there was no way of ensuring that, should members of the group fail to agree on a given issue, they would not resort to a vote. The draft decision also failed to indicate when the Council would consider the reports submitted by the working group. Thus, rather than clarifying the points raised by his delegation at earlier meetings, the draft decision compounded the problems raised by the imprecision and ambiguity of resolution 1988 (LX) and confused the issue still further.

25. Mr. LIVERMORE (Observer for Canada) stressed that the machinery for supervising the implementation of the Covenant needed to be established as soon as possible, since a number of reports had already been received from States parties. In the view of his delegation, the draft decision met the various objections voiced by delegations in recent weeks. By establishing a small working group, it calmed fears among delegations about the prospect of a large, unwieldy working group. In restricting the membership of the working group to States parties to the Covenant, it made an essential distinction between States parties and States which were not parties. Such a distinction was only fair, when one considered the obligations assumed by States parties in ratifying the Covenant. There was no reason why reports from States parties should be reviewed by States which had not assumed the same obligations. In any case, in restricting the membership of the working group, the draft decision did not affect any of the rights or obligations of the Council or indeed the participation of States which were not parties, as the latter were allowed to participate as observers. Moreover, it was perfectly acceptable that the working group should prepare recommendations on its methods of work. After all, the Council would have the last word on which methods were most suitable.

26. The draft decision also called for a review by the Council of its provisions in 1981, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution. His delegation thought that until that time the figure of three representatives per regional group was quite fair, in view of the number of ratifications so far; the figure would, of course, be reviewed as the number of ratifications increased. The date proposed for the review also seemed to be reasonable, as it was compatible with the cycle for the submission of periodic reports. In his view, the principle of equitable geographical distribution could be implemented on the basis either of States parties Members of the United Nations as a whole or of States parties members of the Council: either provision would encourage other States to ratify the Covenant. His delegation favoured the first alternative.

27. It was true that the draft decision did not meet all members' views as to how the Council might best

implement the Covenant, but he nevertheless hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

28. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) said that his delegation fully endorsed the points made by the representative of Canada. If Canada, which was not a member of the Council, could accept the compromise decision in document E/1978/L.26, there was no reason why States that were members of the Council, whether parties to the Covenant or not, could not accept it. The draft decision rightly gave States parties to the Covenant a pre-eminent role in considering reports submitted by other States parties, but it also safeguarded the interests of other groups of States. His delegation supported the draft decision.

29. Mr. ABDALLAH (Tunisia) said that document E/1978/L.26 was the result of lengthy consultations, and there was no point in reopening a general discussion on the matter. The role of the proposed working group would be to prepare working papers for consideration by the Council; it would not, therefore, be required to take any decisions. As for the question of equitable geographical distribution, delegations should be prepared to compromise. The group of African States might well have objected to the proposed distribution of seats but had refrained from doing so. The legal problems that had been raised were illusory, and his delegation had had the impression that tacit agreement had been reached not to raise them again. The Council should take its decision without further delay, particularly since that decision would be reviewed at a later stage. It was to be hoped that draft decision E/1978/L.26 would be adopted by consensus.

30. Mr. LAMB (Observer for Australia) said that his delegation was in general agreement with the delegation of Canada. It was to be hoped that a better method for applying the principle of equitable geographical distribution for the working group could be found by 1981, although the compromise system currently under consideration was probably the best solution. His delegation was dismayed that the working group had been unable to begin its work at the current session of the Council and hoped that its work would get under way before the end of 1978.

31. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) observed that the representative of the United States had complained that, under the provisions of the draft decision, some members of the Council would be relegated to the status of observers in the working group, but the United States delegation had itself submitted a working paper during the consultations providing for a system under which members of the Council would be observers. There was therefore no justifiable reason for the United States delegation to object to the draft decision on those grounds. It should be noted that the intention was that the working group should not vote, and there would therefore be very little distinction between members and observers. With regard to the Council's obligations under the Covenant, draft decision E/1978/L.26 was quite consistent with those obligations, since the proposed working group would report to the Council and it would be for the latter to take decisions. On the question of equitable geographical distribution, some delegations had advocated that the geographical distribution of members of the working group should reflect the geographical distribution of States parties to the Covenant, while others had held that it should reflect the geographical distribution of the membership of the Council. Draft decision E/1978/L.26 therefore rep-

resented a compromise. In any event, as the number of States parties to the Covenant grew, it would become increasingly easy for geographical groups to be adequately represented in the working group.

32. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation regarded draft decision E/1978/L.26 as a compromise, and the group of Eastern European States had accepted the proposed distribution of seats in the sessional working group in order to satisfy the majority. The effects of the Council's decision would be temporary, since resolution 1988 (LX) provided that a sessional working group should be established by the Council whenever reports were due for consideration by the Council and since paragraph (e) provided that the decision would be reviewed in 1981. The role of the Council under the Covenant would be unaffected, since the task of the sessional working group was merely to assist the Council. Moreover, all States parties to the Covenant that were currently members of the Council would be able to participate in the work of the working group on the basis of equal distribution of seats among regional groups. His delegation regretted that the working group had not been able to begin its work at the current session of the Council and hoped that draft decision E/1978/L.26 would be adopted by consensus.

33. Mr. FAURIS (France) said that draft decision E/1978/L.26 had serious short-comings. It was futile, however, to continue seeking consensus where none existed, and his delegation accordingly withdrew the amendments it had submitted earlier and requested that draft decision E/1978/L.26 should be put to the vote.

34. Mr. MEZVINSKY (United States of America) proposed that paragraph (a) of draft decision E/1978/L.26 should be amended to read:

“(a) To establish, for the purpose of assisting the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a sessional working group composed of 19 members of the Council which are also States parties to the Covenant, 5 members from African States, 4 members from Asian States, 2 members from Eastern European States, 4 members from Latin American States and 4 members from Western European and other States”.

The composition of the proposed working group would under such an arrangement be more in line with United Nations practice with respect to equitable geographical distribution and resolution 1988 (LX).

35. Mr. MARTYNENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that there were obviously differences of opinion as to the composition of the working group and the role of States not parties to the Covenant in the group's work. However, draft decision E/1978/L.26 represented a reasonable compromise. The United States amendment would probably not lead to consensus, and the point dealt with in the Mauritanian amendment was already covered in the draft decision. He therefore appealed to the United States and Mauritanian delegations not to press their amendments.

36. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that her delegation would vote against the United States amendment. Draft decision E/1978/L.26 was the result of long consultations and her delegation opposed the submission of last-minute amendments.

37. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that the United States amendment would have been perfect in a different context, but in view of the fact that a considerable effort had been made to reach a compromise, his delegation would not participate in any votes on amendments and would vote in favour of draft decision E/1978/L.26 as revised.

38. Mr. ACEMAH (Uganda) said that, as the largest geographical group in the United Nations, the group of African States would have been the first to benefit from the United States amendment. However, his delegation did not believe that the United States proposal reflected normal United Nations practice with regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, and it could not, therefore, support the United States amendment.

39. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the United States amendment to paragraph (a) of draft decision E/1978/L.26.

At the request of the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, the vote was taken by roll-call.

Malta, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against: Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Finland, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia

Abstaining: Austria, Dominican Republic, Greece, India, Japan, Lesotho, Mauritania, New Zealand, Portugal, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela

The amendment of the United States was rejected by 6 votes to 24, with 14 abstentions.

40. Mr. OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania) said that it had appeared to his delegation that since there were separate provisions governing the participation of non-members of certain bodies in the work of those bodies and participation by representatives of the specialized agencies, there should be a separate specific reference in the draft decision to rule 75 of the Council's rules of procedure, which stated that the specialized agencies were entitled to participate without the right to vote in the deliberations on items of concern to them in sessional bodies created by the Council. However, since the sponsors' intention in paragraph (c) of the draft decision was to grant the specialized agencies no less and possibly more favourable status than that stipulated in rule 75 in respect of questions of particular concern to them that came up in the working group, his delegation would not press its amendment.

41. The PRESIDENT called upon the Council to vote on draft decision E/1978/L.26, as orally revised.

At the request of the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, the vote was taken by roll-call.

The United Republic of Tanzania, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Finland, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

Against: France, United States of America

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft decision E/1978/L.26, as orally revised, was adopted by 38 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions (decision 1978/10).

42. The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished the Secretariat to prepare analytical reports in order to facilitate the work of the sessional working group, and requested that summary records should be made of its proceedings in the interests of continuity.

It was so decided (decision 1978/9).

AGENDA ITEM 14

Elections (*continued*)

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (*concluded*)

43. The PRESIDENT announced that he had received a letter concerning Asian States, signed by the representatives who had acted as tellers for the election of members of the Commission on Human Rights at the previous meeting, which read:

"We would like to inform you that we have reviewed the ballots cast in connexion with the election of one member from Asian States to the Commission on Human Rights.

"In the first ballot, the result was as follows: Iraq: 22 votes; Jordan: 19 votes; Fiji: 11 votes.

"In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council, a second ballot was held, restricted to the two candidates having obtained the largest number of votes. The result of the second ballot was as follows: Iraq: 27 votes; Jordan: 24 votes, and 3 abstentions. There being 51 valid votes, in accordance with the rules, the majority required for election was 26. Consequently, Iraq, having obtained the required majority, should be declared elected."

44. He invited the Council to make the formal decision required in view of the contents of that letter.

*Having obtained the required majority, Iraq was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights.**

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.

* See decision 1978/40.

13th meeting

Thursday, 4 May 1978, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.13

In the absence of the President, Mr. Scheltema (Netherlands), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*concluded*)

COMPOSITION OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COVENANT (*concluded*)

1. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the draft decision adopted at the previous meeting (E/1978/L.26) because it considered that a decision on which there was no consensus could not be a satisfactory basis for the implementation of an international instrument as important as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

2. Mr. MOHAMMED (Bangladesh) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision as revised because, although the draft decision did not fully comply with the principle of equitable geographical distribution, it made no claim to be based on that principle, and because it would be reviewed in 1981. His delegation had voted against the United States amendment to paragraph (a) of the draft decision, since it did not think that the distribution of seats proposed by the United States was as equitable as had been claimed.

3. Mr. DE FARIA (Portugal) said that the ambiguity of Council resolution 1988 (LX) on the question of the participation of States not parties to the Covenant in the work of the sessional working group had made a compromise necessary, and his delegation had therefore voted in favour of the draft decision. His delegation had abstained in the vote on the United States amendment.

4. Mrs. OGATA (Japan) said that her delegation had abstained in the vote on the United States amendment to the draft decision since, although it understood the purpose of the amendment, the allocation of seats proposed by the United States was not consistent with her delegation's views on equitable geographical distribution. Her delegation had also abstained in the vote on the draft decision as revised because the pattern of geographical distribution provided for in the draft decision did not reflect the principle of equitable geographical distribution and therefore established a dangerous precedent.

5. Ms. MARTINEZ (Jamaica) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision in order to show the importance which her Government attached to the Covenant and because it believed that the implementation of the Covenant must be based on the broadest consensus possible. Although not fully satisfied with the decision, her delegation regarded it as a necessary first step. The number of States parties to

the Covenant would increase and the membership of the Council would change, so that the mandate and membership of the working group had to be regarded as temporary. The distribution of seats in the working group should not be regarded as a precedent. Her delegation had not supported the United States amendment, since it had not wanted to undermine the consensus that had been achieved and did not in any case agree with the proposed formula for regional distribution.

6. Mr. NORDENFELT (Sweden) said that his delegation had cast an unenthusiastic vote in favour of the draft decision in order to ensure that the task of reviewing national reports would begin as soon as possible. However, his delegation regarded the compromise formula for the composition of the working group as a temporary arrangement which would operate until 1981 without prejudice to any future arrangements within the United Nations in regard to the geographical distribution of seats.

7. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision, which, in its view, represented a reasonable compromise. However, its support for the draft decision did not mean that his delegation opposed the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

8. Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) said that, as a sponsor of the draft decision, his delegation had voted against the United States amendment. His delegation supported the distribution of seats as proposed in the draft decision, but its position with regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution in general remained unchanged.

9. Mr. OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the United States amendment to the draft decision since it considered that the distribution of seats proposed by the United States did not correspond to normal United Nations practice. His delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision in the belief that the working group should begin its work as quickly as possible.

10. Mr. HEINEMANN (Netherlands) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision because, while not completely satisfactory, its provisions did represent a reasonable compromise.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Elections (*concluded*) E/1978/L.4, L.10, L.13)

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (E/1978/L.4)

11. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Council was required to elect 10 members of the Executive Board of UNICEF for a term of three years beginning on 1 August 1978. The African group had endorsed the candidacies of Ghana and Senegal, the Asian group those of India

and the Philippines, the Latin American group that of Venezuela, and the Eastern European group that of the Byelorussian SSR.

12. The PRESIDENT suggested that, as there were no other candidacies from the groups in question, the Council should elect by acclamation those States whose names had just been read out.

*The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ghana, India, the Philippines, Senegal and Venezuela were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund by acclamation.**

13. The PRESIDENT said that the group of Western European and other States had nominated five candidates for four vacancies on the Executive Board: Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. A ballot would accordingly be required.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wiesner (Austria) and Mrs. Villa (Philippines) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Required majority:	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Sweden	47
Switzerland	43
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	41
Netherlands	38
Australia	35
Austria	2

*Having obtained the largest number of votes and the required majority, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.**

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (E/1978/L.13)

14. The PRESIDENT said that 16 members of the Governing Council of UNDP were to be elected for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1979.

15. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the African States had endorsed the candidacies of Egypt, the Gambia and Sierra Leone for the three vacancies for those States. The Asian States and Yugoslavia had nominated four candidates, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China and Fiji, for three vacancies. The Latin American States had nominated five candidates, the Bahamas, Barbados, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico, for three vacancies. The Western European and other States had nominated seven candidates, Austria, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, for six vacancies. The Eastern European States had endorsed a single candidate, the USSR, for one vacancy.

16. The PRESIDENT said that as the number of candidacies submitted by the Asian States and Yugoslavia, the Latin American States and the group of Western European and other States exceeded the

number of vacancies for each of those groups of States, balloting would be required in those cases. As the number of candidates nominated by the African States and by the Eastern European States was equal, in each case, to the number of vacancies for the group, he invited the Council to elect by acclamation the States whose names had been read out.

*Egypt, the Gambia, Sierra Leone and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme by acclamation.**

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect three members from Asian States and Yugoslavia, three members from Latin American States, and six members from Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wiesner (Austria) and Mrs. Villa (Philippines) acted as tellers.

Asian States and Yugoslavia:

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Required majority:	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Bangladesh	48
China	45
Fiji	32
Afghanistan	29

*Having obtained the largest number of votes and the required majority, Bangladesh, China and Fiji were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.**

Latin American States:

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Required majority:	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mexico	37
Cuba	36
Colombia	30
Barbados	24
Bahamas	22
Jamaica	1

*Having obtained the required majority, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.**

Western European and other States:

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Required majority:	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Japan	45
Greece	43
United States of America	43
Austria	42
Italy	42

* See decision 1978/40.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	38
Denmark	37

*Having obtained the largest number of votes and the required majority, Austria, Greece, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.**

COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES
(E/1978/L.10)

17. The PRESIDENT said that five members were to be elected. He drew attention to document E/1978/L.10, which outlined the factors that were to be taken into account in the election.

18. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the African States had endorsed the candidacy of the Niger for the vacancy for that group. The Asian States had nominated three candidates, Japan, Pakistan and Thailand, for two vacancies. The Western European and other States had endorsed the candidacies of New Zealand and Sweden for the two vacancies for that group.

19. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates from the African group and the group of Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies, the Council should elect those States by acclamation.

*New Zealand, the Niger and Sweden were elected members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes by acclamation.**

Mr. Ehsassi (Iran), Vice-President, took the Chair.

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect two members from Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wiesner (Austria) and Mrs. Villa (Philippines) acted as tellers.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Invalid ballots: 1

Number of valid ballots: 53

Required majority: 27

Number of votes obtained:

Japan 44

Pakistan 42

Thailand 14

*Having obtained the required majority, Japan and Pakistan were elected members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.**

20. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said, with reference to the election at an earlier meeting of Chile to membership of the Commission on Human Settlements and of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, that if the candidacy of Chile had been put to the vote his delegation would not have voted in favour for the reasons it had already stated.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

14th meeting

Thursday, 4 May 1978, at 4 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.14

In the absence of the President, Mr. Ehsassi (Iran), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Organization of work

1. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should follow its established practice of first taking action on all recommendations before it and then hearing consolidated explanations of vote by any delegations wishing to give them.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Science and technology (A/32/43, E/1978/33)

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1978/65)

2. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the two draft resolutions recommended by the First (Economic) Committee in paragraph 8 of its report on agenda item 7 (E/1978/65), both of which the Committee had adopted without a vote.

3. Mr. DOWNES-THOMAS (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out some minor drafting changes to draft resolution I.

Draft resolutions I and II were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1978/4 and 1978/5).

AGENDA ITEM 8

Public administration and finance (E/1978/11 and Add.1)

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1978/66)

4. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 7 of the report of the First (Economic) Committee on agenda item 8 (E/1978/66), which the Committee had adopted without a vote.

5. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico), supported by Mr. AMIRDIVANI (Iran), proposed that the word "possible" in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution should be deleted.

6. Mr. KOCH (Federal Republic of Germany), supported by Mr. ROSSI (France), pointed out that the draft resolution had been discussed during informal consultations and that the word "possible" was part of the compromise text that had been arrived at. If it was deleted, the Council would be going back on the compromise it had achieved. His delegation would therefore prefer to retain the word.

7. Mr. B. V. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft

resolution had been decided on following lengthy negotiations, and the word in question had been part of the eventual compromise. His delegation therefore agreed that it should be retained.

8. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that he did not wish to force the Council to reopen negotiations, but the wording of paragraph 6 was not clear. If it was intended that the Secretary-General should schedule a meeting of experts in 1979, that should be made clear. He believed that provision should indeed be made for such a meeting.

9. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that he sympathized with the representative of Mexico, in that paragraph 6 was not quite clear. However, in view of the lengthy informal discussions that had taken place, his delegation was inclined to agree that the word "possible" should not be deleted.

10. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica), referring to the background to the draft resolution, said it had been the understanding of his delegation that the Council would be in a position to take a decision at its summer session on the basis of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. At that same session, the Secretary-General would have to submit a draft schedule of meetings for 1979. Paragraph 6 was designed to ensure that the Secretary-General, in preparing the draft schedule, would bear in mind the possibility that the Council might wish to schedule a meeting of experts in 1979. Provision should therefore be made in the draft resolution for such a meeting. The word "possible" did not prejudice the Council's decision one way or the other. His delegation could agree with the representative of Mexico that a meeting should be scheduled in any event, as it was easier to cancel a meeting than to schedule one at the last minute.

11. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) proposed that the words "which will be submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1978" should be inserted in paragraph 6, after the words "for 1979".

12. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution, as amended, without a vote.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (resolution 1978/6).

AGENDA ITEM 6

Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (A/32/34, E/1978/10 and Add.1, E/1978/28, E/1978/L.8)

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE
(E/1978/67)

13. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the two draft decisions in paragraph 6 of the report of the First (Economic) Committee on agenda item 6 (E/1978/67), both of which the Committee had adopted without a vote.

14. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) proposed that draft decision II should be amended to read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council decided:

"(a) To take note of the progress report of the Secretary-General . . . (E/1978/28);

"(b) To consider at its second regular session of 1978 the detailed report called for in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 32/197."

The Secretary-General had been asked to submit a detailed report at the current session but for various

reasons, which his delegation understood, had been unable to do so, although a progress report had been submitted. The Secretary-General had indicated that he expected to be able to provide the details by the time of the second regular session. Thus, his delegation's amendment was purely procedural.

15. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that he sympathized with the proposal. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 32/197, two reports were to have been submitted, one at the current session and the other at the summer session. The legislative authority for the two reports was contained in paragraph 6 and in paragraphs 5 and 7 respectively of the resolution. He asked whether his delegation was correct in assuming that the representative of Jamaica wished both reports to be considered at the summer session.

16. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said that that was correct. A report under paragraph 6 had been submitted to the Council at the current session, but it was not as full as it should have been. That fact was recognized in its very title—"progress report"—and the Secretary-General had suggested that the further details required could be given to the Council at the summer session. Accordingly, as he had stated, his delegation's amendment was purely procedural.

17. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) supported the Jamaican amendment.

Draft decision I and draft decision II, as amended, were adopted without a vote (decisions 1978/11 and 1978/12).

18. Mr. ROSSI (France) said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 32/197, had endorsed the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, but the degree to which the resolution had been implemented varied greatly. Although the Secretary-General had done his part, most of the other aspects of the restructuring had not even begun to be implemented.

19. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the progress report of the Secretary-General and the annexes thereto. Determination, prudence and pragmatism were called for in achieving the complete reorganization of the economic and social sectors of the Secretariat. The measures that had already been taken were very important elements of the restructuring. Three new departments or offices had been established and their functions clearly defined. Those decisions clearly reflected both the letter and the spirit of the compromise which had been reached on chapter VIII of the *Ad Hoc* Committee's report (A/32/34). However, decentralization to the regional commissions was needed, and effective co-ordination must be established among the various bodies in the United Nations system.

20. It was regrettable that all other aspects, even with respect to the restructuring of the Council itself, had not even begun to be implemented. His delegation welcomed Conference Room Papers Nos. 1 and 2, with which it was basically in agreement. Restructuring of the Council should achieve the following: it should help to strengthen the Council's role; secure a better integration of technical and political concerns; and bring some order into the uncontrolled proliferation of subsidiary bodies. Restructuring should not result in a diminishing of the Council's functions and role. Reform of the subsidiary bodies should not result in a lowering of the quality of work; accordingly, experts

should continue to be associated with such bodies in a manner yet to be determined. The aim should be flexibility and compromise. In the case of the Population Commission and the Committee on Natural Resources, more flexible formulae must be found than the direct taking over of their work by the Council.

21. The two conference room papers before the Council should to a very large extent constitute the basis for the document which was to be prepared by the Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee. While not wishing to repeat remarks his delegation had made at informal meetings, he noted with satisfaction the position taken in favour of retaining the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women.

22. Finally, he stressed two points. The first was that the restructuring of the economic and social sectors formed a coherent whole. The report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee was well balanced and had been negotiated in good faith. Partial implementation of its recommendations would be consistent neither with General Assembly resolution 32/197 nor with the spirit of trust in which the report had been negotiated. The second was that the Council must be a driving force in the restructuring process, not only because of the role entrusted to it by the Assembly but because restructuring concerned it directly. Accordingly, it must set the example. His delegation was disappointed that the Council had not made progress at the current session, despite the very helpful conference room papers it had had before it; he hoped that every effort would be made to ensure that fruitful decisions could be taken at the summer session.

23. Mr. B. V. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reaffirmed the position of his delegation on agenda items 6, 7 and 8, as expressed during the debates in the First (Economic) Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including preparations for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (concluded)* (E/1978/24 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/25 and Add.1, E/1978/26, E/1978/L.25)

24. The PRESIDENT recalled that paragraph 4 of the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in document E/1978/L.25 had been revised to read:

"Calls once again upon all the Governments which have not yet done so to take legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in southern Africa, in order to put an end to such enterprises".

25. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution for their spirit of comprehension, but said that several delegations had difficulties with the word "*Convinced*" in the third preambular paragraph. They had informally proposed a wording which they had thought might bridge the gap between the different convictions and approaches, and enable a consensus to be reached. Since the sponsors had been unable to accept that proposal, the delegations in question had no alternative but to call for a vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

* Resumed from the 10th meeting.

26. Miss NURU (United Republic of Tanzania) announced that Bangladesh, Jamaica, Togo, Tunisia, the United Republic of Cameroon and the Upper Volta had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.25, as orally revised, was adopted by 42 votes to none, with 7 abstentions (resolution 1978/7).

27. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community in the Council, said that those States welcomed the general spirit of the draft resolution, which placed the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in the framework of resolution 3057 (XXVIII), adopted unanimously by the General Assembly. They considered the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Decade on a world-wide basis to be one of the main tasks of mankind.

28. While the draft resolution emphasized the goals and objectives still to be attained, it must be remembered that in the field of decolonization, which in most cases also helped to overcome racial discrimination, much had been achieved in the first years of the Decade and special efforts were currently being made to remedy the situations in the two remaining colonial Territories on the African continent. It was with those efforts in mind, and having regard to the nature of the freedom prevailing in their countries, that the members of EEC had special difficulties with the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. They considered that the matters referred to in those paragraphs fell within the competence of the Security Council. As to the substance, they did not share the conviction expressed in the specific wording of the third preambular paragraph, but had a more differentiated approach to the problem. They also objected to the simplistic approach followed in the wording of paragraph 4, which could give rise to various interpretations. They had, therefore, regretfully had to abstain.

29. Mr. DE FARIA (Portugal) said that his Government had supported the Programme for the Decade since its inception and had therefore voted in favour of the draft resolution. However, it had reservations about paragraph 4 because it believed that the imposition of sanctions was a matter which fell within the competence of the Security Council. Moreover, his Government would have serious internal legal difficulties in enforcing such a decision.

30. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that the attitude of his Government to racism and racial discrimination was well known. It had always firmly supported United Nations efforts to eliminate them, and would continue to do so. However, his delegation had been obliged to abstain from voting on the draft resolution because of difficulties with the wording of the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 4.

31. Miss MANGANARA (Greece) said that, in accordance with its consistent policy, Greece had voted in favour of the draft resolution. However, her Government wished to place on record its reservations concerning paragraph 4, which would pose legal problems.

Progress reports brought to the attention of the Council (E/1978/18, E/1978/36, E/1978/37)

32. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the results

of the seventh meeting of the Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries (E/1978/36), the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the First United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (E/1978/18) and the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on issues relating to world food trade (see E/1978/37).

33. Mr. VAN TOOREN (Netherlands) pointed out that paragraphs 15 to 20 of the report on the seventh meeting of the Group of Experts on Tax Treaties contained a number of recommendations which the Council should consider. In the view of his delegation, work should proceed on the draft model bilateral convention and on the document consolidating the guidelines. There was also a need to discuss how the work of the Group of Experts could best be made available to developing countries. He proposed that the Council should take note of the recommendation in paragraph 20 of the report; it would not be desirable to embark on a discussion at the current stage.

34. Mr. ROSSI (France) said that his Government had followed the work of the Group of Experts on the question of a model bilateral convention with great interest and had no objection to the results' being made available to developing countries. However, it did not believe that any additional expenditure should be incurred for that purpose. International tax problems were one aspect of the question of public administration and finance, which was to be discussed in detail by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and his delegation felt that the Council should await the recommendations of CPC before taking any further action.

35. The PRESIDENT said he understood that a draft decision was to be submitted concerning the report in document E/1978/36; he therefore suggested that action on that report should be deferred until the following meeting.

It was so decided.

36. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should (a) take note of the report contained in document E/1978/18 and (b) take note of the report contained in document E/1978/37 and transmit it to the World Food Council at its fourth session.

It was so decided (decision 1978/13).

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)*

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS (*concluded*)* (E/1978/L.18)

37. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of the two changes in the calendar of meetings for 1978 proposed in document E/1978/L.18, paragraph 1 (b) and (c).

38. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) recalled that a decision on the dates of the sessions in question had been deferred at the request of the Group of 77. The Group had subsequently discussed the matter and would be prepared to accept the dates of 18-29 September 1978 for the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Tech-

nology for Development, provided that the third special session of the Committee on Natural Resources was postponed until 15-24 January 1979. The Group of 77 was most concerned to ensure that the latter session should deal only with matters relating to the follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference. If the January date was acceptable, the Committee would have to be authorized to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth instead of its thirty-third session.

39. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be held at Headquarters from 18 to 29 September 1978, on the understanding that its meetings would not overlap with those of the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (j)).

40. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said it should be made clear in the text of the Council's decision that the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources would be on the subject of water.

41. The PRESIDENT suggested that the session should be described as the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources devoted to the question of water. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to that suggestion and decided that the session should be held at Headquarters from 15 to 24 January 1979.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (k)).

42. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the fact that the fifth session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia had been postponed until a later date in 1978, to be decided in due course.

It was so decided (decision 1978/38, para. 3).

REINFORCING THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS (E/1978/L.28)

43. Mr. VAN TOOREN (Netherlands), introducing draft decision E/1978/L.28 on behalf of the sponsors, said that it had been occasioned by the discussions which had taken place subsequent to the adoption of Council resolution 2079 (LXII), with specific reference to the relationship between the work of the proposed *ad hoc* working group and the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. It was the view of the sponsors that, whatever the outcome of the restructuring exercise, the Council should have an opportunity to discuss the report of the *ad hoc* working group in 1979. Restructuring problems were not an obstacle to the implementation of resolution 2079 (LXII). The draft decision made it clear that any action in that regard would be without prejudice to the considerations on the preparations for a new international development strategy by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

44. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) requested that consideration of the draft decision should be deferred to allow the Group of 77 and other members time to examine it in the light of their earlier positions.

45. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to defer action on draft decision E/1978/L.28 until a later meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

* Resumed from the 7th meeting.

15th meeting

Friday, 5 May 1978, at 4.10 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.15

AGENDA ITEM 10

Non-governmental organizations (E/1978/13)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1978/60 AND CORR.1)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the two draft decisions recommended for adoption in the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 10 (E/1978/60 and Corr.1). He drew attention to a number of corrections that should be made in draft decision II in order to bring the information contained in it up to date.

Draft decisions I and II were adopted without a vote (decisions 1978/15 and 1978/16).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Social development questions (A/32/205, E/1978/15 and Corr.1 and 2, E/1978/19, E/1978/29)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1978/61 AND CORR.1)

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution and the three draft decisions recommended in the Second (Social) Committee's report on agenda item 12 (E/1978/61 and Corr.1).

The draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/8).

Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted without a vote (decisions 1978/17, 1978/18 and 1978/19).

AGENDA ITEM 13

Narcotic drugs (E/1978/16, E/1978/35)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1978/62)

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the five draft resolutions and one draft decision recommended in the Second (Social) Committee's report on agenda item 13 (E/1978/62).

Draft resolutions I to IV were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1978/9 to 1978/12).

Draft resolution V was adopted by 42 votes to none, with 4 abstentions (resolution 1978/13).

The draft decision was adopted without a vote (decision 1978/30).

AGENDA ITEM 11

Human rights questions (E/1978/14 and Add.1-6, E/1978/21, E/1978/34, E/1978/45, E/1978/L.23)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1978/63)

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the 11 draft resolutions and 10 draft deci-

sions recommended in the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 11 (E/1978/63).

Draft resolution I was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/14).

Draft resolution II was adopted by 39 votes to 2, with 6 abstentions (resolution 1978/15).

Draft resolutions III to X were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1978/16 to 1978/23).

At the request of the representative of Iraq, a vote was taken by roll-call on draft resolution XI.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution XI was adopted by 39 votes to 1, with 10 abstentions (resolution 1978/24).

Draft decisions I to X were adopted without a vote (decisions 1978/20 to 1978/29).

5. Mr. FAURIS (France), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution II, as it had in the Second (Social) Committee. He wished, however, to restate the reservations formulated at the 23rd meeting of the Committee. His delegation would have preferred the Council to recommend the establishment of a fund for all refugees and not only for those from Chile. Account should also be taken of the amnesty measures recently adopted by the Chilean Government, which might alter the conditions on which assistance was to be given.

6. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that, if a vote had been taken on draft decision IV, her delegation would have voted against it.

7. Mr. ABDALLAH (Tunisia) said that his delegation had been absent during the roll-call vote on draft resolution XI. Had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

8. Mr. DE FARIA (Portugal) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution XI because it was the duty of the Commission on Human Rights to concern itself with violations of human rights, wherever they occurred. Portugal had voted in the same way on Council resolution 2085 (LXII). However, the wording used in the resolution just adopted could raise questions extraneous to the main point, and he wished

to stress that Portugal's affirmative vote should not be construed as implying total agreement with every word or with the precise title of the resolution.

9. Mr. DE LA PEDRAJA Y MUÑOZ (Mexico) said that, as in the Committee, his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution XI because of its concern over violations of human rights, wherever they occurred. However, it considered that questions of frontiers should not be brought into a resolution on human rights and reiterated its reservations regarding the use of the term "Palestine".

10. Mr. TERADA (Japan) said that if a vote had been taken on draft resolution II, his delegation would have abstained for the reasons explained in detail at the 19th meeting of the Committee.

11. Mr. EMAM (Malaysia) said that his delegation had been unable to be present in the Second (Social) Committee when draft resolution XI was first considered. If it had been, it would have asked to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

12. Ms. MARTINEZ (Jamaica) said that her delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution XI for the reasons stated in detail at the 20th meeting of the Committee.

13. Mr. GAGLIARDI (Brazil) said that, if a vote had been taken on draft decision IV, his delegation would have voted against it.

14. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he wished to comment on draft resolutions I, IV and VI and draft decision VII, which the Council had adopted without a vote.

15. Some of the provisions of draft resolution I gave rise to serious doubts, in the light of the Secretary-General's recent statements on budgetary questions. The resolution should be regarded merely as expressing a wish, to be complied with only if resources could be found without any increase in the budget, through the abolition of obsolete programmes or in other ways. The matter would of course go before the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which would be able to determine whether resources were available.

16. With regard to draft resolution IV, his delegation felt that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities could itself consider the question of a body of principles and that it was not necessary to set up a working group.

17. In connexion with draft resolution VI, he noted that the General Assembly had already decided that budgetary allocations in any field should be increased only if the need was most pressing and if the increase could be financed through the abolition of obsolete programmes.

18. With respect to draft decision VII, he reaffirmed the statement of principle made by his delegation at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

19. Mr. CAMILLERI (Malta) said that, if his delegation had been present during the roll-call vote on draft resolution XI, it would have voted in favour.

20. Mr. MOHAMMED (Bangladesh) said that he had voted in favour of draft decision II for the reasons given in the statement made by his delegation on behalf of the Asian members of the Council at the 23rd meeting of the Second (Social) Committee.

21. Mr. LAMDAN (Observer for Israel) said that draft resolution XI, singling out Israel from all the

countries discussed by the Commission on Human Rights, indicated the length to which some States would go to mask their own contempt for human rights and to turn that forum into yet another platform for anti-Israeli propaganda. In considering that draft resolution, the Council was disregarding and in fact virtually endorsing by omission the summary executions, the brutal suppression of minorities and the arrest and torture of dissidents taking place throughout the world and was forgoing yet another opportunity to adopt a universal approach to human rights questions.

22. Nothing could better illustrate the absurdity of the situation than the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. It was headed by Afghanistan, whose credentials for evaluating democratic rights were illustrated by the recent coup d'état which had left countless civilians dead. Another critic of Israel was Iraq, which had been described by Amnesty International as one of the most serious violators of human rights in the Middle East and which systematically discriminated against every racial and religious minority within its borders. Also on the list were the Syrian Arab Republic, where hundreds of political prisoners were being held without trial; Bangladesh, whose short political history was matched only by its long history of human rights violations; the Sudan, whose racist war against the black southern Sudanese had been described in the United States *Congressional Record* as one of the most cruel wars of extermination of the century, and Yugoslavia, where there were severe restrictions on freedom of speech, the press and expression. His delegation had noted with particular sorrow the continued active participation of Egypt in the sterile campaign of political warfare against Israel. That unfortunate attitude might help to explain Israel's legitimate concern for its long-term security needs and the sad realization that all differences could not be solved overnight.

23. As for the draft resolution itself, it was well known that the human rights situation in the territories administered by Israel could stand comparison with that of any society represented in the Council. The Arabs in those territories had held free elections, were free to express their views, had access to open courts and lawyers of their choice, worshipped freely, crossed freely into neighbouring Arab States to visit relatives and to pursue trade, and educated their children in schools according to their own curricula. Israel had a special arrangement with the International Red Cross permitting visits without witnesses to security detainees within 14 days of their arrest and the President of the International League for Human Rights had been allowed in the last year to inspect conditions in Israel's prisons. Furthermore, with regard to prisoners, although the Geneva Convention permitted capital punishment, Israel had never imposed it in the territories, despite the atrocity of some of the crimes committed there. In the name of the principle of universality, he challenged the sponsors of the hypocritical resolution to extend the same invitation for international inspection of their own prisons and to forswear capital punishment.

24. Israel was an open society and, as such, was not afraid of criticism. How many of the supporters of the resolution could make the same claim? Any representative in the Council who wished to do so might inspect the situation in the territories for himself. Indeed, hundreds of thousands of tourists, including approximately 200,000 Arab citizens from all over the Middle East, visited the territories every year.

25. The addition in the operative part of the resolution of the words "including Palestine", as if "Palestine" were a so-called occupied Arab territory, marked a substantive change from the previous year and revealed the sinister intention underlying the sponsors' propaganda effort. There was a country in that region by the name of Israel. If the human rights situation in Israel as well as in the territories was cause for concern, then the sponsors should say so openly. Eliminating Israel on paper had nothing to do with human rights; it did not help in the search for a solution for the Palestinian Arabs; and it merely reinforced Israel's determination to safeguard its own security. What his delegation found distressing was that some democratic countries which respected human rights within their own territories should have allowed such a resolution, possibly referring to human rights in Israel itself, to pass unopposed. Only one member of the Council had had the courage to reject that travesty. Until Israel's neighbours in the Middle East abandoned their political warfare and envisaged real peace and coexistence with Israel, the United Nations would remain a plaything in their hands and the lofty ideals of human rights would remain subverted to their invidious ends.

26. Mr. HUSSAIN (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was a joke to hear a former director of Israeli intelligence and former military governor of occupied Jerusalem lecturing the Council on human rights. He wondered who was responsible for the deaths of 2,000 innocent people in southern Lebanon and for the use of cluster bombs and napalm. The allegations of the Zionist representative against Iraq were groundless. As his delegation had stated in the Second (Social) Committee, the Arab nations were faced with a growing cancer in the Middle East. That cancer was called Israel, and so long as it was not eliminated the world would be in danger.

27. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the angry words directed by the representative of Israel against Yugoslavia and other countries could not nullify the criminal killings by Israel of innocent people in Lebanon and in the occupied Arab territories, including the territory of Palestine.

28. Mr. TERZI (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said that, although the Council had heard attacks on Member States, it had not heard any denial of the racist practices to which his people were subjected. The representative of Tel Aviv had spoken of freedom to practise religion. However, it was common knowledge that the Knesset had recently passed a law imposing a penalty of five years' imprisonment on anyone who tried to convert others to Christianity. He recalled that the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories had been endorsed by the General Assembly. The Special Committee had been denied entry to the occupied territories in an attempt to cover up the heinous acts that were being committed by the Zionists in his country. Hundreds of thousands had passed through detention camps and prisons in the occupied territories; yet the Council was being told of the happy lives those people led under Israeli rule.

29. As for the "tourists" who visited Israel, they were in fact Palestinians who were denied the right to return home but were allowed to pay a brief visit to the place where they had been born and raised.

30. With regard to the claim that the statements by Arab delegations and by sponsors of the resolution undermined the search for a solution to the Palestine question, he said that the ones undermining that search were those who defied the international will and whose admission to the United Nations had been contingent upon their permitting Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland. In that connexion, he drew attention to General Assembly resolutions 194 (III) and 273 (III). Far from allowing the refugees to return, the Zionists were committing heinous deeds in order to increase the number of displaced persons. It was not surprising that only one State had had the "courage" to stand up for Israel. That State had also had the "courage" to send cluster bombs to Israel and to pour billions of dollars into the racist base in the Middle East.

31. Finally, he noted that the United Nations had been dealing with the question of Palestine and Palestinian refugees since 1947. Now, the Council was being told that the name had changed. He for one was not aware that the name "Palestine" had been eliminated by any save the racist Zionists in Tel Aviv.

32. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the attack levelled by the observer for Israel was in effect an attack on the Council as a whole and an insult to all its members. At the same time, of course, in a manner consistent with the Zionist attitude towards human rights, the observer for Israel conspicuously ignored United Nations resolutions dealing with Israel's crimes, of which draft resolution XI was only the latest.

33. Mr. RAHAMTALLA (Sudan) said that, in attacking the Council for adopting draft resolution XI, the observer for Israel had also attacked the sponsors, including the Sudan. The Government and people of the Sudan would continue to give every possible support to their brothers in the occupied territories as long as the Israeli occupation lasted.

34. Mr. MOHAMMED (Bangladesh) said that the observer for Israel had made uncalled-for references to Bangladesh and other countries. Insults could not obscure the reality of the situation in the occupied territories or affect his country's support for the victims.

35. Mr. STIBRAVY (United States of America) said that his Government rejected the motives and responsibility imputed to it in connexion with recent events in Lebanon and in connexion with its vote on draft resolution XI.

36. Mr. SOBHY (Observer for Egypt) said that the observer for Israel had slandered the States Members of the United Nations in order to divert attention from Israel's violations of human rights. He could not, however, change the facts. The international press, the reports of international human rights organizations and even the testimony of Israelis themselves showed how Israel behaved in the occupied territories. Egypt, on the other hand, was fully committed to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and had taken steps in that direction. However, that commitment did not imply that it would ever surrender either its own rights and interests or those of the Arab people. The observer for Israel had asked Egypt to show an interest in real peace. What more concrete way could there have been to show Egypt's interest in peace than the visit of President Sadat to Jerusalem?

37. Mr. TERZI (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said that, while he recognized the right of

the United States to reject the motives of his organization, such a rejection did not negate the fact that the United States had supplied cluster bombs as well as vast subsidies to Israel.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (E/1978/23, E/1978/30, E/1978/31, E/1978/32, E/1978/NGO/1)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1978/64 AND ADD.1)

38. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the 10 draft resolutions and five draft decisions recommended for adoption in the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 9 (E/1978/4). He drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General concerning draft resolution X (E/1978/46/Add.1).

39. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out a correction to paragraph 9 of the Committee's report.

40. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) pointed out that the date in the first preambular paragraph of draft resolution X should read 12 May 1976. She proposed that operative paragraph 4 should be amended to read: "Decides that, as soon as the Director and the members of the Board of Trustees are appointed, the Institute should start functioning as an autonomous body under

the auspices of the United Nations and financed from voluntary contributions".

Draft resolution X, as amended, was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/25).

Draft resolution I was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/26).

Draft resolution II was adopted by 37 votes to none, with 11 abstentions (resolution 1978/27).

Draft resolutions III to VII were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1978/28 to 1978/32).

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 39 votes to none, with 11 abstentions (resolution 1978/33).

Draft resolution IX was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/34).

Draft decisions I to V were adopted without a vote (decisions 1978/31 to 1978/35).

41. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had abstained from voting on draft resolution II because paragraphs 1 and 3 meant unwarranted changes in established financial procedures and were inconsistent with United Nations decisions on the subject. If separate votes had been taken on those paragraphs, his delegation would have voted against them.

42. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that her delegation had reservations with respect to draft resolution IX, paragraph 1 (b), and draft decision II.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

16th meeting

Monday, 8 May 1978, at 11.25 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.16

In the absence of the President, Mr. Ehsassi (Iran), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Progress reports brought to the attention of the Council (concluded)* (E/1978/36)

1. Mr. VAN TOOREN (Netherlands) introduced a draft decision, the text of which was the outcome of informal negotiations, reading as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council decides:

"(a) To take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the Seventh Meeting of the Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries (E/1978/36);

"(b) To recommend to the General Assembly that it should urge Member States to consider elaborating appropriate policies for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion, including bilateral tax treaties;

"(c) To request the Group of Experts to complete its consideration of a draft model bilateral convention at its Eighth Meeting in 1979, and welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendation contained in paragraph 15 of his report;

"(d) To endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report of the Secretary-

General regarding the 'Manual for the negotiation of tax treaties between developed and developing countries';

"(e) To request the Secretary-General to provide to the Council in 1980, together with the documents referred to in paragraphs (c) and (d), further information as to how he would propose to implement the recommendation, contained in paragraph 19 of his report, regarding the suggested programme of subregional, regional or interregional co-operation in this field."

2. Mrs. DERRÉ (France), replying to a question put by the PRESIDENT, said that paragraph (d) would have no financial implications, as it was already covered by appropriations under the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

3. Mr. STIBRAVY (United States of America) said that his delegation could support the draft decision as it attached considerable importance to the work of the Group of Experts, and he noted from paragraph (c) of the draft decision that the Group was to complete its work on the draft model convention in 1979.

4. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that his delegation could support the draft decision. However, he wondered why paragraph (b) did not reproduce the language of, and thus endorse, the recommendation in paragraph 16 of the Secretary-General's

* Resumed from the 14th meeting.

report, since paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of the draft decision endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15, 17 and 18 of the report.

5. Mr. VAN TOOREN (Netherlands) explained that in its original version paragraph (b) had reproduced the full substance of paragraph 16 of the report, but it had subsequently been shortened as a result of informal consultations. Whereas paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) were of an organizational nature, paragraph (b) was more in the nature of a policy statement and delegations had preferred that it should be less precise than the paragraph of the report on which it was based without, however, altering its meaning.

6. Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria) confirmed the explanation given by the representative of the Netherlands regarding paragraph (b). While his delegation attached importance to the work of the Group of Experts, it felt that it was not possible to endorse the precise wording of paragraph 16 of the report at the current stage.

The draft decision was adopted without a vote (decision 1978/14).

7. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not opposed the consensus on the draft decision. However, it could not support the provisions of paragraph (d), as its own experts had not participated in the drafting of the recommendations concerned.

8. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that his delegation had attached particular importance to the adoption of the draft decision in the form in which it had finally been introduced. It trusted that the Council, having made an exception to the requirements of the restructuring exercise in order to allow a further meeting of the Group of Experts, would at its next session take a similar decision concerning the Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, in which his delegation had a particular interest and which, in its view, was also of vital importance to the over-all work of the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (concluded)*

REINFORCING THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS (concluded)* (E/1978/L.28, E/1978/L.30)

9. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica), introducing draft resolution E/1978/L.30, which had now been co-sponsored by Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Iran, Tunisia, the Upper Volta, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia, said the one outstanding issue which had prevented the draft resolution from being submitted earlier in the name of the President had been resolved through further informal consultations. It had accordingly been agreed that, in operative paragraph 3, the words "*inter alia*" should be inserted between the word "to" and the words "the social development input", so as to avoid giving the impression that particular importance was being attached to the social development input to the exclusion of other inputs. He also drew attention to a minor draft change in the English version of the first preambular paragraph.

10. The sponsors of draft decision E/1978/L.28 had agreed to support draft resolution E/1978/L.30, as

revised, and to withdraw their proposal if the draft resolution was adopted.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.30, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/35).

11. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that her delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution E/1978/L.30 on the understanding that, when the General Assembly received the reports of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Committee for Development Planning, it would regard those reports as sufficiently substantive to make the convening of the *ad hoc* working group referred to in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution unnecessary.

12. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the understanding that the reference in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution to the documents on the establishment of a new international economic order included a reference to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

13. Mr. VAN TOOREN (Netherlands) said his delegation wished to stress that, in its view, it was vital that the *ad hoc* working group be convened early in 1979 and that it should consider the problems involved from a fresh, independent and comprehensive standpoint.

Mr. Mills (Jamaica) took the Chair.

14. The PRESIDENT recalled that, by its resolution 2063 (LXII), the Council had decided to appoint a special rapporteur to prepare a study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of men and women, including action taken by the public and private sectors at national, regional and international levels to remove prejudices and sex-role stereotyping, to accelerate the acceptance of women's new and expanded roles in society and to promote their integration into the development process as equal partners with men. The Council had not yet appointed the special rapporteur, and at the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women it had been suggested that the Commission might wish to recommend one or more candidates in order to facilitate the Council's task of making the appointment at its first regular session of 1978. However, the Commission had not in fact made any recommendation, and so far only one candidate had been nominated. He therefore suggested that the Council should deal with the appointment of a special rapporteur at its second regular session of 1978.

It was so decided (decision 1978/36).

15. The PRESIDENT recalled that, by its resolution 2062 (LXII), the Council had decided to establish, not later than June 1978, a preparatory committee composed of not more than 23 Member States designated by the President of the Council after consultation with regional groups, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to make recommendations concerning the substantive and organizational arrangements for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. He had accordingly consulted the regional groups and had designated the following Member States as members of the Preparatory Committee: Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, India, Iran, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain

and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Other Member States would be able to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee as observers. He suggested that the Council should take note of his designation of members of the Preparatory Committee.

It was so decided (decision 1978/37).

AGENDA ITEM 15

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session, 1978 (concluded)* (E/1978/L.22, E/1978/L.29)

16. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the note by the Secretariat before the Council (E/1978/L.29), to which was annexed the draft provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1978, contained suggestions concerning the organization of work. Agenda item 8 (Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights) had been included because the Council was under an obligation to deal with it within a specific period of time. Item 30 (Follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference) should be deleted, in view of the Council's decision to postpone the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources until 1979 (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (k)).

17. With regard to the organizational adjustments suggested in paragraph 4 of the note, the purpose in the case of item 11 (Regional co-operation and development) was to enable the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to be at Geneva long enough to participate in the consideration of the item. The suggestion was that the executive secretaries should introduce their reports at a plenary meeting, so that the item could be taken up in the First (Economic) Committee on the following day. In the case of item 9 (Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system), the Council had requested the Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee to carry out informal consultations during the intersessional period, on the basis of a working paper on the subject. It was therefore suggested that the First (Economic) Committee should continue the consideration of the item at the second regular session of 1978, on the assumption that it would be discussed informally throughout the session and would be formally considered as the last item of the Committee's agenda.

18. The schedule for the preparation of documents for the summer session had been severely disrupted, and it was expected that some documents relating to the work of the Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 would be delayed.

19. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether, under the tentative schedule of meetings, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions would be able to participate in the consideration of item 11.

20. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that, as the executive secretaries were required to arrive at Geneva before the opening of the session, it was expected that they would be present for the first two weeks of the session, including the date allocated to consideration of that item.

21. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that, since item 30 had been included in the draft provisional agenda on the assumption that the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources would be held in September, after the second regular session of the Council, the fact that the Committee would not be meeting until January 1979 did not alter the circumstances. She would therefore like an explanation of why it was suggested that the item should be deleted, which would be acceptable only if the topic could be adequately dealt with under item 19 (Natural resources).

22. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that, as indicated in foot-note 2 to the draft provisional agenda, the item was to have been taken up at the resumed second regular session, which was scheduled to end in November at the latest. Because of the postponement of the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources beyond that date, it had been decided to include the item in the agenda for the following year.

23. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) and Mr. RAHAM-TALLA (Sudan) asked whether the follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference could not in fact be dealt with under item 19.

24. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said the intention had been that the documentation for item 30 should consist of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on the work of its third special session and the report of the Secretary-General on that session. As the session had been postponed, there would be no report available under that item. Under item 19, the Council would have before it reports on the development of coal resources and on the feasibility of holding an international conference on renewable sources of energy. No document on water would be before the Council in 1978.

25. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) and Mr. RAHAM-TALLA (Sudan) said that they could agree to the deletion of item 30, provided that the consideration of topics under item 19 was left sufficiently flexible to include water resources if required.

26. The PRESIDENT suggested that item 30 should be deleted, on the understanding mentioned by the representatives of Argentina and the Sudan.

It was so decided.

27. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) proposed the inclusion in the draft provisional agenda of a new item, entitled "Assistance to the refugees of the Ogaden". His reason for proposing the item was the magnitude of the problem facing the Governments of the area and the international organizations concerned, particularly the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The report of the High Commissioner to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity contained an appeal for substantial financial assistance in dealing with refugee problems. The Government of Somalia therefore considered it appropriate to include the item in the agenda of the summer session.

28. Mr. MONSHEMVULA-OMVUANE NTANGU (Observer for Zaire) suggested that, instead of introducing the subject as a separate item, it should be incorporated in item 6 (Assistance in emergency situations).

* Resumed from the 5th meeting.

29. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) said that it would not be appropriate to include the subject under the item relating to emergency situations, which was a regular feature of the Council's agenda. The problem of the Ogaden refugees was a specific question which should be dealt with separately.

30. The PRESIDENT suggested that the item proposed by Somalia should be included in the provisional agenda.

It was so decided.

31. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) observed that there would be a problem in dealing with certain items which were discussed at the beginning of the session and in the general debate, such as items 3 and 10, because of the situation with regard to documentation to which the Assistant Secretary-General had referred. It was therefore all the more important to make the maximum use of the documents of the Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174.

32. With regard to restructuring, he was disappointed that relatively little progress had been made during the current session on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197. Maximum use must be made of informal consultations in the intersessional period and during the second regular session in order to achieve progress on the subject.

33. Thought must also be given to the report of the Council to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, the agenda for which had already been drafted. Items dealt with in parallel in the First (Economic) and Second (Social) Committees of the Council were usually dealt with in sequence in the Second Committee of the General Assembly, which meant that their interrelationship had to be established before the Assembly session began. During the organizational session of the Council, the question had been raised whether the three sessional committees were correctly named;

however, the actual division of work was appropriate. For the purpose of reporting effectively to the General Assembly, it would be helpful if the Council, at its second regular session, met in informal plenary session each week to review the progress made in the committees.

34. The PRESIDENT agreed with the representative of the United Kingdom that the work of the Committee Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 had a strong bearing on the general debate at the summer session of the Council. It was therefore necessary to establish how the work of the Council and of the General Assembly would be affected by the proceedings of that Committee, and to avoid duplication. He too was disappointed that there had been relatively little progress on restructuring, an issue which the Council had nevertheless attacked vigorously. With regard to assisting the Council to prepare for reporting to the General Assembly, he agreed that informal consultations on restructuring should be held before the summer session, so that decisions could be taken at that session. He also agreed that the work of the Council and of its committees could be rationalized if informal plenary meetings were held weekly throughout the session. He suggested that those proposals should be adopted, and that the Council should approve the draft provisional agenda for its second regular session of 1978 (E/1978/L.29, annex), as amended, and also the arrangements for that session as set out in document E/1978/L.29, on the understanding that each committee would decide on the organization of its own work at the outset of the session.

It was so decided.

Closure of the session

35. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the first regular session of 1978 of the Economic and Social Council closed.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1978

Summary records of the 17th to 38th plenary meetings, held at Geneva from 5 July to 4 August 1978

17th meeting

Wednesday, 5 July 1978, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.17

AGENDA ITEM 1

Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the second regular session of 1978 of the Economic and Social Council.

Statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council

2. The PRESIDENT said that the state of the world economic system and of international economic relations created a very critical situation in which there was a greater need than ever for leadership, coherence and concrete action.

3. For more than four years, the international community had been engaged in a dialogue and negotiations based on the call by developing countries for fundamental changes in the structure of the international economic system and in the relationships between industrialized and developing countries. The limited results and the new signs of weakness in the world economy demonstrated the need for far-reaching action and a new understanding of global development. There had emerged over the past year a clear realization of the interdependence of the economies of developed and developing countries and of the need for structural changes. It remained to translate that realization into action.

4. In that context, the establishment of a committee on the new international economic order as a Committee of the Whole, after the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation in 1977, had represented a move to reaffirm the primary role of the United Nations system in the discussions and to provide the system for the first time with a body that could maintain an effective involvement and interest in the various issues with which the dialogue was concerned. The Council should take advantage of the opportunity to establish a balance in its work so as to give due importance to crucial issues.

5. The Council should also develop more effective means of interaction with the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the other organs and agencies of the United Nations system. It was to be hoped that the proposed changes in the United Nations Secretariat would help to provide a basis for genuine improvement in the Organization's work. In that connexion, he wished to give a special welcome to Mr. Dadzie, who had been appointed to the new post of Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

6. In the final analysis, success would depend on the manner in which Governments of Member States and their delegations would respond to the need for restructuring and concentrate on providing the necessary leadership and guidance.

Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations

7. The SECRETARY-GENERAL observed that the world economic situation gave no cause for optimism. Some positive elements had emerged during the past year, but they were considerably outweighed by disturbing developments. Uncertainty about the future was the dominant feature of the current situation.

8. The sustained level of growth in the developing countries during 1977 was certainly a cause for satisfaction. However, it still fell short of what was desirable and was now slowing down.

9. The export earnings of the developing countries were no longer supported by rising prices for raw materials and were also greatly affected by the slackening of international trade, which had shown in the past year a rate of increase only one third of that in the preceding year.

10. Most of the developing countries, already deeply in debt, must now keep a very tight rein on their economies because of the lack of external financing adapted to the nature of their imbalances.

11. In the agricultural sector, two years of good harvests in many countries had not resulted in any decisive success in combating hunger and poverty. The level of *per capita* food consumption remained stationary in most countries and some were still at the mercy of unexpected fluctuations in climate.

12. The results achieved by the planned economies had also fallen off in comparison with performances of the early 1970s, owing both to the problems encountered in the agricultural sector and to the impact of trends in the developed market economies.

13. The market economies had been unable to find ways of resuming sustained growth and reducing inflation sufficiently. Their growth rate had, in fact, declined over the year, from an annual average of just over 5 per cent to just over 3 per cent. In spite of the progress achieved by some countries, inflation had not been brought down to an acceptable level. There had been very disturbing divergences in the movement of those countries' balances of payments. While some had succeeded in eliminating their deficits at the cost of depressing their economies, others had continued to build up very large surpluses, partly because of their inability to stimulate enough domestic demand.

14. The employment situation in those countries had become a problem on an unprecedented scale, and Governments were finding it increasingly difficult to counter the protectionist trends which had arisen in those circumstances.

15. Thus, the conditions for a quick and steady expansion of the international economy as a whole had not been re-established, and uncertainty about future prospects was affecting the growth of productive investment. The factors causing that uncertainty were well known. The international monetary system, in its current phase, was characterized by instability of exchange rates and a glut of international liquidity. The system was not adapted to the needs of developing countries; protectionist measures taken in disregard of the GATT rules were proliferating; prices of raw materials were subject to abrupt fluctuations; the economic policies of both developed and developing countries were still insufficiently co-ordinated. Even the prospects with regard to international relations were a cause for concern. There were doubts about the ability of Governments to find solutions and, where necessary, to change the international "rules of the game".

16. The establishment of a new international economic order should provide an answer to those structural difficulties. It challenged States to move forward from merely administering an existing system to undertaking progressive reforms that would enable the international economy to operate on a sounder and more equitable basis. However, little progress was being achieved in the international negotiations which should contribute to the establishment of that new order.

17. The negotiations which had been going on in UNCTAD on the indebtedness of the most disadvantaged countries had no doubt achieved some initial results. But the negotiations on the Common Fund for the stabilization of raw materials and on commodity agreements had had to be adjourned. The multilateral trade negotiations were lagging and reform of the monetary system remained to be undertaken.

18. Hopes had been raised for a time by the resumption of the North-South dialogue in the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolu-

tion 32/174. A consensus had emerged during the first meetings of that body on the seriousness of the problems confronting the world economy, and more particularly the developing countries. However, the Committee had not yet arrived at any conclusions, owing to lack of agreement on the actual object of its deliberations and the type of conclusions it might reach.

19. The delays and hesitations which had marked those negotiations must be overcome, and for that it was necessary to turn to the future.

20. On such difficult subjects, involving many different and often apparently contradictory interests, it would be unrealistic to hope for a rapid resolution of all disagreements. It would also be wishful thinking to hope to obtain decisive results at every meeting. On the other hand, it would be desirable to seek out those points on which a certain convergence of views based on common interests could be discerned and to take advantage of them in order to define areas of possible agreement. In his opinion, such points of convergence and such possible areas of agreement did exist.

21. One example was the growing awareness of the interdependence of economies. The world economy was increasingly becoming a coherent system in which the policies of each country affected other countries and in which all sectors of activity were interrelated. That new awareness was a promising phenomenon, because it could lead to the planning of collective action in the common interest of all the parties concerned.

22. The problem of transfers of resources was the best example. It had long been recognized that such transfers could play an important role by enabling the developing countries to pursue high growth targets and to bring about the structural transformations required for their development. The potential demand for goods and services which they represented could, if means of financing were found, constitute one of the driving forces for the growth of the international economy in the coming decades. During the past few years, those countries had already helped to sustain world demand. In order to do so, they had sharply increased their external indebtedness which, for many of them, was now reaching the limits of acceptability.

23. It was in that context that authoritative voices in the industrialized countries had put forward the idea of additional massive transfers of resources. Such a programme could be an important factor in the recovery of the international economy, although its main object would be to facilitate structural transformations.

24. According to those proposals, the programme, the content and modalities of which would have to be settled through international discussion, could be aimed primarily at those sectors which were or might become serious bottlenecks for the world economy, such as agriculture, energy or major infrastructure.

25. It would be premature to pass judgement on proposals which had not been finalized, but he would like to emphasize two points. Firstly, the immediate effect of an increase in transfers of resources on some export industries in the advanced countries, particularly those producing capital goods, would be considerable, even if, over all, the automatic chain effect on those economies remained limited. Most important, if such an increase were achieved as part of a negotiated programme covering several years, it would demonstrate a political will to advance and to deal with the structural problems of the international economy. It would then have great psychological impact.

26. Secondly, there appeared to be a convergence of views to the effect that any effort to promote the transfer of resources should entail an increase in official development assistance. In that connexion, note should be taken of the substantial and growing contribution of OPEC to the flow of official assistance. In the advanced market-economy countries, on the other hand, the percentage of the national product allocated for official development assistance, already very much below the target set by the General Assembly for the Second United Nations Development Decade,¹ had decreased in 1977. If that target were met, the funds made available to the third world would almost double. Thus, there was still a great discrepancy between what was available and what was needed, and that had particularly serious consequences for the low-income countries, which had virtually no other means of financing their infrastructures.

27. The increase in funds allocated for official assistance should come from the countries which were farthest behind in their assistance effort. However, in that connexion, the Prime Minister of Japan had stated publicly, and confirmed to him personally, that he would try to secure a doubling of Japan's assistance effort over the next three years.

28. Lastly, it should be possible to find specific ways of making official assistance continuous and foreseeable in conditions that were compatible with the budget management rules of donor countries.

29. Studies all emphasized the need to strengthen the arrangements for financing the balance of payments of developing countries. The fact remained that the official means of financing available for dealing with temporary balance-of-payments difficulties entailed rigorous conditions for the borrower, which discouraged their use. Furthermore, those short-term or medium-term resources did not meet existing long-term needs or solve the structural problems affecting the balance of payments of many countries in the first stages of development.

30. Because of the structural nature of the developing countries' deficit and the imbalance in balance-of-payments situations throughout the world, that problem must be given priority. The means used must of necessity be varied, because of the many differing needs of the countries concerned.

31. There also appeared to be a certain convergence of views on the necessary complementarity between increasing transfers of resources and expanding trade relations. In the medium and long term, the developing countries should be able to finance their import needs by expanding their exports. That would depend on their own efforts and on the expansion of their trade with each other, which had already begun and also on their having access to the markets of developed countries. Indeed, officials of the major industrialized countries did seem willing, in multilateral trade negotiations, to give a new impetus to the lowering of tariff barriers and to the elimination of non-tariff barriers.

32. However, if the desired results were to be achieved, it was not enough for the industrialized countries to make the necessary compromises involving their own interests alone. The negotiations must take into account the interests of all countries. In other words, the developing countries must be fully associated with

them. It would also be necessary to provide for the regulation by international agreements of any temporary measures which might be necessitated in the developed countries by difficulties of adjustment, and for monitoring the implementation of such measures.

33. Finally, while it now seemed to be generally agreed that the stabilization of earnings from the sale of raw materials by means of commodity agreements and the establishment of a Common Fund was a requirement of primary importance for many developing countries, conditions conducive to the success of inter-governmental negotiations on that point, when such negotiations were resumed, had to be created.

34. In order to take advantage of the convergence of views, which he believed it was possible to forecast on some points of prime importance, a political climate favourable to compromises had to be established. The responsibility for creating that climate rested on all the countries concerned.

35. He addressed his observations in particular to the heads of State and Government who would be meeting at Bonn a few days later. The importance of their economies was such that any progress they might achieve in harmonizing their views would be crucial to the whole world. He urged them to bear in mind in their deliberations the global dimension of the decisions they were to take and the special efforts required of them with regard to the restimulation of development. The impetus which they, as a group, provided should help to restore confidence in the prospects for the international economy and to further progress in the talks or negotiations which their representatives were holding with the developing countries in various forums.

36. Among such negotiations, special importance must be attached to the resumption of the work of the Committee of the Whole. That Committee could constitute a unique forum for periodic high-level exchanges of views on the international situation and on the difficulties encountered by the various groups of countries. In order to be fruitful, however, its work must open up prospects of action. It must, therefore, endeavour to identify possible areas of agreement on questions whose importance was acknowledged by all and on which there were chances of success. Specialized forums would continue to work out the implementation arrangements which such negotiations necessarily entailed.

37. The current session of the Economic and Social Council could provide delegations with an opportunity to consider clearly, and with a new sense of priorities, what could be done. It should also enable them to undertake the necessary consultations, so that the desire to avoid failure, which had been expressed to him in many quarters, could be reflected at the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

38. The importance of co-operation among developing countries was now widely recognized, and the difficulties he had mentioned made it all the more urgently necessary to strengthen such co-operation. The question lay at the heart of the important world conferences to be held in the coming months. The conferences should make it possible to find practical fields of application for the idea of collective self-reliance, whose importance he had emphasized to the Council the previous year.

39. In that connexion, the importance of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which was to begin at Buenos Aires on 30 August 1978, could not be over-empha-

¹ See General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), para. 43 of the International Development Strategy.

sized. He appealed to Governments to ensure that they were represented at the highest possible level.

40. The progress of international co-operation, the urgent need for which he had just emphasized, should be viewed in a long-term perspective. An international strategy for the 1980s and beyond was necessary. On the basis of the principles defined in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,² such a strategy would provide a common frame of reference for the policies of the Governments of Member States. It would make it possible to ensure consistency among the plans of action of the various international organizations.

41. It would provide an opportunity for spelling out the goals of development, particularly those that were necessary to enable the most disadvantaged to acquire, through their own work, the goods and services that were essential for human dignity.

42. Such a strategy could not impose from the outside choices or options which sovereign States alone were entitled to make. Its formulation and implementation could, however, encourage and help Member States to join in seeking greater compatibility among their development policies.

43. The Council had asked him to have preparatory work done by the end of 1978 on the technical elements of an international development strategy.³ That work, which was proceeding in close co-operation with the specialized agencies, was well under way and would be submitted to the Council at the proper time.

44. The United Nations system had begun to carry out the restructuring of its activities decided upon by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.⁴

45. A report had been submitted to the Council on the first steps that had been taken by ACC to meet the priorities established by intergovernmental bodies (see E/1978/43 and Add.1 and 2). The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had recently taken up his post. Three new units had been set up in the Secretariat and had been provided with resources.

46. The purpose of those measures, pursuant to the resolutions on restructuring, was to strengthen the contributions of all kinds being made by secretariats to the political decision-making bodies.

47. There was no need for him to remind the Council of the role it had to play in the evolution of international co-operation for development. It would no doubt turn its attention to practical means by which it could better adapt its approach to problems and its methods of work to new circumstances and the changes which they necessitated.

48. The prompt implementation of those measures was of great importance. An increasing number of problems could no longer be solved through action by national institutions alone; the dividing line between the internal and the external consequences of many policies was becoming less distinct.

49. It was essential to draw the necessary conclusions from that irreversible process of change. At the national

level, Governments would have to adapt their administrative machinery and their deliberative processes so as to take effective account of the interaction between internal and external decisions and to co-ordinate them. At the international level, the composition of national delegations and the organization of groups of countries would have to change in ways that reflected the increasingly technical nature of debates. Finally, a pragmatic effort must be made to work out procedural innovations that would enable United Nations bodies to take account of the new characteristics of international deliberations in the field of economic relations and development. The Economic and Social Council could play a decisive role in that effort by helping all concerned to clarify their thinking. He could assure the Council that it would receive all the necessary support from the Secretariat.

50. The transformation of international economic relations and the strengthening of development co-operation called for joint decisions. During the coming months, there must be an affirmation of the political will to achieve, in a new atmosphere, significant progress in major international negotiations, and particularly in North-South relations. Only if that came about would the world economy emerge from listlessness and uncertainty. The importance of what was at stake must not be underestimated.

51. Unless it succeeded, the world community would, in the short term, have played a part in making life more difficult for millions of human beings and in robbing them of their most precious possession: hope. It would thus leave to coming generations a legacy of want and confrontation. Everything possible must be done to avert that danger.

The meeting was suspended at 4.10 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1978/100 and Add.1)

52. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that, as a result of the rearrangement of the work of CPC, item 27 (Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and programming procedures) should be considered at the resumed session and item 22 (International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system) should be left open until CPC had submitted all the relevant reports.

53. Mr. TERREFE (Observer for Ethiopia) said that item 6 of the provisional agenda entitled "Assistance to the refugees of the Ogaden" had been proposed by the delegation of Somalia on 8 May 1978, at the end of the Council's first regular session, in the absence of the Ethiopian representative. An observer had opposed the proposal at the time and had suggested that the matter should be considered under item 7 entitled "Assistance in emergency situations".

54. The Ethiopian delegation strongly opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the second regular session, viewing it as a deliberate attempt by Somalia to bring before the Council an extremely delicate political question concerning a region under Ethiopian sovereignty. Somalia's motives, despite its claims, were not humanitarian, since, if it had been concerned about the people in the Ogaden, it would have spared them the huge human and material losses they had suffered on account of Somalia's expansionist policy.

² General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974.

³ See Council resolution 2125 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, sect. III.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977.

Representatives of UNHCR, UNDRO, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, FAO, UNESCO, the World Bank, ICRC and the diplomatic missions at Addis Ababa had been able to see for themselves the extent of the suffering and devastation after the Somali army had withdrawn. A gigantic international aid programme for the people was needed, but the Ethiopian authorities, which had appealed for such aid on many occasions, could not accept Somalia's pose as the guardian of a people on whom it had inflicted so much damage and suffering.

55. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, OAU and the Governments concerned, had already launched an appeal on behalf of the peoples in the Horn of Africa affected by the armed conflict which had been imposed on south and south-east Ethiopia. The problem of the uprooted persons was a matter for UNHCR, which should continue to handle the matter.

56. Ethiopia therefore requested the Council to delete item 6 from the provisional agenda.

57. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) observed that Ethiopia had tried to present the Ogaden problem as coming exclusively within Ethiopian sovereignty—a political statement which Somalia would decline to discuss. Somalia had proposed the inclusion of that item in the provisional agenda for the Council's regular session since it thought that the Council, as an organ of the General Assembly, was responsible for promoting, where necessary, assistance to peoples displaced as a result of the refusal to accord them the right to self-determination, and that the Ogaden particularly deserved the international community's attention at present.

58. His delegation was strongly opposed to any alteration in the agenda item and reserved the right to speak more fully on the matter later.

59. Mr. CHARRY SAMPER (Colombia) proposed that the agenda should be adopted as it stood and that the Council should take a decision later on item 6, following consultations and negotiations among those concerned, if necessary including himself as Chairman of the Group of 77.

60. Mr. TERREFE (Observer for Ethiopia) said that he would prefer the provisional agenda to be adopted without item 6, which could then be the subject of negotiations.

61. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) said that, in a spirit of compromise, he was prepared to accept the Colombian representative's proposal.

62. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) shared the Ethiopian representative's view that the agenda should be adopted without item 6. There could then be consultations on the item, with a view to deciding what should be done about it. Without starting a debate on the question, it might be interesting to hear from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who might explain what was preventing him from giving aid to the refugees in the region.

63. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan), speaking as Chairman of the African Group, requested a suspension of the meeting in order that the African Group might try to settle the matter.

The meeting was suspended at 5 p.m. and resumed at 5.20 p.m.

64. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) said that, as a result of the informal talks just held, the representatives of Somalia and Ethiopia had decided to agree to the Colombian representative's suggestion.

65. The PRESIDENT asked whether the Council was prepared to adopt the provisional agenda (E/1978/100), except for item 6, which would remain for a decision by the Council at a later stage.

It was so decided.

66. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) drew the Council's attention to an item appearing after the Council's provisional agenda without being officially part of it, namely, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. His delegation, like some other delegations and the High Commissioner himself, would wish the Council to consider not just the report but also the machinery of the Office of the High Commissioner, particularly the size and functions of its Executive Committee. Under section II of Council resolution 1623 (LI), he requested that the item should be incorporated in the agenda.

67. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was doubtful whether there was reason to depart from the normal procedure, which was for the Council to transmit the High Commissioner's report to the General Assembly without debate.

68. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that there was no question of changing an earlier decision. The idea was simply to take advantage of an opportunity for the Council to consider the item.

69. The PRESIDENT asked whether the Council was prepared to accept the Netherlands representative's proposal.

It was so decided.

70. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to adopt the provisional agenda, as amended by the two decisions just taken.

The provisional agenda (E/1978/100), as amended, was adopted.

71. Mr. STIBRAVY (United States of America) wished to record a reservation. As the United States delegation had stated at the first regular session of 1978, the question of "assistance to the Palestinian people" was entirely distinct from agenda item 28 and should not be treated as part of it but as a separate agenda item.

72. Baron VON WECHMAR (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the European Economic Community, supported the view expressed by the United States representative.

73. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the annex to document E/1978/100, on arrangements regarding the organization of work of the second regular session of 1978, and to document E/1978/100/Add.1 containing the revised programme of work of the First (Economic) Committee; a further change had been made to the revised programme, consideration of the item on human settlements having been postponed until the week of 17-21 July. He hoped that, if the committees had to amend the tentative programme of work, they would still keep to the periods envisaged for the consideration of each item, so that the Council could complete its work within the time allotted to it. He also stated that the list of speakers wishing to take part in the general debate would be closed at 6 p.m. that day.

74. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) observed that, at the first regular session, it had been suggested that informal meetings, of heads of delegations for example, might improve the Council's efficiency and make for better co-ordination of the committee's work.

75. The PRESIDENT thought that informal meetings might usefully be held, for example, after the close of the general debate and towards the end of the session. They would help to improve the methods of work of the Council, which would then be in a better position

to fulfil its role as a supporting organ of the General Assembly.

76. Mr. EL FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) requested that, in view of the amount of documentation which had only just been circulated to delegations, the closure of the list of speakers should be postponed for 24 hours.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

18th meeting

Thursday, 6 July 1978, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.18

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments

1. The PRESIDENT, inviting members to begin the general discussion under agenda item 3, observed that it would probably bear also upon agenda items 10, 11, 13, 21 and 22.

2. Mr. MORSE (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that, at the twenty-fifth session of the UNDP Governing Council, Mr. Dadzie, the newly appointed Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, had expressed the firm conviction that the efforts of all those working at the operational level of development must be constantly directed towards the paramount aim of helping developing countries to help themselves, and of building self-reliance and self-generated progress among them through a more coherent and more operationally efficient United Nations development system. That was the fundamental goal of the restructuring process, towards which the Economic and Social Council had worked so effectively for many years, striving to harmonize the operational activities of UNDP with the changing needs of developing countries and the expanding capacity of the system to meet them.

3. He was glad to report that UNDP affairs were once again in order; confidence had been restored, the Programme's cash position was sound and vigorous efforts were being made to avoid a recurrence of the dislocations and disruptions from which the programming base had suffered some three years previously. Project approvals and expenditures were expanding, careful attention was being paid to the quality of UNDP endeavours and due regard had to the resource uncertainties resulting from the fact that expenditure allocations were made on a five-year basis, while voluntary contributions were gathered annually. The collaboration of UNDP with other United Nations development agencies was, in many respects, closer than ever, and an Interagency Task Force had been established at UNDP headquarters for the purpose of further improving it; UNDP had also sought to increase agency involvement at the critical country level. New avenues of programme evaluation and feedback were

being opened up and the flow of programme and financial data was being systematized and integrated under a special project designed to rationalize and accelerate it. He paid a tribute to the world-wide staff of UNDP, whose calibre and dedication, often in difficult circumstances, were truly exceptional.

4. In the decisions taken at its recent twenty-fifth session, the Governing Council had recognized the capacity of UNDP to discharge its mandate. Those decisions instructed UNDP to persevere in achieving a steady but carefully monitored build-up in programme delivery; in making still greater efforts towards coherence; in accelerating the implementation of the UNDP New Dimensions in Technical Co-operation, which stressed the building of self-reliance among developing countries; in promoting concerted measures to build collective self-reliance through technical co-operation among developing countries and through an effective and comprehensive plan of action for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries; in expanding evaluation and feedback; in proceeding with the project to improve data flows; in strengthening the control of administrative and programme support costs; and, above all, in making vigorous efforts to broaden the Programme's resource base so that the growth target of 14 per cent per year in voluntary contributions could be reached.

5. The UNDP administration intended to do its utmost to provide a programme of effective and relevant technical co-operation to developing countries and to consolidate and refine what had already been achieved by way of programme and administrative improvements to that end. The objectives of the restructuring process initiated by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session—including the achievement of greater system-wide cohesion, a more sharply focused country-level responsibility for co-ordination and the utilization of the UNDP country programming system as a frame of reference for the technical efforts of the United Nations system as a whole—were identical with those which UNDP and its Governing Council had persistently endeavoured to achieve over the years. At its May 1978 meeting, ACC had taken the view that further progress with joint programming arrangements between UNDP and other organizations was feasible,

provided the approach was flexible and dynamic. It had also endorsed the view that the UNDP resident representative should normally be designated as the "single official" to exercise team leadership. UNDP accepted that decision and was fully cognizant of the great responsibility it entailed.

6. With a view to furthering the streamlining called for by the General Assembly, the UNDP Governing Council had experimented—in his view, successfully—with an arrangement by which only one regular session was held annually, preceded by a brief meeting in January to approve country programmes. He also considered the holding of a single annual pledging conference useful not only as a means of reducing administrative costs but also as an occasion to present Governments with a comprehensive picture of United Nations operational activities for development.

7. UNDP and its Governing Council fully supported the restructuring process called for by the General Assembly in resolution 32/197 and regarded it as an integral part of the restructuring of the global economy designed to establish a new international economic order. He wished, however, to state his emphatic agreement with the view recently expressed by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, namely that without a reasonable increase in resources in real terms the UNDP potential would remain under-utilized and its further development stunted. He hoped that the Economic and Social Council would also bear in mind the fact that technical co-operation to advance human skills, knowledge and organizational ability at present accounted for only about 20 per cent of official development assistance, in spite of the fact that such inputs accounted for the overwhelmingly preponderant part of economic growth. He hoped that the Council and its member States would assist UNDP in its efforts to discharge its responsibilities as a central funding organization for technical co-operation in the United Nations system and provide it with the predictable, assured and expanding resource base required to that end.

8. Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the valuable statements made by the Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council (17th meeting) and the Administrator of UNDP.

9. Instability in international commodity trade, persisting world inflation and a chaotic international monetary system had become the main characteristics of the world economy at the present time. They had led to a slowing down of world economic activity and had perpetuated the poverty of the developing countries. In spite of national and international efforts, the terms of trade of most of those countries were deteriorating and their external debts were growing heavier, while the cost of their imports continued to rise as a result of inflation in the industrialized countries. The result was further to aggravate their already severe balance-of-payments difficulties and to erode any savings which might have been used to finance development activities. Those problems stemmed in large part from the nature of the present international system, in the establishment of which the developing countries had not effectively participated and which was designed to serve the interests of the industrialized countries. The developing countries had been deliberately placed in the situation of sustaining, and even subsidizing, the econ-

omies of the developed countries by supplying them with raw materials and labour without themselves receiving a fair return. Their export earnings were generally inadequate and uncertain because the prices paid by the developed countries for raw materials were below their true value and fluctuated so widely that planning for development was often virtually impossible.

10. The incompatibility between that outmoded system and the present world interdependence had recently exacerbated economic disruptions and political conflicts. It was becoming increasingly clear that the old system failed to meet the needs not only of the developing countries of the post-colonial era but also those of its own architects. So-called free trade was being increasingly abandoned by a number of the developed countries, which were resorting to protectionist measures that often discriminated against imports of both primary and processed goods from developing countries and imposed serious constraints on their agricultural and industrial development, at the same time imposing higher prices on consumers in the developed countries themselves. A similar departure from the rules of the old system had led to chaos in the monetary sphere. IMF had become a helpless spectator of the "free-for-all" exchange rate policies of the industrialized countries, and decisions on international monetary problems of great moment to the world as a whole were being taken by a few rich countries without discussion by the Fund. The developing countries were not equitably represented in decision-making on matters affecting their activities.

11. Some of the piece-meal attempts to improve international relations had produced superficial changes, but in most cases they had caused further disruptions in the world economy. They had failed because they were based on the false assumption that adequate changes could be made in the relations among nations within the existing structures of dependence, which were heavily weighted in favour of a few rich industrialized countries. The growing awareness that fundamental structural changes were necessary had reached its climax at the sixth special session of the General Assembly, where it had been recognized that the present international economic order was in direct conflict with current developments in international political and economic relations. The Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted at that session, together with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,¹ provided a foundation for a new type of relationship among nations based on equality and justice. At its seventh special session, the General Assembly had adopted guidelines for progress towards that goal.²

12. The reform of international commodity trade in accordance with the proposals worked out by UNCTAD was a prerequisite for the transfer of resources in real terms to the developing countries, most of which had, in the light of experience, come to believe that the Integrated Programme for Commodities was the most effective means of promoting the interests of both developed and developing countries, for the former would increasingly depend on raw material im-

¹ General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974.

² See General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation.

ports for their growth and the latter on investment financed in large part by earnings from raw material exports. The Integrated Programme and the Common Fund established thereunder sought to promote that mutuality of interests by stabilizing prices and earnings and ensuring reliability of supplies. The necessary political will was, however, still lacking on the part of certain developed countries, as the inconclusive negotiations which had taken place since the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly showed. That failure was a typical example of the efforts of a few rich industrialized countries to perpetuate a long history of exploitation. The United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities had twice had to be suspended without reaching agreement on even the basic elements of the Fund and there was as yet no evidence of any significant change of attitude on the part of those countries, in spite of the appeal made to them by the General Assembly at its most recent session.³ His delegation appealed once more to those countries to recognize the urgent need to reach agreement on the basic elements of the Fund and to take positive political action.

13. There had been similar failures in other fields, as the experience of both the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation and the multilateral trade negotiations showed. The struggle for human equality and human dignity was, however, gaining increasing support, even from some developed countries, and complacent countries would have to recognize that there was no escaping the relentless march towards justice and that there could be no permanent coexistence between poverty and affluence. The contribution which the developing countries, some of which had accumulated specialized knowledge in such important sectors as health, education and agriculture, could make to the betterment of living conditions in the third world through technical co-operation among themselves would be brought to the forefront of world attention by the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to be held at Buenos Aires. The non-aligned countries had recently initiated projects and programmes to that end and it was recognized that their efforts could benefit from the support of the United Nations development system. He hoped that the Conference would adopt a comprehensive plan of action which would further strengthen such co-operation and support global interdependence.

14. His delegation believed that the United Nations system was capable of dealing comprehensively with the problems of international economic co-operation and development, provided that all members of the international community recognized the mutual benefits to be derived from working for the establishment of a new international economic order. In addition to the Declaration adopted at its sixth special session, clearly stating that the political, economic and social well-being of present and future generations depended on such co-operation, the General Assembly had more recently adopted resolution 32/174 expressing the conviction that all negotiations of a global nature should take place within the framework of the United Nations system because of its universality of representation. That was the context within which the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Devel-

oping Countries and the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would be conducted, for a just international economic order could only be achieved through the equitable participation of the developing countries, not only in production and exchange but also in decision-making on matters of a global nature. In resolution 32/174, the General Assembly had also asked the Council, in the discharge of its special responsibilities, to contribute effectively to the work of the Committee of the Whole established under the resolution to supervise and monitor the implementation of decisions and agreements reached in the negotiations on the establishment of the new international economic order. Although the Committee had been unable, at its first session, to reach substantive agreement on the question of the transfer of resources in real terms, his delegation remained convinced that, with the assistance of the Council, it would be able to perform useful work. He trusted that the Council would live up to its responsibility in formulating policy recommendations which would enable the General Assembly to take timely and effective decisions on the substantive issues before the international community.

15. Baron VON WECHMAR (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Communities, said that the current world economic situation was cause for both concern and hope; while on the one hand economic recovery had failed to reach its expected level, there was, on the other hand, a greater awareness of the need to take concerted action to improve the functioning of the world economy and to move towards a more equitable international economic order. Global economic interdependence meant not merely that national economies were interrelated but that interdependence must be taken into account as a key element in economic decision-making, at both the national and the international levels, if greater growth, equity and stability were to be achieved.

16. The slow rate of economic recovery showed that the effects of the recession of the mid-1970s were deep-seated and had not yet been overcome. Demand and investment had been handicapped by uncertainty, aggravated by inflation and monetary fluctuations. High rates of unemployment showed structural rather than cyclical characteristics. All those factors combined to impede the task of integrating the low-income countries in the world economy on an equitable basis. Growth and stability must be pursued simultaneously. Growth in industrialized countries would provide increased export opportunities for developing countries, while enhanced demand from developing countries, leading to an expansion of their imports, could make an important contribution to the growth of industrialized countries.

17. Prior conditions for permanent economic recovery were the restoration of confidence and the elimination of instability. A prime task of all Governments must therefore be to continue the fight against inflation and unemployment. Reduced inflation would improve the employment situation in both developed and developing countries.

18. The heads of State and Government of the European Economic Community had agreed, in April 1978, to develop a common strategy covering economic and monetary affairs, employment, energy, trade, industrial affairs and relations with developing countries, with the aim of achieving an annual growth rate of

³ See General Assembly resolution 32/193 of 19 December 1977.

4.5 per cent by the middle of 1979. That effort would make an important contribution to over-all international action for the promotion of world economic recovery.

19. The European Economic Community had welcomed the decisions taken in June 1978 by the OECD Council of Ministers, which, *inter alia*, had reiterated its commitment to an open multilateral trading system on a world-wide basis and had reaffirmed its readiness to adjust to changes in the pattern of world production and trade. While protectionist measures might bring temporary relief from growing competition, they led in the long run to misallocation of resources by both importing and exporting countries. Positive policies of structural adjustment had almost always proved more successful, although they required substantial changes in attitude and involved hardships in the relocation of industry and retraining of the labour force. The Community was itself largely dependent on foreign trade and was taking full account of the vital importance of trade as a means of increasing the external revenues of the developing countries; it was constantly enlarging the developing countries' share in Community imports, including, in particular manufactures and semi-manufactures. The Community had noted that the developing countries were aware of the great advantages of an open system of world trade but, at the same time, it concurred in their view that trade between developed and developing countries should be conducted on an equitable basis. The system of generalized preferences had therefore been improved and the Community would also work for a rapid and successful conclusion of the multilateral trade negotiations in GATT and, in particular, for special and differential treatment in favour of the developing countries.

20. Efforts must also be continued to improve market structures in the field of raw materials. It was important that the negotiations on the Common Fund and on individual commodities in the context of the Integrated Programme for Commodities should succeed. Official development assistance must be enlarged in both volume and quality. Interdependence required that every group of countries must accept its fair share of responsibilities, in particular in the field of the transfer of resources; on the latter point, he would hope to hear positive and constructive views from the developed countries with centrally planned economies. Opportunities for direct investment in developing countries must be found, with a view to enhancing the transfer of both resources and technology to them. Further efforts must be made to promote the industrialization of the developing countries, in order to meet both export opportunities and domestic demand, and special emphasis should be laid on integrated industrial and agricultural development. A diversified industry would help to intensify the production of food and other agricultural primary goods which could to an increasing extent be processed locally. The recent increase in quotas and the substantial enlargement of special facilities in IMF would help to offset the adverse effects of instability on the export earnings of developing countries. In that connexion, the concept of export earnings stabilization, promoted by the Community, was of particular importance.

21. The establishment of the Committee of the Whole, under General Assembly resolution 32/174, was of the utmost political and economic importance. The exchange of views on global economic problems in the Committee should help policy-makers throughout the world to understand more precisely the priorities which

developing countries accorded such issues. The European Economic Community considered, however, that the outcome of the first session of the Committee, in May 1978, had shown that it was difficult to convey, in detailed discussions, a precise understanding of particular aspects of global issues and, simultaneously, to try to transform those perceptions immediately into new decisions and agreements. More flexible procedures were required. A form of reporting might be found which, instead of aiming at the negotiation of conclusions and recommendations on each item, would allow for a detailed but less stringent summary of the debates showing clearly where convergences of opinion could lead to later agreements and where divergence indicated the need for a further examination of ideas.

22. The problem of energy illustrated the close inter-relationship between different economic sectors and the interdependence of national economies. Forecasts showed that, from the mid-1980s, demand for energy might be greater than available supplies. Immediate measures must therefore be taken, with a view to avoiding economic disruptions which might create serious difficulties for the energy-importing developing countries and impede their development. Such measures should include *inter alia* economies in the use of energy, the development of indigenous sources of energy, and the development of alternative, renewable energy sources.

23. In the context of preparations for a new international development strategy, the Community welcomed the interim report of the ACC Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives (see E/1978/43/Add.1) as also the preliminary comments in the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its fourteenth session (E/1978/46 and Corr.1). It agreed with the Committee that the new strategy should have a broad approach, take into account long-term goals and be specific about the differences of structure and level of development of different groups of countries. It should concentrate in particular on co-operation between developing countries themselves. It should also encompass aspects of global economic co-operation, the effective and stable functioning of the world economy as a whole, and equity in the sense of greater balance in the process of economic growth and in the distribution of its benefits. Special emphasis should be laid on the needs of the low-income and least developed countries and the strategy should stress the relationship between economic and social development.

24. The ultimate goal of development must be the eradication of mass poverty. Development should be directed towards the entire population and should aim at providing minimum standards of food, shelter, clothing and services for everyone. The basic needs concept applied not only to redistribution but also to productivity and qualitative growth. It meant that the productivity of the poor should be increased by directing investment, the production of more basic goods and employment opportunities towards them. The people whose basic needs were to be met should participate in the determination of those needs. The implementation of the basic needs approach would certainly require structural changes in the world economy, but those who demanded structural changes internationally should be prepared to work for such changes in their own social environment.

25. In recent years, increased attention had been paid to the problem of the application of science and technology to development. In order to solve the problems

of the impoverished masses in the developing countries, attention must first be focused on the promotion of agriculture, with a view to increasing food production. Other natural resources must also be identified and utilized and appropriate technologies developed that would, as far as possible, substitute labour for capital and maximize employment and income. Such tasks could not be achieved by a mere transfer of technologies from developed countries. New ways must be found and an effective and self-reliant scientific and technological infrastructure built up. A main topic at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development must therefore be the creation of such an infrastructure in the developing countries and an increase in training facilities.

26. In conclusion, he thanked the Secretary-General for his progress reports on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197 (E/1978/28, E/1978/118). The Community attached high priority to measures aiming at greater efficiency in co-ordination and considered that the role of the Council in that matter required to be strengthened further. The Community therefore welcomed the agreement reached in ACC on the streamlining of the Council's subsidiary machinery and its reorganization on thematic lines. The Community looked forward to seeing the results of the use by ACC and CPC of the new tool of cross-organizational programme analysis. It also hoped that, during the current session, the Council would arrive at a constructive decision on the reorganization of its own subsidiary machinery.

27. Mr. FARNON (New Zealand) said that the current session offered Council members the opportunity to widen the area of common ground that had been won elsewhere in attitudes to the North-South dialogue. There was also a commitment to establish a restructured Council that would make a more relevant contribution to the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

28. The need for concerted action to solve world economic, social and development problems had rarely been as pressing as it was at present. Efforts to deal with those problems had been complicated during the past five years by economic uncertainties associated with alarming rates of inflation, high unemployment and, in many cases, acute balance-of-payments difficulties. Recovery had been slow and uncertain. Payments deficits and surpluses were maldistributed and the pattern seemed likely to continue for some time to come. The inevitable reaction of deficit countries had been to adopt deflationary policies and restrictive trade measures. World productive capacity was still under-utilized and business confidence in most countries remained at low levels, giving little encouragement to hopes for increased employment.

29. The rising indebtedness of many countries was having a significant impact on their prospects for long-term economic growth. The situation varied considerably among countries, but for some developing countries external debt had become so burdensome that the aid received was effectively offset by debt servicing liabilities. Primary producers continued to experience persistent inflationary pressures, together with severe balance-of-payments problems brought about by significant deterioration in their terms of trade; New Zealand's terms of trade were currently at historically

low levels, some 25 per cent below the average for the 1962-1972 decade.

30. Most worrying of all was a general resurgence of protectionist pressures in a trading environment which was already distorted by existing barriers. Past experience had revealed that world economic growth depended on expanding trade; balanced and sustained growth could be achieved only if the pattern of interdependence allowed each country to develop and expand in those economic activities in which it enjoyed a comparative advantage. There was nevertheless scope for some optimism, centred largely on the enhanced recognition by the international community of the interdependent character of the global economy and the interrelated nature of the problems, whether they concerned energy, currency stability, debt, the necessity to increase resource transfers to developing countries or the need to contain and remove trade barriers. New Zealand looked to the countries with economic strength to set the world economy on a path towards sustainable growth. The developing countries could perform an important "locomotive" function in enhancing that growth.

31. In the view of his delegation, the crux of interdependence was trade. The recent growth of protectionist tendencies in regard to industrial and manufactured products had been a response to the slow recovery in the major industrial economies. In the agricultural sector, on the other hand, protectionism had been a long-standing and intractable problem. The necessary structural adjustment of the international economy could occur only if the developed industrialized nations addressed themselves to the question of improving access to their markets both for agricultural and for manufactured products. The multilateral trade negotiations currently taking place in GATT would have a critical influence on future trade policies; a satisfactory result for agricultural products must form an integral part of an acceptable outcome of those negotiations.

32. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Committee of the Whole under General Assembly resolution 32/174 as a positive development in the North-South dialogue. The Committee's strength should be viewed not in terms of resolutions adopted or agreed conclusions but in the fulfilment of its role as an architect of change. The discussions at the first substantive meeting of the Committee had already borne fruit when a subsequent meeting of the OECD Council of Ministers had taken up several of the ideas which had been explored. His delegation hoped that, at its next substantive meeting, the Committee would consider the questions of food and industrialization together. The agenda item relating to the problems of the specially disadvantaged developing countries also warranted close attention.

33. The question which now arose was whether the principles underlying a recognition of the interdependence of the world economy could be translated into policy actions. Positive results from the impending economic summit meeting at Bonn and from the GATT multilateral trade negotiations would be crucial in that regard. Improved access by primary producing countries to markets and more satisfactory prices for primary and agricultural commodities would restore the withered purchasing power of those countries and was essential if the present imbalances were to be re-

dressed. Borrowing to finance balance-of-payments deficits should be made less necessary, rather than simply more easy.

34. On the question of the Council's contribution to development and international economic co-operation, guidance was to be found in General Assembly resolution 32/197, on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and in resolution 32/174, establishing the Committee of the Whole. Paragraph 10 of resolution 32/174 requested the Economic and Social Council to contribute effectively to the work of the Committee, bearing in mind the Council's role in the preparation of a new international development strategy. An integrated development strategy required recognition of the essential links between its social and economic dimensions. Those links had been explicitly recognized in resolution 1978/35 adopted by consensus at the Council's first regular session of 1978, which had requested the Committee for Development Planning, in drawing up recommendations on preparations for the new international development strategy, to pay particular attention *inter alia* to the social development input and had further requested CPC and ACC to recommend measures for achieving better co-ordination between social and other development activities within the United Nations system.

35. His delegation was convinced of the need for the Council to give adequate attention to problems of social development. In particular, the organs of the United Nations system concerned with such matters must play an active role in the review and appraisal of the achievements and failures of the Second United Nations Development Decade and in the formulation of the new development strategy, which, to be fully integrated, would require a deeper understanding of the nature of current social changes, a careful review of their impact on societies and a recognition of the interaction of economic, social, cultural and political factors in development.

36. The Council also had an important role to play in relation to the sectoral and regional perspectives of the strategy. The incomplete recognition of distinctive situations between and within regions, and within broad groups, had been something of a deficiency in the North-South dialogue to date. The Secretariat's analysis of the developed market economies in its *World Economic Survey, 1977* (E/1978/70 and Add.1-3) was to be commended in that connexion; the *Survey* provided a sound contribution to the present debate and to the Council's appreciation of the differential effects of international economic trends in a framework of world interdependence.

37. Despite its economic difficulties, New Zealand remained committed to the objectives of the North-South dialogue, which was a central element in his Government's perception of world interdependence. The volume of its official development assistance would increase by some 8 per cent in 1978 and the favourable terms on which it was granted would remain unchanged. New Zealand was concentrating its efforts on regional and subregional schemes and initiatives to tackle the vast differences in economic development and resource endowments in the Asian and Pacific regions. The unique problems of island developing countries presented by the latter region was another reason why a realistic development strategy must take account of dis-

tinctions in stages and levels of development and between development problems in different countries and groups of countries.

38. Neither must the sectoral perspective be overlooked. As was pointed out in the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, the sound performance in 1977 of the developing countries in that region underlined their vulnerability in two respects: their dependence on good harvests and the sensitivity of their economies to international demand conditions (E/1978/69, para. 4). That emphasis on the critical importance of the agricultural sector and of trade was well understood by New Zealand and was reflected in its development co-operation policies. There was wisdom in the view that the need to expand production in most developing countries was greatest in respect of agricultural activity in terms of promoting economic and social progress.

39. Science and technology, applicable to both the industrial and the agricultural sectors, should also have a special place in the strategy and receive due attention by the Council. His delegation welcomed the opportunity which the current session would provide to monitor the preparations for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

40. Energy was another important issue. The development of new technologies and the need for conservation and international co-operation in that field should form an important element of a comprehensive strategy, with particular emphasis on the needs of non-oil-producing developing countries, and always respecting the sovereign interests involved. His delegation, which considered that the Council had a special role to play in that area, hoped that the suggestions made by the Secretary-General in 1977 concerning international energy co-operation within the United Nations would not be overlooked.

41. In the context of the development strategy, part of the Council's role would consist in taking appropriate action to co-ordinate the activities of the United Nations system, in particular the work under way in the Committee for Development Planning and the ACC Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives. As far as the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 32/197 was concerned, there was an obligation during 1978 to take the necessary decisions towards streamlining the Council and its subsidiary machinery and rationalizing its work programme and calendar, so that it would be better equipped in the future to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and to make an optimum contribution to the North-South dialogue. His delegation had been moderately encouraged by the progress made, both at the previous session and in informal meetings, towards preparing such decisions. Satisfactory completion of the restructuring exercise commanded a high priority in his delegation's perception of the Council's role with regard to the new development strategy. If that role was to be effective, it was necessary to make the right decisions about the future organizational and related dispositions of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

42. Mr. DI BERNARDO (Italy) said that the introductory statements by the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General had initiated a debate which could provide a valuable opportunity to examine in depth the broad themes of

international co-operation for development. The fact that themes of a similar nature were being discussed in the Committee of the Whole constituted under General Assembly resolution 32/174 made the Council's task all the more challenging. His delegation considered that it was essential to concentrate on those aspects of the North-South dialogue which, during previous debates of a general nature, had proved to be commonly shared and in respect of which a convergence of views might be achieved. Since the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had already outlined the position of the European Economic Community on the various issues under consideration in the general debate, he would limit his statement to some general observations aimed at demonstrating Italy's active participation in the common efforts of co-operation for development and its sincere intention to pursue a coherent and comprehensive policy of co-operation with developing countries.

43. World economic conditions had recently undergone some improvement. Inflation rates had generally been lower than in previous years, the employment situation had improved in some countries, trade had by and large been kept open and some payment imbalances had been corrected. Nevertheless, negative elements continued to characterize the global situation, which gave cause for concern in many respects. Economic growth in the industrialized countries had not been sufficient to increase substantially either their import capacities or the resources available to them for transfer to developing countries. Inflation rates, with their unfavourable impact on the redistribution of income, generally continued to be a serious source of concern for Governments. Persistently high levels of unemployment continued to provoke social unrest and to render structural readjustments difficult; from time to time, they had necessitated domestic measures designed to maintain existing levels of employment in sectors or individual corporations in financial difficulty. While such measures were justified in the short run by the pressure of circumstances, they could be detrimental to the dynamic restructuring of the internal production system and to the development of an appropriate process of redistribution of production and division of labour at the international level. In the field of trade, protectionist measures and export subsidies had often been the easiest means of tackling problems of imbalances in the balance-of-payment structure, thus endangering the expansion of world trade which had been one of the essential features of the sustained economic growth of the previous 20 years. In the monetary field, the prevailing climate had been one of uncertainty. Currency fluctuations that were not always justified by economic conditions had disrupted the required stability of the system of international prices and had made forecasting very difficult. Both developing and developed countries had faced serious problems in their struggle against imported inflation and in the management of their monetary reserves. The absence of control over the expansion and composition of international liquidity had created problems which showed the need to ensure a satisfactory degree of stability in the international financial machinery.

44. Against that background, Italy had proceeded with the implementation of stabilization policies, in particular by measures to restrict credit and monetary circulation, to redistribute GNP through additional taxation and higher prices for public services, and to correct the wage-indexing system. The annual inflation

rate had been lowered from 22 per cent in 1976 to 12.5 per cent in recent months. The balance of payments, which had showed a substantial deficit in 1976, was now presenting a relatively stable credit balance. The exchange rate of the Italian lira had been remarkably stable since 1977 and monetary reserves in the form of both gold and SDRs had increased in comparison with that year. Those achievements, however, had taken their toll in terms of production and employment. The number of workers employed by large corporations had decreased, while the problem of first employment continued to create serious social difficulties. Industrial production of both consumer and investment goods had declined. Efforts would not be spared, however, to prevent the emergence of recessionary conditions which would hinder the continued implementation of national economic policies and seriously affect Italy's participation in international economic co-operation.

45. Internal structural changes would have to be geared to the pressing needs both of the restructuring of international economic relations and of the reorganization of the production system in industrialized countries. Global economic interdependence implied, above all, the need to improve mutual understanding so that the members of the international community might face together the challenges and constraints of the economic situation. Only a common, firm commitment by all could create the conditions for substantial improvements and stable economic development. The international community had never been more keenly aware of the need for all countries or groups of countries, without exception, to strengthen the links of co-operation and to take co-ordinated and coherent action to enhance the functioning of the world economy and to move towards a new international economic order.

46. Development would have to encompass not only economic growth but also the qualitative aspects of such growth. If the common basic aim was to improve the living standards of millions throughout the world, all aspects of development would have to be scrutinized and progress made at various levels and in different fields. The integrated approach to development should be pursued in an effort to tackle all the problems which impeded progress towards the achievements of decent living conditions. The Economic and Social Council was the organ which best exemplified such a unified approach. Health, nutrition, education, human settlements and the natural environment, together with particular focus on the least developed countries and the neediest sectors of the world population, must all be components of the strategy formulated by the international community with a view to tackling development issues, bearing in mind that the ultimate goal must be the improvement of the general welfare of the most affected sectors of the world population.

47. The need for concerted action and coherent efforts by all countries took on added significance in the light of the growing internationalization of economic activities. The resulting close interdependence of countries implied a sharing of responsibility and participation in the task of reshaping the structure of international economic relations in such a way as to achieve growth together with stability.

48. The North-South relationship was one aspect of such international economic co-operation. Following the conclusion of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, the dialogue in progress be-

tween industrialized and developing countries had been resumed within the United Nations system. Despite the misunderstandings which had arisen in respect of the mandate and responsibilities of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, he was convinced that the informal consultations to be held prior to that Committee's next session would clear the way for the successful and constructive continuation of its work. The unique opportunity provided by the establishment of the Committee should not be lost because of the existence of diverging opinions regarding the nature and scope of its tasks. Those problems, together with other organizational matters, should be tackled with an open mind in both formal and informal discussions, in order to provide the solid basis for agreement which was necessary for the positive outcome of the forthcoming sessions of the Committee, whose work would be essential for the success of the special session of the General Assembly to be convened in 1980 in order to assess the progress achieved towards a new international economic order. His delegation was confident that those discussions would also clarify the nature of the relationship between the Council and the Committee.

49. The commitments made by his Government with regard to the negotiations under way in various forums on issues that were part of the North-South dialogue had just been confirmed by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, speaking on behalf of the members of the European Economic Community. His Government participated in such negotiations either through the machinery contemplated within the framework of European political co-operation or through the treaties and rules governing the external relations of the Community. With regard to raw materials and the Integrated Programme for Commodities, his Government recognized the central importance of the problem and was committed to the conclusion of a series of agreements on specific commodities and to a speedy and constructive resumption of the negotiations on the Common Fund. In the agricultural field, Italy would make every effort to increase production, strengthen food security and improve the level of nutrition in the poorest sectors of the world population. In that connexion, he paid a tribute to the United Nations international organizations for the efforts they had undertaken for the eradication of hunger in the world. In the field of trade, his Government had already stated its opposition to the adoption of restrictive measures; it wished to emphasize the urgent need to achieve the goals of the Tokyo Declaration,⁴ in particular the application of differentiated and more favourable treatment for the developing countries where possible and appropriate.

50. New efforts towards international co-operation were required in the field of energy, which should be

considered an essential component of the common endeavours towards a more just and equitable international economic order. The energy challenge must be met by consumer and producer countries and developed and developing countries alike. In the very near future, the world might well be faced with a situation characterized by an increasing demand for energy and a scarcity of sources of supply. It was therefore necessary to consider the development of new, alternative sources, to undertake conservation measures and to improve and increase research and development in that field. Those were tasks which should be carried out not only at the national level but also within the framework of international co-operation, where the interests and needs of all countries would be taken into account in full respect of the sovereign rights and prerogatives of each individual State. The United Nations was well suited to that task and his delegation sincerely hoped that it would be possible in the near future to begin talks on that crucial issue within the United Nations system.

51. An important subject on which the Council would be called to take action was that of restructuring. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 32/197 had been the starting point of a dynamic process which would continue to be adapted to the evolving needs of international relations. The Council was called upon to review and assess both progress reports and future tasks in specific areas, and in particular to take important decisions regarding the implementation of some basic principles concerning its own procedures and organizational devices. Its central co-ordinating and supervising role made the streamlining and rationalization of its own procedures and those of its subsidiary bodies all the more necessary. Thanks to the co-operation of the Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee, a text was now available which formed an excellent basis for future negotiations in that field. It was his delegation's sincere hope that agreement would be reached at the current session on a set of specific measures which would enable the Council to organize its future work on a more rational and constructive basis conducive to the more effective discharge of its responsibility to scrutinize and co-ordinate the policies and programmes of all other bodies of the United Nations system in the economic and social sectors.

52. His Government was firmly committed to the cause of international co-operation. Some years previously, it had introduced in the General Assembly the idea of a global strategy for peace. The concept of peace should perhaps be broadened in order to encompass not only disarmament, security and other political issues but also economic and social development and co-operation among States in the most diverse fields. The United Nations was the only organization which could serve as the forum for the elaboration of such a global strategy for peace.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

⁴ Declaration of Ministers, approved at Tokyo on 14 September 1973 (for the text, see GATT, *Basic Instruments and Selected Documents, Twentieth Supplement* (Sales No. GATT/1974-1), p. 19).

19th meeting

Thursday, 6 July 1978, at 3.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.19

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. ROSSI (France) said he thought the statements by the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations (17th meeting) had already made a considerable contribution to the Council's discussions. The statement by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany (18th meeting) had also been constructive and he endorsed the views expressed by that representative on behalf of the European Economic Community.

2. For its part, the French Government considered it essential to explain to the Council the objectives it had set itself—namely, the creation of a favourable economic environment and the establishment of relations of a new type between North and South.

3. The world economic situation was at present undergoing a profound change which was reflected in the growing interdependence of economies; for example, France's foreign trade represented about 20 per cent of its GNP. Moreover, that interdependence no longer affected a few countries only but applied to the whole world. Consequently, to live in isolation was to commit economic suicide; increasing solidarity was essential. Developing countries were concerned by economic difficulties, unemployment and inflation in developed countries, and, conversely, the politics and the situation of developing countries were having direct repercussions on the growth of developed countries.

4. Also, the industrial power of the developing countries must in future be taken into account. At present, it was true, it represented only 7 per cent of world industrial capacity, and industrialization was distributed unequally among sectors and countries, but the trend was irreversible and, although the target fixed (25 per cent of world capacity by the year 2000) was ambitious, it clearly indicated the direction and scope of the phenomenon. That evolution, which was a necessary stage in the elimination of underdevelopment, could and must benefit the entire international community.

5. Finally, the international situation was characterized also by uncertainties. In the first place, there had, for nearly four years, been uncertainties regarding growth prospects, and those uncertainties had led, in particular, to stagnation in investment. There was uncertainty also on the question of prices, whether of industrial products, agricultural products or raw materials. There was furthermore uncertainty in the monetary field, with abnormal depreciations and appreciations, which inevitably disturbed trade, confused investors and had serious repercussions on the economies of countries whose resources were based essentially on a limited number of export products. Lastly, there was uncertainty in the field of trade itself, which was threat-

ened by attempts at disguised protectionism; nothing irreparable had occurred, but the threats had not yet been dissipated.

6. Such being the situation, there must be action or reaction. For example, the European Economic Community had endeavoured to establish close economic, commercial and financial relations with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific; and, in that connexion, it was preparing to start negotiations shortly with a view to renewing the Lomé Convention.¹ For its part, the French Government considered that growth was an urgent necessity and called for concerted action; it had whole-heartedly endorsed the 4.5 per cent real-value growth target recently affirmed by the Community. In pursuit of that aim, it was necessary, in the French Government's view, that any action to stimulate the economies of the Western countries should be accompanied by direct action at the level of the developing countries. Conditions of greater stability should be created by controlling inflation and regularizing conditions on the exchange market—a fundamental problem which was now being discussed at the new European summit meeting at Bremen but which, obviously, was of concern not only to the countries of Europe. In addition, prices of raw materials must be stabilized by the conclusion of commodity agreements and the establishment of the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, to which France also accorded high priority. Finally, the multilateral trade negotiations taking place at Geneva under the auspices of GATT must be brought to a speedy conclusion.

7. As a parallel to that action to reduce the uncertainties to which he had referred, developments in the industrial field must be co-ordinated by common agreement, since the industrialization of developing countries called for an adaptation of the productive apparatus of the industrialized countries. Care should be taken, however, to avoid too abrupt a change which might produce Malthusian reactions or adversely affect trade. Ill-regulated investment or investment that was concentrated in too few sectors might produce structural surpluses which would have harmful effects for everyone. Concerted action was therefore essential, particularly within the framework of the United Nations, to organize the necessary co-operation and dissemination of information in that field. France refused to consider any technological monopoly as an immutable fact and was ready to extend and increase its industrial co-operation in areas in which it possessed technology which might be of interest to the developing countries. Long-term study of the evolution of the markets in certain industrial products should help to achieve a more judicious distribution of investments.

8. Such were the measures needed, in the French Government's view, in order to rectify the world eco-

¹ Convention between the European Economic Community and 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific States, signed at Lomé, Togo, on 28 February 1975 (see *Official Journal of the European Communities*, vol. 19, No. L25, 30 January 1976).

conomic situation. He wished to turn next to the more particular problem of North-South relations and the areas in which a dialogue should be continued and developed.

9. In order to strengthen that dialogue, it was essential first to organize it in a satisfactory manner; in that respect, the Committee of the Whole established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/174, which France had approved, had an important role to play. It was a pity, therefore, that the first meeting which the Committee of the Whole had devoted to substantive matters had been unproductive, doubtless because the Committee's role and methods of work had not been clearly defined and perhaps also because its agenda had been too ambitious. In France's opinion, the members of the Committee must be high-ranking officials if they were to provide the necessary "impetus for resolving difficulties in negotiations". In addition, the Committee's method of work should be flexible and pragmatic. At the conclusion of its meetings, it would be sufficient for the Committee to issue a brief communiqué outlining a number of major common positions whenever possible and merely noting divergences when agreement was not possible. Finally, the Committee of the Whole should not replace existing machinery but should merely be a body for reflexion and co-ordination which would facilitate the solution of outstanding questions. It should consider all aspects of North-South relations.

10. The dialogue should also be facilitated by the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. The reorganization of the economic and social affairs sector already seemed to be satisfactory. But during the present session of the Council careful consideration should be given to the progress of the restructuring process, especially with regard to the co-ordination of operational activities, particularly in the field, co-ordination between the various organs of the United Nations system and, finally—a task to which the French Government attached high priority—the reorganization and strengthening of the Council itself.

11. The restructured system, and particularly the Committee of the Whole duly organized, should make it possible to strengthen the dialogue, especially in three fields.

12. The first was that of the transfer of resources. In that respect, the work of the Committee of the Whole had revealed that the commitments entered into at the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, particularly by the European Economic Community, had been or would be met. Far from slackening their efforts, countries should try to increase their official development assistance to draw nearer to the fixed target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. With regard to such transfers, what was essential was not to define new objectives but to honour the undertakings already given. In that respect, it was important that the problem of "basic needs" should not cloud the discussion; basic needs should not be used as a pretext for developed countries to do less for developing countries, to interfere in the internal affairs of those countries or to add further strings to their aid. It was for Governments receiving aid to define their own priorities, to allocate foreign aid and to determine their own basic needs. Those basic needs should not be a roundabout means for channelling aid into agricultural projects at the expense of industrial projects. Subject to those reservations, his Government had subscribed to the concept

of "basic needs", the chief merit of which was that it stressed the magnitude of the fundamental needs of man which were not yet satisfied.

13. Energy was another field in which the dialogue should be continued. In that connexion, it was essential first to realize that the energy crisis did not belong to the past but to the future. Since some energy sources would inevitably become scarcer, an active policy of saving energy and developing new sources should be pursued, and there again, the United Nations could serve as a forum for general discussion. The positive action already taken should be developed, particularly the financing action taken on the initiative of the World Bank.

14. The third field in which the dialogue should be continued was that of the new development strategy for the 1980s. Negotiations in that connexion had not yet really begun, but it was essential that the General Assembly at its thirty-third session should be able to define the main lines of the strategy. It would be useful to take into consideration certain texts, such as the working paper submitted at the Assembly's thirty-second session by the European Economic Community during the consideration in the Second Committee of the draft resolution submitted on the subject by the Group of 77;² but it was also important to bear in mind the work of the Committee for Developing Planning, which certainly provided some very positive elements, even though the French Government could not subscribe to all the approaches the Committee was proposing.

15. Mr. RICHARD (United Kingdom) said he fully agreed with the Secretary-General's assertion that countries could and should give more aid to developing countries. In the next four years, for instance, his own country's aid programme would be increased by 6 per cent per annum in real terms. A comparison of aid from the planned-economy countries, and particularly the Soviet Union, with that from the OECD countries showed that Soviet aid to the non-communist developing countries had in fact decreased since 1974 and had in 1976 amounted to only 0.05 per cent of the GNP as against 0.3 per cent in the case of the OECD countries. Indeed, repayments to the Soviet Union were resulting in a net inflow to the Soviet Union rather than the reverse. Trade between the developing countries and the Soviet Union was largely to the advantage of the latter country, whose share of third world exports, excluding oil, had been less than 4 per cent in 1976 as compared with more than 48 per cent for the European Economic Community and the United States of America, whose trade had produced a considerable surplus in favour of the developing countries. The purpose of those observations was not to incite controversy but to stress that, in conditions of world interdependence, the obligation to help existed just as much for the developed countries of eastern Europe as it did for those in the West.

16. In spite of the absence of major economic conferences, 1978 would be regarded as the year in which global interdependence became part of the thinking of responsible Governments. For instance, at the summit meeting held in London in May 1977, the participants expressed the view that the world economy could grow on a sustained and equitable basis only if developing countries shared in that growth. The United Kingdom Prime Minister had proposed five items for an agenda

² A/C.2/32/L.26.

aimed at international action: higher growth, measures to produce greater stability in currencies, long-term capital flows, including aid for developing countries, energy conservation policies and more trade to avoid the spread of protectionism. Interdependence meant that industrialized countries should recognize their obligation to provide better access to their markets for products from developing countries, and that the more advanced developing countries should be prepared to open their markets to products from the industrialized world.

17. The North-South dialogue must be successful, whether in regard to the Common Fund, international commodity agreements, or the problem of the indebtedness of the developing countries and their development problems. The United Kingdom had decided to increase its net flow of official development assistance to developing countries. It also hoped that the financial institutions would be given more resources and, in particular, that the capital of IBRD would shortly be doubled. Additional resource transfers on a long-term basis from countries running persistent surpluses should be increased, particularly through investment in key sectors in developing countries, such as those concerned with energy, food and some other raw materials.

18. The interrelationship of economic and social affairs could not be over-emphasized. Inflation and unemployment, for instance, could not be considered in purely economic terms; it was their social and human consequences that mattered. Similarly, in the case of development it was the social and personal dimension that was of fundamental importance. It was essential to cure poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, unemployment, under-employment, lack of productivity and, perhaps above all, lack of opportunity for personal self-fulfilment. It should not be forgotten that nations were made up of individual people with personal needs.

19. His delegation had noted with pleasure the efforts made to restructure the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. It also welcomed the appointments and transfers that had taken place within the Secretariat, and the information given in the annual report of ACC for 1977/78 (E/1978/43 and Add.1 and 2) and in the progress report by ACC submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 32/197 (E/1978/107). The Council should now concentrate on the evaluation of programmes and the harmonization of the budgets and plans of the various agencies. His delegation had taken part in the fruitful joint meetings of CPC and ACC, and wished to stress the importance of the work being done on long-term development objectives. The Council needed to enhance its effectiveness in the field of co-ordination and management. Its task was not only to implement the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System which the General Assembly had adopted in its resolution 32/197, but also to keep the requirements of the situation under continuous survey.

20. The United Kingdom Government was among those which had given the most positive encouragement to the Committee of the Whole. It regretted, however, that no generally satisfactory understanding had been found concerning the role of that Committee. In that connexion, he fully subscribed to what the representa-

tive of the Federal Republic of Germany had said on behalf of the European Economic Community.

21. With regard to energy questions, he said he was convinced that more systematic international co-operation over a wide range of energy activities would benefit all countries, whatever their energy potential and whatever the role they played in world energy markets. The United Nations had an important contribution to make in that connexion. For the future, intergovernmental bodies should seek ways of intensifying and co-ordinating activities in six areas: the efficient use of energy resources; economic factors underlying world patterns of energy use; new energy technologies and energy conservation; assistance to Governments of member States in the collation and interpretation of national energy statistics, leading to better estimates of world energy resources and the future energy demand; assistance to developing countries in all aspects of energy planning, including the identification of non-conventional sources of energy and technical and theoretical training; and, lastly, the provision to developing countries of information on energy technology. Co-operation on those matters would also help to dispel the mistrust which had too often surrounded that area of international debate. His country's official aid programme already included research and development projects in the field of new and renewable energy sources.

22. His Government had identified a number of priorities in the course of its preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development; they included the evaluation of science and technology needs against development goals, training, recognition of the mutual benefits of technology transfers and the establishment of a climate of mutual confidence, and the building of viable national scientific and technological institutions in developing countries, particularly the poorest ones.

23. The seriousness of the present world economic recession, which was inhibiting the response of the wealthier countries, should not lead the developed countries to forget that it was aggravating poverty in the developing countries. The North-South dialogue should therefore be vigorously pursued, the necessary concessions should be made, care should be taken to avoid the sterile language of bloc-to-bloc approaches over competing texts, and United Nations action should be rendered more effective. For the first time in the history of the planet, the world had in the past four years assumed collective responsibility for all its inhabitants. It was essential always to remember the magnitude of that enterprise, and his country regarded itself as committed to the search for practical solutions.

24. Mr. THUNBORG (Sweden) said that although modern technology had brought a decent life and a certain comfort to a growing number of people, more people than ever before suffered from hunger and disease. Modern means of communication made it impossible to ignore either the glaring inequalities and injustices or the expectations for an improvement of the lot of those who were still not receiving their fair share of development.

25. The performance of the world economy over the past few years had been far from satisfactory. The industrialized countries had been beset by persistent problems, all the harder to solve since they stemmed from a combination of long-term structural difficulties and short-term cyclical factors. Those difficulties aggra-

vated the already sizeable problems faced by many developing countries, and the situation of the least developed countries gave cause for particular concern. Fortunately, the international community realized that it was in everyone's interest to redress the existing imbalance between rich and poor, and that only by coming to grips with the problems of developing countries would it be possible to deal with the problems of the industrialized countries.

26. Of the issues on which progress towards a more equitable world order should be possible, the question of the new international development strategy deserved prior mention. It was clear that the objectives for the first United Nations Development Decade had not been met, and it was now time to examine the events of that period and to draw lessons from them. It was also necessary to look ahead and consider the problems which seemed likely to arise during the next decade.

27. The Committee for Development Planning had provided a valuable point of departure for the further discussion of those problems, and Sweden endorsed the proposals relating to the Committee's future work (E/1978/46, chap. V). The Committee had raised a number of issues which, in his view, deserved careful analysis. First, while some developing countries had met the targets laid down in the International Development Strategy, the poorest of them had made little or no progress. The approach to the new strategy should therefore take into account the diverse needs of the various groups of developing countries. Secondly, the national and international aspects of development were interdependent. For example, market access and structural adjustment in developed countries clearly influenced the industrialization of developing countries, and there was a clear link between rural development in the third world and world food problems. It was necessary, therefore, to recognize such interaction, and hence to develop a strategy that would lead to the goal of a new international economic order. Thirdly, the 1970s had also shown that the different economic and social sectors were closely linked and that rural development and industrialization could not be seen in isolation from each other, nor could they be separated from problems of the environment, human settlements or energy requirements. Those sectoral interrelationships must therefore be carefully studied, and it was particularly important that the findings of the specialized conferences organized by the United Nations during the past decade should be integrated in the new strategy. Finally, the necessary organizational framework for the elaboration of the new strategy should be set up without delay. In order not to lose contact with current work on related or identical aspects of the new international order, the Committee of the Whole should, at some stage, look at the state of the Council's deliberations, with a view to ensuring the necessary cohesion and political impetus for the goals ahead.

28. In order to deal with all those highly complex tasks, it was essential to adapt the structure of the United Nations system in a suitable manner, along the lines of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. The Council's work must also be reorganized. Efforts to that end had so far been rather disappointing. However, a reform on the lines proposed by the *Ad Hoc* Committee would enable the Council to attach added importance to certain issues by considering them at subject-oriented sessions; it would make the Council's work more coherent

and permit it to take into account the interrelationships among different issues; it would enable each member country to participate at a high level and, if the reform was not too limited, it would render the Council's work more effective by enabling it to deal with issues directly at Council level. Although the reforms proposed by the *Ad Hoc* Committee might be considered inadequate, that should be no excuse for inaction; they were, in any event, a first step in the right direction.

29. During the next few years, the Committee of the Whole would be largely responsible for the progress of North-South relations. In that connexion, the Committee's previous session had been inconclusive. The Committee could not of course deal with all the issues, but it could devote the requisite number of meetings, not necessarily consecutively, to topics which for various reasons were of special importance. For example, it had decided at its previous session to concentrate on the transfer of resources, realizing that that was one of the most urgent problems to be solved.

30. It was time to proceed beyond the agreements reached at the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation. Discussions during the previous session of the Committee of the Whole had revealed certain areas where that was possible—one being the identification of optional ways and means to achieve substantial increases and improvements in official development assistance. Also, the financing of United Nations development assistance activities should be made more predictable and assured, so as to provide a basis for multi-year planning. The new concept of the transfer of resources to developing countries as a means of stimulating investment and economic activity both in the North and in the South was also interesting. It had met with a favourable reaction at the Council's first regular session of 1978 as a possible non-inflationary means of stimulating the world economy, but only an in-depth study would reveal whether the concept was realistic. At a recent ministerial meeting of the OECD Council, ministers had indicated their readiness to examine, in co-operation with developing countries, the utility and feasibility of new measures to stimulate financial flows to the developing countries. The Swedish Government would welcome such an examination.

31. He observed that new forms of the transfer of resources should supplement, not replace, regular flows of official development assistance, should fit into the developing countries' national priorities, and should, lastly, be viewed not as a short-term solution but as a contribution to long-term growth in the world economy through a general stimulation of demand.

32. Examples of relationships between different economic and social sectors were, on the one hand, the rich countries' consumption of the greater part of world production and extraction of raw materials, and their responsibility for the present environmental pollution, and, on the other hand, the poverty which obliged many countries to make inroads into their natural assets. It should be possible to supply the basic needs of mankind without wasting or ravaging nature. All countries must husband their resources, recycle materials where possible and be economical with non-renewable resources.

33. During the next few years, the Council would have to give priority to those issues. It was regrettable that the analysis outlined in the progress report concerning the study of the relationships between population, resources, environment and development, sub-

mitted to the Council in a note by the Secretary-General (E/1978/79), had been so much delayed. The Swedish delegation looked forward to a more substantive discussion of that work in 1979, since it thought it was important to move beyond the analysis of quantitative models to studies of a qualitative and country-oriented nature.

34. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, to be held in 1979, was another example of the need for an interdisciplinary approach to economic and social development, and preparations for it should be pursued vigorously. Its success would depend to a large extent on the national and regional reports, but that should not prevent the Conference secretariat from encouraging and supporting other interested parties in contributing to the preparatory work. National reports showed the needs, aspirations and priorities. On that basis, a realistic programme could be constructed, aimed at increased

scientific and technological independence for the developing countries, which in turn could lead to fruitful co-operation between equal partners.

35. In his Government's view, the elaboration of an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology was an important task within the framework of strengthening the developing countries' technological capabilities. Much time had been spent in preparing the text of the code, and what was now needed was genuine political will if the negotiations were to be successful.

36. Such political will was moreover needed in all fields and at all stages of international action, since without it the underprivileged peoples would be unable to lift the yoke of under-development off their shoulders. It was also essential to maintain, at all times, a sense of the urgency of the action undertaken.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

20th meeting

Friday, 7 July 1978, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.20

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. LALOVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that over the past few years much time and effort had been spent in attempting to reverse the steady decline in the Economic and Social Council's role and authority by rationalizing its work and restructuring the economic sectors of the United Nations system. Without wishing to minimize such efforts, he was inclined to think that the achievement of a substantive result by the Council would do more to reinforce its authority. It seemed that, whenever serious negotiations were imminent, the need for institutional changes was canvassed. The improvements in the Council, and in the United Nations system generally, had not exerted a beneficial influence on the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation or on the first substantive session of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174. The time had perhaps come to accompany such institutional actions with substantive progress in the currently stagnant negotiations. Another frequent practice was to claim, in the absence of concrete results, that international meetings had promoted greater mutual understanding. Meanwhile, however, the problems before the international community were fast becoming insoluble and urgently required that action should replace discussion on methods.

2. The problems referred to by the Secretary-General in his opening address and dealt with in the *World Economic Survey, 1977* (E/1978/70 and Add.1-3) reflected all the difficulties currently confronting all countries and peoples. There were still forces in the world, however, which insisted on retaining relations which

favoured some at the expense of others and had not drawn the appropriate conclusions from the generally accepted fact of global interdependence. Four years after the road to the establishment of a new international economic order had been charted at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly, a point of complete stagnation had been reached in the negotiations; that fact, together with the attempts of the major developed countries to overcome their domestic crises in a manner adversely affecting the economies of the developing countries, was a clear demonstration of the intention to keep to the old ways.

3. In the meantime, the problems had become even more serious, as was shown by the alarming figures given in the *World Economic Survey, 1977* for the indebtedness of the non-oil-exporting developing countries, coupled with forecasts of deteriorating performances in 1978 in all the economic and monetary sectors. The resort to outmoded and dangerous measures, such as protectionism, by some developed countries could only serve to aggravate the crisis.

4. World trade was set on the dangerous course of protectionism, from which the developing countries were the first to suffer because their products were particularly vulnerable to such measures. For example, the already restricted international trade in textiles and clothing would be put at even greater disadvantage by the Multi-fibre Arrangement,¹ recently revised. A determined effort should be made to reverse protectionist policies by bringing the current multilateral trade negotiations in GATT to a successful conclusion. The developing countries had recently expressed anxiety about the possibility of an outcome unfavourable to their trade

¹The 1974 GATT Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles.

balances, which would in turn curtail their demand for the products of developed countries.

5. The limited steps taken at the third (ministerial) part of the ninth special session of the Trade and Development Board with regard to the debt problem showed that the greater appreciation of the need for structural changes had not resulted in any practical action—a fact further illustrated by the uncertainty concerning the reconvening of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the delay in convening a conference on individual commodities, the slow progress in drafting codes of conduct for transnational corporations and on the transfer of technology, and the unsuccessful United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency.

6. The lack of political will to solve problems by negotiation had been responsible for the failure of the Committee of the Whole at its first substantive session to reach agreement on the transfer of financial resources to the developing countries or on the assessment of the world economic situation. That failure had caused serious concern among the developing countries, since it showed that the developed countries were not prepared to use the Committee to facilitate the negotiating process in all United Nations bodies. Although the developing countries felt that mutually beneficial solutions could be found only by joint efforts, they could not agree to negotiations being used as an excuse for delaying the solution of problems to which, by common consent, a high priority had been assigned. It was not in the interest of any individual country or of the international community to allow the gap between the developed and developing countries to widen still further, with negative consequences not only for economic development but also for peace and security.

7. The advances in science and technology had already brought the world to an era of technological revolution but the results were being transmitted to the developing countries so slowly and inadequately that they were a factor in widening the gap in world economic development. No consistent policy of co-operation had yet been elaborated to strengthen the technological and scientific capabilities of such countries and give them better access to available technology. The current habit of discussing the kind of technology which developing countries needed was in his view largely prompted by the intention of postponing any action. The developing countries themselves would know how to select the right technology for their development, provided that the transfer of technology was conducted on terms of mutual co-operation rather than technological domination. The revision of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the adoption of an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology and the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be conducive to establishing the right relations in that field.

8. It had been universally hoped that the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade would achieve far greater results, but it had proved not to be commensurate with the economic problems of developing countries or the needs of economic co-operation generally. As a result of the re-examination of those problems, the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of

Economic Rights and Duties of States had been adopted. The preparation of the strategy for the next decade should be based on a development of the concepts set forth in those documents and should be directed towards restructuring the world economic and international economic relations and promoting the dynamic development of all countries on terms of full equality, with a commitment to accelerating the development of the developing countries.

9. There had been considerable discussion about the concept of the satisfaction of basic human needs. Developing countries had never questioned that development policy must be people-orientated. Such a concept was not acceptable, however, if it resulted in proposals that developing countries should change the direction of their development or of their economic efforts. Development policies and priorities could be established only by each country according to its own perception of its needs. The task of the international community as a whole was to create an environment that would facilitate the optimum development of all countries, especially developing countries, thereby giving full play to the mutually reinforcing character of economic and social policy.

10. With regard to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, he observed that the modalities of the functioning of the Council and a number of related issues had yet to be worked out. He hoped that substantial progress would be achieved and that the first practical steps towards restructuring the Council would be taken.

11. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland) said that he proposed to deal with four main themes: the world economic outlook and those aspects which were of particular concern to a small market-economy country such as his own; international institutional mechanisms for dealing with those problems, in particular the Committee of the Whole and the Council itself; and two long-term questions, namely the new international development strategy and the role of science and technology in development.

12. The current session of the Council was taking place at a time crucial for the evaluation of economic and social relations among States. Such relations were of basic importance to the whole fabric of international relations. Although some years had elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, no consensus had yet emerged on the central policy issues to be resolved. Since the sixth special session of the General Assembly, the international community had been engaged in an unprecedentedly intense debate on the lessons to be drawn from the events of the 1970s and the policies which should be devised to cope with current problems. That process had been useful in itself, since it had revealed a number of new linkages in the growing international economic interdependence.

13. Paradoxically, however, those linkages had made the management of interdependence more difficult; in conditions of shrinking resources and growing demand, when it was impossible to consider domestic and international economic problems separately, it was hard to go back to fundamentals such as the redefinition of policies with the necessary far-sightedness, and agreement on decisions about how speedily to achieve targets acknowledged to be universally beneficial. The most urgent task both for individual Governments and for the international community as a whole was to

eliminate the uncertainty which prevailed in the international economic situation.

14. Such uncertainty was understandable, in view of the sharp fluctuations in recent years in the patterns of global economic development on which the concepts and programmes adopted by the international community in the 1970s had been based and in the absence of new mechanisms for steering the global economy.

15. In recent international discussions, however, general agreement seemed to be emerging on the importance of at least four points in bringing world economic development back on to the right course. The first point was that the economies of the developing countries had become an increasingly dynamic component in world trade. Secondly, an increase in world trade would be a major component in the recovery of world economy; the prompt and successful conclusion of the current multilateral trade negotiations would provide an effective means of reversing the alarming protectionist trend which hampered the interest of all nations. Such negotiations also provided an opportunity for developing countries to participate fully in an open multilateral trading system. The third point was that a return to sustained non-inflationary economic growth on a sufficiently high level would decisively facilitate the recovery of the world economy. Fourthly, both developed and developing countries needed to carry out those long-term structural adjustments which would make possible a more efficient use of global resources and a more equitable distribution of the results among the partners in the process.

16. Such broad agreements, however, were not a sufficient basis on which to manage a world economy based on interdependence. Concerted action at a more detailed level was necessary and in that respect the establishment of a global forum—the Committee of the Whole—to monitor the progress towards the new international economic order constituted a step forward. Views about the success of the Committee's first session varied; his Government considered that it represented an improvement on the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation with regard to both the content and the quality of the discussion. Although it was regrettable that there were differences of opinion about the role of the Committee, the session had revealed certain changes in the positions of both developed and developing countries which should be taken into account in the preparations for its September session. His Government considered that the continuation of the North-South dialogue was a permanent institutional feature in present-day international life. Since the dialogue had a political dimension, in view of the high priority accorded to economic and developmental issues in the policies of many nations, and since it was genuinely global, in that it dealt with the management of global resources, the United Nations was the proper forum for it.

17. The Committee should continue with its task of identifying problems of common concern on the basis of the maximum agreement. It should also give political impetus to discussions at a detailed level in other forums, particularly the Council, and should constitute a framework for the work done by the Council on all items relevant to the North-South dialogue. The discussion on the working methods of the Committee should be conducted with a view to selecting the procedures that would best facilitate the achievement of results. The procedures would have to take account of the changing relationships between nations, one ele-

ment in which was the increased diversity of performance within the developed as well as the developing world. Finally, in view of the fact that the backbone of international action was always national decision-making, each individual State must be prepared to make the necessary changes in domestic machinery to allow international decisions to be considered and translated into national decision-making in the light of increased global interdependence. Such aspects should also be borne in mind in considering the new development strategy, in which the role of social development, its links with economic development and its significance for global development in a climate of world interdependence should be fully appreciated.

18. Agreement on such immediate problems was a necessary pre-condition for productive negotiations on the long-term issues, relating to the problems to be confronted in the 1930s and beyond. Fortunately for the formulation of a new development strategy, a certain degree of understanding on some of those issues had already emerged from the North-South discussion. It was also likely, however, that in the long term certain problems already identified, such as those of the inadequate transfer of resources to developing countries, the inability of international monetary mechanisms to meet their long-term financing needs and the disparity in performance and opportunities between individual countries, would be even more apparent.

19. Finland was heavily dependent on foreign trade and therefore among the first to feel the pressure of adjustment when structural changes took place in the international economy. Nevertheless, his Government was convinced that planned change must take place in the economic relations between nations and that the new international economic order must be the basis of that change. The industrialized countries must maintain the momentum of their efforts to promote the development of the developing countries. Finland had decided, in May 1978, to write off all outstanding development credits within its bilateral programmes of assistance to the less developed countries and other countries in a comparable position.

20. An act of political will was required of the international community in responding to the aims of the new international economic order. The decisions to be taken by the Council in implementing resolution 32/197 on restructuring adopted by the General Assembly would be a real test of the faith of Member States in the United Nations system as an instrument of economic and social development. Failure in that respect would bode ill for the future; success would be a clear sign of the system's viability.

21. The sharing of scientific and technological resources between the North and the South was at the core of the new international economic order. The forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would therefore represent an integral element in the negotiations regarding the structural adjustments required. The Conference should be oriented towards the problems of the users of science and technology rather than towards those of the producers. Preparations for the Conference should be parallel to the work carried out on related questions by UNCTAD, UNIDO and WIPO. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the recent progress achieved in the drafting of an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology under the auspices of UNCTAD.

22. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the world economic situation con-

tinued to be characterized by the signs of threatening crisis and growing instability within the market-economy system to which almost all speakers at previous sessions of the Council had referred. The *World Economic Survey, 1977* showed that that system was not yet capable of overcoming the consequences of the recent recession. A brief revival had been followed by a marked slowing down of business activity in most countries, and in some the economy was stagnating. One significant pointer to a recurrence of economic crisis was the extremely high level of unemployment in developed Western countries, which the *Survey* put at over 16 million, i.e. an even higher figure than at the worst point of the recession. Statistics could not adequately convey the human suffering involved, particularly for young people and national and racial minorities, among whom unemployment stood as high as 40 per cent. It was among such socially and economically underprivileged people that the highest rate of offences against the law was recorded; it was they who crowded the prisons, who suffered the humiliation of queuing for the dole and who were herded into slums tactfully referred to as "poor districts with a high crime rate". His delegation took no pleasure in mentioning such inherent features of the capitalist system; it was moved to do so by a strong sense of class solidarity with oppressed working people throughout the world.

23. A large group of developing countries, whose economies were particularly vulnerable, continued to be victims of exploitation by monopolies. During the Second United Nations Development Decade, the gap between the developed and the developing countries, as measured by the main economic indicators, had not narrowed; in absolute terms, it had in fact widened. The exclusion of the oil-exporting countries from the group of developing countries to which he had referred meant that the picture was even more stark, for there was a tendency for the gap between developing countries themselves to widen.

24. Persistent inflation was also causing severe losses to the developing countries. The detailed study of the phenomenon decided on by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/175 of 19 December 1977 could be of value, provided that it was based on a correct understanding of the causes of inflation, which had become a permanent feature of the market economy and, directly or indirectly, affected all States. His delegation hoped that the United Nations would succeed in rousing the countries responsible to take the necessary measures to curb the export of inflation.

25. There was also an undeniable trend towards increasing protectionism in trade policy, which a GATT bulletin had described as the most important current development in international economic policies. There was no need to stress the magnitude of the impact of protectionist measures in the West upon developing countries, where there were already nearly 300 million unemployed or partially employed persons.

26. Another urgent problem impeding the development process was the constantly increasing external indebtedness of developing countries, which was currently estimated to stand at \$250-300 billion. Future United Nations work on that problem must also take account of its true causes, which were, essentially, the influx of private capital into developing countries and the continuing exploitation of those countries by transnational monopolies. Official figures suggested that profits from direct United States investments in develop-

ing countries in 1976 had totalled \$7 billion, as compared with \$28 billion of invested capital, i.e. a profit rate of 25 per cent, which was twice as high as the rate within the United States of America itself. He wished to bring those figures particularly to the attention of the United Kingdom delegation, which at the 19th meeting had presented to the Council its views on the identity of those who genuinely had the interests of the third world at heart. That delegation had failed to mention the United Kingdom's special responsibility for its prolonged and harsh exploitation of its numerous colonies, which had brought once prosperous areas to the verge of economic exhaustion. It had also failed to mention the current activities of United Kingdom monopolies, which were extracting profits from that country's former colonies on a scale which, according to the figures available to the Soviet delegation, did not greatly differ from that mentioned in the case of United States investments. If those figures were not correct, he hoped that the United Kingdom delegation would provide more precise information and thus enable the Council to form a more complete picture of what so-called interdependence meant in practice in the capitalist world and of what lay behind the reiterated pleas for unrestricted freedom for private capital and the opposition to interference by international bodies. The provision of such information might also throw further light on the precise meaning of the generalizations and diplomatically vague promises in the United Kingdom statement.

27. The decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions, together with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, provided the indispensable basis for progress towards a real democratization of economic relations between States during the 1980s. It was essential to recognize that the main reason for the insignificant achievements of the two previous development decades was the unwillingness of monopolist circles to abandon their policy of neo-colonial exploitation, which was perpetuating the economic backwardness of the majority of Asian, African and Latin American countries. Unless there was a complete break with that system, it would not be possible to achieve a broad mobilization of the internal resources of such countries for development purposes. The so-called "aid" provided by developed Western countries could in those circumstances only serve to increase the dependence of the developing countries, and the same applied to the "free market" mechanism and its associated financial institutions, which were the instruments of imperialist policies.

28. It had been estimated by prominent economists that even if the targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade were reached, a continuation of present trends would not make it possible, even by the year 2000, to narrow the gap between the levels of economic development expressed in *per capita* terms, which had stood at a ratio of 12:1 in 1970. Such gloomy forecasts might prove correct unless there was a determined effort to restructure international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis and to bring about a fundamental change in present policies.

29. The Soviet Union and the socialist world as a whole had had no part in the formation of such policies. Relations within the socialist community and its links with other countries were, on the contrary, based on the rejection of any kind of discrimination and on the

development of co-operation on a basis of complete equality and mutual benefit. Such principles of Soviet economic policy sprang from the very nature of a State of working people and were given legal force in its new Constitution. The Soviet Union had striven throughout its history to achieve a restructuring of international economic relations, which explained the coincidence between the interests of the socialist and the developing countries in that regard.

30. Soviet external trade had over a number of years been growing at a faster rate than the national product and had totalled over 63 billion roubles in 1977; it was expected to increase by 10 per cent in the current year. Trade with developing countries now accounted for 13 per cent of the total volume and trade was expanding with a number of developed Western countries—those which had proved willing to pay due regard to their partner's interests and had refrained from raising artificial obstacles or using trade to exert political pressure. The industrial production of the socialist community currently accounted for approximately one third of the world total and the Soviet Union led the world in the production of many types of industrial and agricultural goods. During the first two years of the current five-year plan, Soviet industrial production had increased by nearly 11 per cent, average annual agricultural production by 7 per cent, and the national income and real *per capita* income by more than 7 per cent. Those figures demonstrated what could be achieved by a developed socialist society which provided the individual not only with democratic, political, economic and cultural rights, but also with the material guarantees of those rights.

31. The Soviet Union's trade links were exerting a stabilizing effect on the general state of the world economy and made a positive contribution to the restructuring of international economic relations. As Mr. Brezhnev had said recently, the socialist countries were showing the way to solve the major problems facing mankind, and the desire for constructive co-operation, with the creative endeavours of the peoples of every country was the essence of the Soviet Union's policy of peaceful coexistence.

32. An objective and comprehensive appraisal of the current situation of the world economy was a prerequisite for the effective conduct of United Nations studies. He wished to emphasize the importance of the role of the public sector in economic development and of a unified approach to the planning of economic and social development. If due attention was paid to those matters, a valuable contribution would be made to the preparation of the international strategy for the third development decade.

33. The recommendation of the Commission on Transnational Corporations calling for an end to collaboration with illegal racist régimes in southern Africa, in direct violation of General Assembly recommendations and decisions of the Security Council, was one of the important matters to be considered by the Council at its current session. The Council must declare its support for national liberation movements and progressive forces struggling to eliminate the vestiges of colonialism and to eradicate *apartheid* and other forms of racial discrimination. World public opinion must be shown clearly who were the true friends of the African peoples and who their exploiters and oppressors. In a statement on 23 June 1978, the Soviet Government had emphasized that the policy of *détente* implied no im-

munity for corrupt régimes or the protection of unfair privilege; it did not extend tolerance to those seeking to suppress the struggle for national liberation or to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, as imperialist circles were seeking to do. The statement confirmed that the Soviet Union supported those forces which defended the cause of national independence, social progress and democracy and regarded them as its friends; it did not seek any advantage for itself and did not aspire to political domination or solicit military bases. As Mr. Brezhnev had said, the policy of peace, non-interference in internal affairs, respect for independence and territorial integrity, equality and mutually beneficial co-operation which the Soviet Union was pursuing in Europe was also its policy in all parts of the world.

34. The decision by the Council to give special consideration to co-operation in science and technology at the current session was justified by the importance of the subject. It occupied a prominent place in Soviet external economic relations; more than 2,200 universities and technical and research institutes were participating in multilateral and bilateral co-operation with the socialist countries. There had also been an expansion of scientific and technological co-operation with capitalist countries, with which nearly 60 intergovernmental agreements had been signed by 1 July 1977. The adoption by the United States Congress of discriminatory trade regulations had, however, prevented a number of joint projects on which agreement had been reached with United States companies from being carried out. Soviet co-operation with developing countries was mainly through the provision of experts. The Soviet Government attached great importance to co-operation through international organizations as a means of accelerating scientific and technological progress. Soviet scientists and specialists were now preparing for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which his delegation hoped would mark a major advance in co-operation in that field.

35. Regional co-operation could be of particular value. Useful work was being carried out by ECE in convening high-level meetings on problems of the environment, energy and transport, which it was hoped would provide experience that could be put to use on a world scale.

36. His delegation firmly supported the restructuring of United Nations mechanisms in the social and economic sectors, provided that due caution was observed. During discussions of the subject, ill-considered proposals had sometimes been made which might lead to a breakdown of existing mechanisms. He wished to deprecate undue haste and the taking of rash decisions the ultimate significance of which was unclear and upon which the members of the Council were not of one mind. Care must be taken to avoid irretrievable damage to the United Nations system, and it must not be assumed that more complexity necessarily meant greater efficiency. In particular, his delegation was resolutely opposed to linking the restructuring of the Council's subsidiary bodies and their methods of work with a revision of the Charter of the United Nations.

37. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union had emphasized at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, a restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis was a prerequisite for the achieving of *détente*, but unless

détente was achieved and led in its turn to disarmament, the capacity of States to accelerate their social and economic development would be limited by a lack of resources. The Soviet Union held that there was no reasonable alternative to peaceful coexistence and disarmament; it had taken a new initiative in that direction through the proposals it had made at the recent tenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament. It had proposed absolute cuts in the military budgets of countries with high economic and military potential, in the first instance those that were permanent members of the Security Council. It had also proposed that agreement should be reached on specific sums which each State would make available for increased assistance to the developing countries from the savings made by reductions in its military budget. It would be desirable to establish a mechanism within the United Nations for the allocation of such sums.

38. The Soviet delegation wished to affirm its willingness to co-operate constructively at the current session with all interested parties in seeking mutually acceptable arrangements on all major items on the Council agenda.

39. Mr. CLARK (World Bank) said that the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank would shortly consider the draft of a world development report, in which an attempt would be made to put into perspective the progress made by the global economy during the past quarter century. It would indicate areas in which there had been failures and those where success had been achieved, as well as prospects for both during the next decade. It would lead to a better understanding of the linkages in the global economy. The report was a projection of what might happen to the global economy by the year 1985, and less clearly beyond that point to the end of the century, on the basis of reasonable assumptions regarding national and international policies. The linkages between various aspects of development were made clear, as also was the two-way connexion between population growth and poverty, and the true nature of interdependence was explained. It was made apparent that the economies of all nations—the industrialized, the middle-income and the poorest—affected each other for good or for ill far more directly than had been supposed.

40. The extent of the Bank's effort to play its part in improving the lot of the developing countries was illustrated by the fact that during the preceding fiscal year the Bank had committed \$6.1 billion for investment in development projects, while IDA had committed a further \$2.4 billion in the poorest countries.

41. Food production and energy were prominent among global priorities. The food deficit of developing countries, which FAO had estimated at some 80 million tons in 1975, might rise to between 120 and 145 million tons. While the higher-income and middle-income developing countries should be able to meet their needs through purchase, the low-income, food-deficit countries of Africa and southern Asia, accounting for two thirds of the population of the third world, might not be able to finance the level of imports required. Those countries must therefore find the means of growing their additional food domestically and many would require to make difficult policy decisions in areas such as land reform, agricultural credit and extension services. There was need for rural institutions which would pay as much attention to promoting productivity among the poor as had generally been given to protecting the power of the privileged. Developments

since 1973 had reinforced the Bank's conviction that the ability of the small farmer to produce food in the major food-deficit countries was critical. There was also growing evidence that lower birth rates, and therefore a reduction of population growth, was a function of improvement in economic and social living conditions. Finally, growing emphasis had been laid in the draft report on poverty issues and on the need for increased international and national efforts aimed at the rural poor.

42. The target set for the Bank by its President in 1973 had been met. Some \$10 billion had been lent for agriculture and rural development—about \$6 billion in 1973 dollar terms—for 360 projects in the period 1974-1978; the target of \$4.4 billion had therefore been exceeded by about 35 per cent. The Bank's lending for agriculture in real terms had almost doubled compared to the 1969-1973 period. In the 1978 fiscal year, total lending for some 90 agricultural projects had reached \$3.3 billion, whereas the earlier record, which had been set the previous year, had been \$2.3 billion. Within those totals, the share of projects in which more than half of the direct benefits were expected to accrue to the poor had grown from 26 per cent in the fiscal year 1973 to 55 per cent currently. The Bank considered that some 18 million out of the 30 million beneficiaries of the Bank's agricultural lending in the fiscal year 1978 belonged to the target group of the rural poor.

43. The Bank's experience since 1973 had shown that a fair measure of success had been achieved wherever there had existed a good technical basis and a well-established delivery system to farmers. Where delivery systems and institutions were weak, the likelihood of success was much smaller. Experience suggested that technical assistance or technical development projects should be given greater emphasis in meeting the requirements of marginal areas. The Bank had also found that, to reach the rural poor, it was important to design projects with a measure of flexibility, so that in the course of implementing those projects revisions were possible. Project implementation required strong management and the Bank had therefore paid particular attention to strengthening the institutional framework, with a view to ensuring that developmental activities were programmed and carried out in the most appropriate order; training was a high-priority component of many of those projects.

44. In the field of energy, the Bank had already lent more than \$9 billion, primarily for electric power projects; it had also financed projects in coal mining, and in oil and gas transport and processing. To date, one fifth of all Bank lending had been for energy development; the Bank was the major external source of financial support in that sector, providing significantly more than the combined lending of all other official sources, multilateral and bilateral. The Bank had provided \$4.5 billion for 90 power projects during the past five years and had under consideration 106 projects with a total of \$6.9 billion for the next five years. Special emphasis was being given to sources of energy generation other than oil, and in particular to hydro-electric, coal and geothermal sources. Greater support would be given to investments in distribution systems designed to provide service to the poor, especially those in rural areas.

45. The Bank had remained outside the petroleum production area until quite recently, for two reasons. Firstly, when prices had been low and supplies plenti-

ful, the economic justification for petroleum investments in most developing countries had been marginal. Secondly, where economic justification existed, financing had been available from other sources. The picture had changed significantly since 1973-1974. Only 14 oil-importing developing countries were producers but 50 or 60 developing countries had a potential for producing petroleum or gas at economic prices. In most of those countries, crude oil production costs would be in the range of \$3 to \$6 per barrel; that compared very favourably with North Sea and Alaska costs and with the \$12 per barrel cost of imported oil in industrialized countries. Also, the benefits of petroleum development in those same countries would be substantial if their reliance on oil imports were cut to less than 50 per cent by 1990, compared to 80 per cent in 1977, notwithstanding increased consumption rates. It was clear that most oil-importing developing countries needed assistance to develop such resources and to attract the considerable external financing required, while safeguarding their national interests.

46. The Bank had made its first loan for oil and gas production in 1977 in the form of a \$150 million loan to India to develop the Bombay High Offshore Field and now had a greatly enlarged lending programme for fuel development, which would grow to about eight operations annually from 1981 onwards, with yearly lending amounting to approximately \$500 million. The Bank's financing would represent only about 10-20 per cent of project costs, but it would be a catalyst, making it possible for the balance to come from other sources in the form of suppliers' credits or through other bilateral or private facilities.

47. The Bank did not plan to finance exploration but would provide technical and other assistance to help oil-importing developing countries to attract foreign capital for exploration on terms and conditions fair and beneficial to the host country.

48. The crux of the Bank's recent focus on rural and urban poverty had been to design projects which would increase the productivity, and consequently the income, of the poor and provide them with essential services. Such projects must be reproducible, in the sense that they could be expanded to benefit large numbers of people without excessive financial or institutional burdens. That objective had required that special attention be paid to the appropriateness of the technology used, which must be adapted to development goals and to local conditions. The Bank, either by itself or in collaboration with others, must promote the innovations needed to make available to developing countries technology appropriate to their needs. Projects financed by the Bank must also develop local capacity to plan for, select, design, implement, manage, and when necessary adapt and develop, appropriate technology.

49. The four co-operative programmes undertaken jointly with FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UNIDO were the main instruments of the Bank in its operational co-ordination with other agencies of the United Nations system. During the current fiscal year, the Bank/FAO programme would have staffed and carried out 181 missions to 54 countries to assist Governments to identify and prepare projects suitable for Bank financing and to support country economic and sector reviews. The Bank and IFAD had agreed to co-operate in the promotion of food production in the developing countries, both through co-financing and through Bank appraisal and supervision of projects to be financed exclusively by IFAD. A rural development project in

the United Republic of Tanzania would be the first example of Bank/IFAD co-financing.

50. The Bank had recently agreed to co-sponsor, together with WHO and UNDP, the long-range Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases and to serve as fiscal agent for the Programme. The objectives were to control six major tropical diseases and to increase the ability of the countries directly concerned to deal with the diseases through the training of scientists and technicians and the strengthening of research institutions. While the programme was global in concept, the primary focus would be on Africa.

51. The Bank had joined UNDP, UNICEF, UNEP and UNFPA, as also some bilateral aid agencies, in extending financial support to the United Nations publication *Development Forum*, which would be published fortnightly in several languages and would carry early detailed information on Bank and other multilaterally financed projects.

52. Bank policy had always been to develop in the borrowing country the local capability to conceive, design and carry out development work on a self-sustaining basis. The use of local consultants was therefore encouraged, while borrowers were also urged to consider the use of qualified consultants from other developing countries. The Bank's procurement guidelines also encouraged the use of contractors and manufacturers in the borrowing country, in line with the need for economy and efficiency in all projects and for giving opportunities to all members, whether developed or developing, to compete in the provision of goods and services. Over one third by value of all contracts awarded under World Bank loans and credits since the fiscal year 1973 and gone to firms in the developing world.

53. The Bank was committed to a fundamental belief that the abolition of absolute poverty and the approach towards better standards of life in the third world could only be achieved with the recognition that there was a mutual interest between rich and poor in co-operating to achieve the ends of development. The goal could be reached only by seeing to it that the industrialized nations and the developing world were not unequal contenders for a limited store of wealth but must be equal partners in expanding that wealth and in distributing it more equitably through the expansion of the productivity of the poor.

54. Mr. DAVIES (Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization) said that he would concentrate his remarks on the World Climate Programme,² which would be presented in full detail to the Eighth World Meteorological Congress in 1979. WMO had decided to launch the new Programme because there was wide recognition that many important aspects of progress and development were very sensitive to climate and its fluctuations and that improved knowledge of those subjects had therefore become an essential input into the over-all planning process. In many cases, the hard-earned progress which had been achieved in economic development had rendered the economy more vulnerable to climatic fluctuations. Furthermore, as a result of such progress, especially in industrial development, man's own activities might now be influencing the world's climate.

55. The World Climate Programme would aim to improve significantly and rapidly the advice and informa-

² See *Annual Report of the World Meteorological Organization, 1977* (WMO—No. 502), p. 28.

tion which each national meteorological and hydrological service already provided at the national level. That process would be greatly assisted by existing WMO programmes, in particular the World Weather Watch and the new geo-stationary meteorological satellite system. Another component of the Programme would involve a broad study of the impact of climate on human activities. Several climate-sensitive fields had already been identified for special study under that component, namely energy, agriculture and forestry, the development of ocean resources, ecology and the environment, water resources use and management, and socio-economic conditions. Close co-operation was envisaged between WMO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UNEP, as also non-governmental bodies such as the International Council of Scientific Unions and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. A further component of the World Climate Programme would deal with research on climate change and variability.

56. An essential element in the planning of the World Climate Programme was the World Climate Conference, scheduled to take place in February 1979, which would bring together approximately 100 of the world's leading scientists in the various fields concerned. The papers which they would present would

form a comprehensive analysis of the whole subject, from which would emerge proposals and recommendations that would be submitted to the World Meteorological Congress later in the year.

57. The plans of WMO regarding the World Climate Programme were of considerable relevance to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, to be held in 1979, particularly in the fields of agriculture and energy.

58. Apart from the World Climate Programme, WMO was making strenuous efforts to solve existing problems, in particular in the drought-stricken Sudano-Saharan region. A new regional research and training institute at Niamey was nearing completion and action was being taken to improve the climate data collection and utilization system in countries of the region. WMO was also co-operating with UNEP in following up decisions taken at the United Nations Conference on Desertification.³ Other current activities included work to mitigate the devastation caused by tropical cyclones and work on long-term weather modification programmes.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

³ See A/CONF.74/36.

21st meeting

Friday, 7 July 1978, at 3.35 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.21

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. LOPEZ PAZ (Cuba) said that the Council was meeting at a time when negotiations on the new international economic order had experienced a setback and events were no longer moving in a direction favourable to the developing countries. That was very evident from the results of various recent international meetings. Nevertheless, the developing world still had to place its hopes in the slow process of negotiation, and in spite of the absence of tangible progress it was just possible to catch a glimpse of a more satisfactory final outcome.

2. The deterioration in the economies of the developing countries was only too obvious. The economic difficulties of the developed countries, including falling production, rising unemployment, monetary upheavals and the disorganization of trade, imposed on the third world an even greater burden in the form of the increased cost of imported manufactures, capital goods and technology. There was also the aggravating factor of the fall in the real prices of the developing countries' exports of raw materials and commodities.

3. The continued deterioration in the terms of trade of the developing countries and the extent of their external debts had been used by the majority of developed capitalist countries as a lever in international negotiations in order to obtain a position of advantage

and impose their own wishes. Energetic steps would have to be taken to reverse that state of affairs, and if that meant initiating a new stage of confrontation in international economic relations, it was obvious where the blame lay. At the first meeting of the Committee of the Whole in May 1978, for example, the developing countries had pursued a moderate line, in the hope of translating the ideal of equitable international economic relations into a palpable reality, but the industrialized countries of the West had not been prepared to give up the profits earned from the exploitation of the developing countries. It was becoming progressively more obvious that the present system could not guarantee the necessary elements for the development of the economically backward countries or for the elimination of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and the evil legacies of colonial domination and exploitation.

4. The primary requirement was to bring export and import prices into a proper relationship. A radical transformation of the whole structure of world trade was needed, if it was to serve its fundamental purpose of assisting the economic and social development of all peoples. Periodic adjustments of the prices of basic commodities were essential, in order to protect the purchasing power of the under-developed countries from variations in exchange rates and to curtail the abuses of transnational corporations, which, in sophisticated but effective fashion, violated with impunity the sovereignty of numerous countries. It was necessary not merely to deal with so-called corrupt practices, but to analyse all aspects of such corpora-

tions' activities and in certain circumstances arrange for an inflow of capital into the weak economies of the developing countries, where the withdrawal of funds had led to a capital deficiency of alarming proportions.

5. A further urgent necessity was to eliminate, on a non-reciprocal basis, tariff and non-tariff barriers and the protectionist measures which the capitalist countries had introduced to keep out exports from the developing countries. The monetary policies of the imperialist States had at the same time reduced the already modest reserves of the developing countries, and the revaluation of gold had greatly benefited the capitalist States, which held most of it.

6. What was required was a guarantee of remunerative prices for the developing countries' exports, a new international monetary system ensuring the necessary stability, a lasting solution to the problems of external debt, and access to markets, technology and financial resources without protectionist and discriminatory practices. The movement of the non-aligned States was active in defence of the interests of the developing countries, and the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, to be held at Havana in 1979, would mark an important stage on the road to a better world.

7. He reminded the Council that four years had passed since the General Assembly, in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), had adopted the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, to counter the growing disparity between the developing and the developed countries. That decision had been confirmed and extended at the seventh special session of the Assembly. Nevertheless, the disparity had continued to increase and the economic imbalance had now reached alarming proportions. It was therefore reasonable to ask whether the means used to implement the new international economic order had been effective and whether the present dialogue with capitalist countries was the most suitable course to pursue.

8. At the tenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, the Cuban representative had drawn attention to the possibility of making available for the financing of development the vast resources squandered on armaments. Under-development was not inevitable, but had been caused by colonialism and imperialism, which, not content with looting the natural riches of Africa, Asia and Latin America, had established unequal terms of trade as an additional means of commercial exploitation and had left behind economic structures which prevented industrialization. If the guiding principle of plunder were abandoned, thousands of millions of dollars now spent on weapons would be made available for development.

9. Cuba was well aware of the sacrifices required in the interests of development, especially since it had had to endure 18 years of economic blockade, which had only been overcome by the heroic will of the Cuban people and the unstinting and disinterested assistance of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. Cuba had thus been able to advance along the path of integral development to a point where unemployment and poverty no longer existed and health, education and culture were freely available to all. He hoped to see the whole developing world follow the same path to independence, sovereignty and justice.

10. Mr. ÅLGÅRD (Observer for Norway) said that Norway, as a small country, had always believed that the United Nations should play a leading role in the economic and social field. That would put the world Organization in a better position to discharge the political tasks assigned to it under the Charter. The principal political challenge confronting the world community at the present time was to mobilize all human and material resources for the total and final elimination of mass poverty, under which more than a thousand million members of the human race were suffering.

11. He welcomed the promising and constructive work which had been and was being done in various parts of the United Nations system, and also the increased attention being devoted by the main policy-making bodies of the United Nations to economic and social problems. The convening of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly had been an indication that the world community was on the way to getting its priorities right. There was however still some lack of coherence in the United Nations system, and he hoped that the recommendations by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System would bring about an improvement. The recommendations made—although they might have been more far-reaching—should at least be implemented promptly.

12. His Government fully supported the call by the President of the Economic and Social Council (17th meeting) for a clear realization of the interdependence of the economies of developed and developing countries and shared the view that progress in that direction had been slow. The United Nations should give stronger leadership in global discussions and negotiations on international economic issues, and he therefore welcomed the setting up by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session of the Committee of the Whole, the success of which was of crucial importance to all countries.

13. He believed that it would be wrong to write off the first session of the Committee as a failure, but the experience gained during the meeting in New York in May 1978 should be examined closely. The Committee had an important part to play in providing leadership in the whole North-South dialogue. The quality of its leadership would depend on two factors, the level of representation and the political nature of its decisions and recommendations. If the Committee was to be effective, representation at a high political level was called for and that should be borne in mind in the organization of its meetings, particularly in regard to their frequency and duration. The decisions reached should be concise enough to get across to more specialized bodies the message of what the political leaders wanted, but should leave the details of implementation to the specialists.

14. Although those requirements had not been met at the first session, positive and constructive discussions had been held during the days when countries participating had been represented at a high level. He had welcomed, for example, a broader recognition than ever before on the part of the industrialized countries of the need for structural changes in the world economy. The qualitative aspects of aid had been discussed in a more dispassionate, unprejudiced and practical way than in the past. There had certainly been no complete meeting of minds over the whole range of prob-

lems, but there had been a sufficiently broad consensus to have justified a final document representing a recognizable step forward in the North-South dialogue.

15. All participants had to share the blame for the failure to produce broad guidelines on what really transpired during the session, but the important thing now was to look to the future. Not only the future of the Committee as such was at stake, but the whole leadership role of the United Nations in the global economic and social field.

16. Mr. ZAITON (Malaysia) said that the present session of the Council came at a time when the world economy was in a critical state and its future was uncertain. The deterioration in the international economic situation was one matter on which all members of the Council could agree.

17. In spite of the international community's general acceptance of global economic interdependence, practical action had lagged behind such theoretical recognition, and the absence of any positive development was a matter of grave concern to all developing countries. The minor adjustments made so far to the international economic system were no substitute for political action to adopt a radically new structure and thus give real meaning to the concept of equal partnership in international economic co-operation.

18. The rate of economic recovery from the world recession of 1974-1975 had been most unsatisfactory and there was little prospect of higher growth during the present year. The reason was obvious: some of the major industrialized nations were unwilling to expand faster than planned, while the rest were content to pursue a slow recovery. The urgent requirement was for a co-ordinated strategy by the developed industrialized countries up to 1980 to promote non-inflationary world economic growth, leading to higher employment, a reduction of international payment imbalances, a revitalization and expansion of international trade and more stable exchange rates.

19. He could not agree with the argument put forward by a number of countries with substantial current account surpluses that the reflation of their economies could lead to inflation. Economic growth with minimum inflation could still be achieved by expansion in the right areas, such as food and agricultural production.

20. One of the major negative effects of the slow recovery was the sluggishness of world trade, which had grown by only 4 per cent in 1977 as compared with 11 per cent in 1976. The outlook for 1978 was not promising, especially in view of the protectionist measures contemplated or already implemented by some developed countries. Any deterioration in world trade could not fail to bear heavily on the developing countries, which depended to a large extent on the earnings of their export trade to finance development projects, pay off loans or merely service their enormous debts. A decrease in the volume of world trade would inevitably condemn the great majority of the developing countries and their peoples to a life of economic disorder and perhaps even of political anarchy. A commitment by the developed nations to an all-round liberalization of trade was therefore more important than ever, to enable real growth and expansion to be achieved. It would then be possible to look forward to a satisfactory conclusion of the multilateral trade negotiations, with the developing countries receiving a greater and fairer share of world trade in accordance

with the objectives of the new international economic order.

21. The multilateral trade negotiations were entering a crucial stage. It was unfortunate that the developing countries were not fully integrated in the negotiating process, since there could be no useful results without taking into account all the countries concerned. In the present state of world interdependence, it was not enough for the industrialized countries to reach agreements among themselves. Although there had been some progress in certain areas, the negotiations so far had not fulfilled the developing countries' expectations, as set forth in the Tokyo Declaration and section I of resolution 91 (IV) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.¹ The growing protectionism of the 1970s was designed to insulate the inefficient domestic industries of the developed market-economy countries from competition with developing countries. Measures such as "voluntary export restraints" and "orderly marketing arrangements" gave preferential treatment to suppliers from developed countries, to the detriment of suppliers from the developing countries, whose export capacity was seriously impaired, with a consequent weakening of their ability to earn the foreign exchange they so urgently needed. The problem of access to markets had become a major preoccupation of the developing countries.

22. Another unsatisfactory feature of international economic co-operation was the commodities problem, in particular the lack of progress in the negotiations to implement Conference resolution 93 (IV) on the Integrated Programme for Commodities.² More than two years had passed since the fourth session of the Conference, but despite repeated declarations of principle and intent by many developed countries, there were no tangible results.

23. Two sessions of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities had ended in failure. As far as individual commodity meetings were concerned, although the deadline for the completion of preparatory work on commodities which were not the subject of an agreement had been the end of February 1978, the negotiating conference stage had been reached only in the case of natural rubber. For the other commodities, the preparatory phase was far from completion, despite numerous meetings and extensive studies and discussions. In fact the studies requested often seemed to have been mere devices for reopening issues already agreed upon in UNCTAD or elsewhere, or for delaying action. In the circumstances, he welcomed the sixth session of the *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Committee on the Integrated Programme for Commodities, due to take place the following week, and hoped that it would exert the necessary pressure on Governments to ensure progress on the individual commodities.

24. His delegation wished to record its appreciation of the untiring efforts of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in fulfilling the tasks entrusted to him by General Assembly resolution 32/193 of 19 December 1977. A few of the developed countries had recently supported certain essential elements of the Common Fund as envisaged by the developing countries, and he hoped their example would be followed by the

¹ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10), part one, sect. A, p. 15.

² *Ibid.*, p. 6.

other developed countries, so as to hasten the establishment of the Fund. He read out an excerpt from the joint communiqué of the eleventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Thailand from 14 to 16 June 1978, in which the foreign ministers expressed concern at the delay in establishing the Common Fund and at the lack of progress in the preparations for the negotiations on individual commodities; reaffirmed their support for the position of the Group of 77 on the Fund and their determination to work for an early resumption of the Negotiating Conference; and urged Governments to take the necessary action on individual commodities under the Integrated Programme for Commodities.

25. Another important factor in economic co-operation between the developed and the developing countries was the restructuring of world industrial production. In that connexion, he deeply regretted the failure of the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency, held earlier in the year. Despite that setback, the industrialized countries had the responsibility for facilitating the speedy implementation of the programme of global industrial restructuring by concentrating on high-technology manufactures, leaving the developing countries to concentrate on those areas where they had the comparative advantage, particularly that of their raw materials.

26. One problem which weighed heavily against the interests of the developing countries was the decline in the transfer of real resources, particularly financial resources. The only redeeming feature had been the greatly increased flow of official development aid from the QPEC countries, whose contributions had exceeded the target set for the Second United Nations Development Decade. It was unfortunate that the deliberations on that issue in the Committee of the Whole had revealed more differences than agreement between participants. Despite divergent positions, there was still an urgent need for the industrialized countries to increase their official development assistance on a predictable and continuing basis and on more favourable terms. Donor countries should take immediate steps to increase the capital resources of multilateral financial institutions, in particular the World Bank and the regional development banks, so that they could play a greater role in development financing, in keeping with the objectives and priorities of the developing countries. Those institutions should also adopt more favourable policies towards the developing countries, for example by softening the terms of their assistance, subsidizing interest payments, offsetting the inflationary aspect of the cost of their projects and facilitating access to the capital markets of the developed countries through measures such as guarantees.

27. The chaotic conditions which had prevailed in recent years in the international monetary system and their negative impact on the developing countries' economies called for an immediate reorganization of the system. Measures must be taken without delay to revise the operating system of IMF in order to make it more responsive to the needs of developing countries. As a first step, the developing countries should be given freer access to the IMF compensatory financing facility, in order to assist them with their balance-of-payment difficulties. The present quota limit of 75 per cent and the limit on drawings in the first shortfall year of 50 per cent should be raised to 100 per cent and 75 per cent respectively. What was needed was an increase in SDRs, so that adequate allocations could

be made available and easily accessible to the developing countries.

28. One of the negative features of the present international monetary system was the instability in the exchange rates of the major reserve currencies, particularly the United States dollar, which had resulted in substantial losses in the value of the developing countries' reserves. IMF was responsible for supervising the exchange rates of its members, and in view of the present grave situation, should devote its attention mainly to the currencies of the major industrialized countries.

29. He had referred only to the more pressing economic problems which continued to plague the international community. The common thread running through all these issues was the need for a just relationship between the developed and the developing countries which would strengthen the international economic system and make interdependence a reality.

30. At the same time, the developing countries, individually and collectively, must continue their efforts to increase their self-reliance in order to be worthy partners. In that connexion, he stressed the importance of economic co-operation among developing countries.

31. Mr. MILI (Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union) welcomed the Council's decision to treat science and technology as priority topics for the debates at the present session, since their application to telecommunications was of vital interest to ITU. The International Consultative Committees of ITU were responsible for a range of scientific studies, the results of which had been reflected in major advances in telecommunications over the past few years.

32. The development of telecommunication services, however, was not an end in itself; those services became significant only when they were made available to the public or when they helped to ensure safety of life. The vital importance of telecommunications in ensuring the safety of life at sea, in the air and in natural disasters was becoming daily more apparent, and the general availability of telecommunication services was a key factor in the establishment of a new international economic order.

33. The role of telecommunications in transport was largely taken for granted in the present age of high-speed aircraft and congested shipping lanes, but those concerned with the safety and efficiency of transport services had to make constant efforts to improve communications in the mobile services. An impressive range of telecommunication systems was placed at the disposal of aircraft and ships. In addition to providing the means for telephone and telegraph communication, radio frequencies were employed in navigational aids, radar systems, satellite communications with mobile stations, and in a host of safety devices.

34. The continuing development of telecommunications for the use of the mobile services involved a co-ordinated effort by ITU and other specialized agencies, in particular IMCO and ICAO. In meteorological matters, ITU maintained a close working relationship with WMO, both in collecting weather data and in disseminating forecast information.

35. The outstanding event in mobile communications in the past six months had been the World Administrative Radio Conference for the Aeronautical Mobile Service held at Geneva in February 1978, attended by representatives of 92 countries and many international

organizations. The Conference had fixed new boundaries for the major world air-route areas, regional and domestic air-route areas and meteorological transmission areas, taking into account new world political situations and developments in civil aviation which had taken place since the preceding Conference in 1966.

36. The world economic system was moving towards a more equitable economic order, and the continued economic and social development of the less favoured countries depended largely on their integration in the world economy. ITU was following with close attention the application of the directives of the General Assembly on the action to be taken for the attainment of those objectives. It was continuing to give effect, within its area of competence, to the policy guidelines and recommendations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Administrative Council of ITU at its thirty-third session had noted the decision in General Assembly resolution 32/174 to convene a special session of the Assembly in 1980 to assess progress in the establishment of the new international economic order and had instructed him to provide the Committee of the Whole with any assistance and support it might require. The Administrative Council had also noted General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and had instructed him to continue to report on the application of the decisions contained in that resolution.

37. The Administrative Council had been kept informed of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and welcomed the inclusion of the item "Transport and communications" in the list of topics of particular interest singled out at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. The application of modern technology to development was an essential element of progress towards a new international economic order. Great strides had been made in the development of new techniques in the telecommunication sector, which provided the means of narrowing the gap between the haves and the have-nots in the provision of telecommunication services. The dissemination of information had become easier and cheaper with the advent of modern transmission systems. The distance factor had thus become less important in cost evaluation, and geographical location was no longer a major cause of isolation.

38. To be properly assessed and applied, technological advances and reductions in the cost of equipment and services must be accompanied by international agreements on standards and regulations. ITU was the only international organization competent to regulate telecommunications, and the standards recommended by the International Consultative Committees were accepted and applied on a world-wide basis.

39. The International Radio Consultative Committee would be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary during the current year. The results of its work were compiled in 13 volumes published in English, French and Spanish and brought up to date every four years. The information contained in those volumes represented a great effort by ITU to make telecommunications technology available without discrimination. Many of the studies applied directly to the developing countries.

40. Work during the past two decades for the conclusion of technical and operational agreements on

international satellite systems had culminated in the World Broadcasting-Satellite Administrative Radio Conference, held at Geneva early in 1977, to plan the direct broadcasting-satellite service. The introduction of the service was of special significance to the developing countries, which, unlike the developed countries, had no broadcasting infrastructure and lacked time and resources to construct an elaborate network of sound and television broadcasting stations. It would enable them to catch up with the developed countries and provide complete national sound and television broadcasting coverage within a reasonable period.

41. The Conference, which had been attended by 112 delegations, had been one of a series of world administrative radio conferences organized under the auspices of ITU. Other conferences had been convened during the past ten years on various items, including satellite communication, maritime radiocommunications, long-wave and medium-wave broadcasting, and radiocommunications in the Aeronautical Mobile Service. The culminating point of those conferences would be the conference scheduled for 1979 to deal with the general revision of the Radio Regulation, which had last been revised in 1959. The coming revision would determine the pattern of radiocommunications until the year 2000.

42. ITU had been gratified by the Council's expression of appreciation at its sixty-third session of the way in which ITU had carried out its work in Africa (see Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977). The Administrative Council of ITU had noted with satisfaction that in resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977, proclaiming a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the General Assembly had stressed the special responsibilities of ITU in the implementation of the resolution. The Administrative Council had confirmed that ITU would give all possible support. ITU had taken part in the consultations leading up to the preparation of a number of reports in response to that resolution and had shown particular interest in the preparation of proposals for a World Communications Year. At its thirty-third session, the Administrative Council had recommended that member States of ITU should support the proposal to proclaim 1983 as World Communications Year.

43. The proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa would give additional impetus to the establishment of the Pan-African telecommunications network. ITU, together with the regional bodies concerned, in particular OAU, ECA and the African Development Bank, along with the countries concerned, would intensify its efforts to develop telecommunications on the African continent.

44. The improvement of regional telecommunication infrastructures was one of the main tasks to be accomplished during the Second United Nations Development Decade. Telecommunication development targets, in the form of general plans for the international and regional networks, had been formulated by the ITU World and Regional Plan Committees. A large proportion of ITU technical co-operation, with the financial support of UNDP, had been directed towards the provision of regional networks based on plans endorsed by the countries of the region.

45. Significant developments were taking place in the region comprising the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin. Telecommunication developments in

that part of the world would provide a very solid link between Africa, Asia and Europe. ITU studies of the telecommunication infrastructure in the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin had resulted in detailed proposals for development over the next decade and beyond. The ITU recommendations had been supported by the 27 countries concerned and practical measures were being taken to improve the telecommunication network of that region. Recent decisions concerning the establishment of the ARABSAT Telecommunication System were of particular significance for the region, the goal being to launch the first satellite in the early 1980s and thus put into operation the first regional satellite system capable of reaching 90 per cent of the population of the participating coun-

tries. ITU would continue to co-operate with those countries in ensuring the orderly development of their network.

46. Electronic systems could be used for the operation of earth resources satellites, for educational television, for telephone switching and for many other purposes, thus helping to promote the new development strategy. To attain the objectives that had been fixed, the powerful media available presented a challenge: that of learning how best to use new technology to combat poverty in the world and to strengthen international peace. ITU had resolved to take up that challenge within the limits of its competence and its resources.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

22nd meeting

Monday, 10 July 1978, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.22

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. Mr. KUNDU (India) said that the Economic and Social Council, which was a vital link in the dialogue to build a new international economic order, would be debating issues that had a critical bearing on the fate of mankind. It was to be hoped that, after reorganization, the Council would be in a position to do full justice to the role assigned to it by the Charter of the United Nations.

2. The international economy was still beset by various afflictions. For the fourth year in succession, developed market economies had been faced with problems relating to inflation, unemployment, the sluggish growth of GDP, instability in exchange markets and growing resistance to structural change. A slow rate of growth and the persistence of stagnation, inflation and balance-of-payments problems could be expected in 1978. Those problems had led the developed market-economy countries to resort to inward-looking remedies that appeared to be dictated by the exigencies of their short-term interest. In particular, the recrudescence of protectionist trends was a matter for grave concern. Selective import restrictions and other non-tariff barriers had increased even more in 1977 than in 1976. Protectionist measures had not distinguished between developed and developing countries and had adversely affected precisely those industries in which the developing countries had a comparative advantage by virtue of their natural endowments. As a result, under-utilization of capacity in those industries and their possible closure would generate massive unemployment in the developing countries, whose balance of payments would be further weakened because they had neither the resources nor the structural and technological flexibility to provide adjustment assistance and alternative opportunities for employment by

shifting resources to other fields. Protectionist measures thus retarded the economies of the developing countries and, in the long run, the world economy as a whole. Unless effective remedial action was taken, the world might well enter an era of generalized restrictions, notwithstanding the notable advances that had been made in the field of trade liberalization through the removal of tariff barriers, particularly among developed countries. The generalized use of the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which permitted import restrictions in exceptional circumstances was surely not in consonance with the spirit of the Agreement.

3. The new strategy for the third development decade must be built on solid foundations. His delegation agreed with the Committee for Development Planning that much of the substance and approach of the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade remained valid, in so far as it had sought to specify a set of mutually consistent goals and objectives and to lay down the obligations and commitments required to fulfil them. That approach must be preserved and further consolidated as the starting point for the formulation of the strategy for the 1980s.

4. At the same time, the new strategy could not ignore the recent momentous changes that had taken place in the world economy and the wide-ranging debate on global economic issues, the most important feature of which had been the adoption of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order at the sixth special session of the General Assembly. Neither could the important shifts of vision that had taken place after the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly be ignored. Social objectives such as equitable redistribution, the removal of unemployment, the expansion of educational and health facilities, the elimination of malnutrition and the participation of the masses in the process of development were at the very core of development and

had been given pride of place in the national development plans of many developing countries. In India, for example, the new Government had placed decisive emphasis on the achievement of social objectives and the satisfaction of various basic needs and had accorded the highest priority to agriculture, integrated rural development and village and small-scale industries. Budgetary outlay on various aspects of rural development and on the promotion of the welfare of the poorest sections of the population had increased more in 1978 than in any other single year. The emphasis placed on such issues in national development plans should not, however, divert attention from the need to restructure world economic relationships. The question of disparities in wealth and living standards among nations was as much an area of legitimate concern as was the plight of the poorest sections of society and must be adequately dealt with in the new international development strategy.

5. It was essential that progress should be made in the dialogues under way in various forums. His Government attached great importance to the early establishment of a common fund for commodities, as envisaged in the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities, and hoped that the consultations undertaken by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would lead to the early resumption of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities. The multi-lateral trade negotiations launched by the Tokyo Declaration of September 1973 were in their final phase, and it seemed clear that the stated objective of additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries would not be achieved unless industrialized countries adopted a more understanding and far-sighted attitude towards the need to improve the world trading system. Regarding the transfer of technology, the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology, scheduled for October/November 1978, would find it difficult to complete and adopt the code of conduct that had been under discussion since the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, unless outstanding differences were resolved during the coming months.

6. Science and technology, which provided the means of banishing poverty, ignorance and destitution, must be utilized with social purpose, in order to meet the challenges of genuine development, facilitate the use and control of indigenous resources and promote self-reliance. The forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would give the international community a unique opportunity to discuss all the related issues. It was now recognized that science and technology affected the whole economy and society, and the Governments of many developing countries had adopted science and technology policies as an integral part of their development plans. There was also a shift of emphasis from the mere transfer of technology from developed countries to the development of national scientific and technological capabilities. Developing countries had pledged to co-operate with one another in that challenging area, since the development of technology suited to their requirements was essential if employment was to be increased and incomes raised above the poverty line. Such technology should be based on the maximum utilization of human resources but should preserve

human dignity in such a manner that machines did not become the master of man. While the developing countries would continue to need advanced technology from developed countries and transnational corporations, the purpose, mode and mechanism of such transfers should be drastically transformed so that they became an integral part of the national development effort and did not prevent the developing countries from building their own capabilities.

7. With regard to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, his delegation considered, firstly, that the exercise should not be allowed to become self-perpetuating and, secondly, that it could not be considered in isolation from the problem of finding adequate resources for the activities of the system as a whole. The resources constraint had been responsible for many of the institutional anomalies that had developed over previous years and the most streamlined organizational superstructure would be of no avail unless that constraint were removed.

8. One of the principal aims of the new development strategy should be to promote co-operation among developing countries. Propitious conditions for economic co-operation had been created on the Asian continent and regional co-operation among countries in the ESCAP region appeared to have gathered momentum over the previous year. His country would shortly be acting as host to a conference of the Trade Ministers of the region to formulate a blueprint for regional co-operation, including the necessary institutional machinery. India had shared and contributed to the development of the present relatively favourable economic position of the ESCAP developing countries. During 1977/78, GDP in India was estimated to have increased by 6 per cent and agricultural production by approximately 12 per cent. Food grain production had reached a new peak level and a record area of additional land had been brought under irrigation. Foreign exchange reserves had increased, thus enabling a more flexible import policy to be adopted. It was significant that the higher rate of growth of the economy had been achieved within the framework of comparative price stability.

9. It was hardly necessary to emphasize the significance of the recent tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, not only for international peace and security but also for the attainment of a more equitable international economic order. There was a close link between disarmament and development; the prospects of the developing countries would be radically transformed if even a small portion of the enormous resources devoted annually to the arms race were set aside for development purposes.

10. The establishment of the Committee of the Whole under General Assembly resolution 32/174 was an extremely important development, in that it had restored to the General Assembly the responsibility for negotiations relating to critical international economic issues. The outcome of the Committee's first session had been inconclusive because of differences of opinion about its role and functions. The Committee's terms of reference were wide and, given the necessary political will, there was no reason why it should not discharge its role effectively. It was to be hoped that both developed and developing countries would demonstrate their will and commitment to continue the dialogue on global economic issues at the Committee's next session.

11. For Mahatma Gandhi, self-reliance had been a composite integrated concept according to which individual, village and national self-reliance were mutually supporting, each being an indispensable link in the chain and contributing to the achievement of global co-operation and interdependence. The ultimate goal was the liberation of the individual from the infirmities and humiliations of poverty and his redemption from fear, greed and violence. His delegation trusted that the Council's deliberations would contribute to the achievement of that goal.

12. In adopting the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the international community had solemnly undertaken to correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations. It had proclaimed that the Declaration would be one of the most important bases of economic relations between all peoples and all nations. Failure to put the Declaration into effect would not only be unethical but would constitute a breach of faith with mankind in its aspiration for a better life. Thus far, however, trends and results had been disappointing. Instead of becoming narrower, the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" had widened and the arms race continued unabated. The question was whether the international community could muster the required political will and determination to accept the challenge. People throughout the world had placed their hopes in the deliberations of the Council, and his delegation urged that everything possible should be done to help them to combat poverty, ignorance, squalor and disease. If solutions were not found in the foreseeable future, the people of the developing countries could not be expected to remain passive spectators.

13. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, had admirably described (18th meeting) the Community's common approach to the most salient contemporary economic and social problems. Accordingly, he would limit his comments to a few issues of particular importance to his country.

14. The Secretary-General had pointed out in his address to the Council at the 17th meeting that the positive elements which had emerged during the past year were outweighed by other disturbing developments. The President of the Economic and Social Council had rightly stated at the same meeting that the world seemed to have lost its way in an economic and social labyrinth. The world at large was in fact confronted with unsatisfactory growth rates, high rates of inflation and a level of unemployment that was increasingly preoccupying national decision-makers. Although those problems were universal, there were substantial differences from country to country in their extent, intensity and interaction. Consequently, policy measures designed to solve national economic problems would also have to differ from country to country.

15. The Programme of Concerted Action adopted in June 1978 at the meeting at ministerial level of representatives of the States members of OECD was a major achievement which should have a direct impact on future North-South relations and was therefore of great relevance to the work of the Council. Its main objective was to achieve, for the short and medium

terms, a combination of policies that would ensure adequate domestic and world-wide demand and create the right environment for sustained growth in both developed and developing countries. The attainment of that objective would require a lower rate of inflation, the maintenance of an open market-oriented economic system, resistance to protectionist tendencies in world trade, a recovery in productive investment and profits, and closer monetary co-operation. A new and essential element of the programme, which had been strongly endorsed by the Netherlands Government, was the recognition of the need to restructure the world economy.

16. Three important notions were outstanding in the documents produced by various international bodies: the need for each country to take action designed for its own specific problems in various national and economic social sectors; the importance of ensuring that measures taken in one country did not neutralize those taken in another; and recognition of the fact that measures taken by the developed countries affected developing countries and *vice versa*.

17. His Government had recently presented to the Netherlands Parliament a package of economic measures designed to reduce government expenditure substantially, with a view to providing fresh incentive for national economic activities and thus strengthening the basis for sustained economic growth and employment. That policy would not in any way affect the present volume of official development aid, which would remain at the high level of over 0.8 per cent of GNP.

18. It had been recognized at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly that structural changes must be brought about in traditional economic patterns in order to distribute the world's wealth more evenly and equitably among all nations. The resolutions adopted at those sessions were the first elaborations on the theme of global interdependence. The reason why the international community had been so slow in implementing them was that interdependence had not thus far been perceived as a fact of life and a matter of economic urgency. It had now become clear to the industrialized countries that the recovery and future growth of their economies would not be possible without parallel and accelerated growth in the third world. Indeed, the Programme of Concerted Action of OECD mentioned a number of areas of mutual interest to OECD countries and the third world, such as the expansion of trade, international public and private investment, energy co-operation and larger aid allocations to raise effective demand in the third world.

19. Some progress had been made in the North-South dialogue at the session of the Committee of the Whole, which had identified important areas of potential agreement on the concepts of interdependence, structural change, basic needs and perhaps on differentiation among developing countries. At its next session, the Committee should be able to identify a limited number of issues on which there was a willingness on the part of all countries to reconsider their positions, with a view to reaching subsequent conclusions.

20. The United Nations, and particularly the Economic and Social Council and the Committee of the Whole, should agree on a work programme for the forthcoming year which concentrated on a limited number of topics in order to achieve tangible results. The first item to be considered should be the transfer of resources. He reminded the Council of the Swedish

suggestion (19th meeting) on the massive transfer of resources and suggested that other sub-items could cover private and public investment, public debt re-scheduling in favour of the least developed countries, and future debt relief. With regard to debt rescheduling, he announced that the Netherlands Government had decided to cancel all outstanding public debts, to a total of approximately \$130 million, of four of the least developed countries, namely Bangladesh, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Upper Volta.

21. A second item on which the work programme should concentrate was the Integrated Programme for Commodities, where agreement on the Common Fund would also constitute a breakthrough in the North-South dialogue. A third item should relate to a comprehensive programme on science and technology, including approval of a code of conduct on the transfer of technology. All those areas represented specific examples of interdependence among industrialized and developing countries.

22. The Committee of the Whole should concentrate on monitoring and promoting specific negotiations, while the Council had the task of defining medium-term and long-term development areas which were clearly of common interest. The Committee for Development Planning had provided a link between the new thinking in OECD and the United Nations system. His delegation viewed General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system as initiating the process of adapting the United Nations system to meet present-day challenges. It appreciated the steps already taken by the Secretary-General, particularly the appointment of the new Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, and endorsed the ACC policy of strengthening co-ordination within the system. Governments in their turn needed to adapt their own methods of work to respond to the requirements laid down in General Assembly resolution 32/197, as further elaborated by the Secretary-General in his opening address to the Council. Such considerations had a bearing on the preparations for the new development strategy and on the strengthening of the Council's functions, which should be pursued at the current session.

23. Lastly, there was need for intensive discussion on long-term development objectives, both within and outside the United Nations system. His Government had appreciated the thorough discussion at the recent joint ACC/CPC meeting and endorsed the view of the Committee for Development Planning that the need for effective and equitable management of the global economy was even greater than previously (E/1978/46, para. 38). The new international development strategy should be compatible with the objectives of a new international economic order and, covering a long-term perspective beyond the 1980s, it should emphasize the intrinsic relationship between structural development in international economic relations and the concept of basic needs. It was important that no attempt should be made to substitute that concept for global restructuring or to put it forward as an exclusive over-all development strategy.

24. Mr. HUMAIDAN (United Arab Emirates) said that the reality of one world had never been more evident than it was at the present time, based as it now was on the sovereign equality of States. Nevertheless, the recent accession to independence of the oppressed peoples of Africa and Asia had revealed a series of

problems which the international community had to face; international life must be cleansed of the last traces of colonialism and the newly independent countries must be given the means of achieving economic and social progress. International co-operation in that field was not a matter of charity but a legal obligation arising from Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations. It was therefore not surprising that most of the items on the Council's agenda for the current session were concerned with furthering the development of the third world.

25. The various reports on the world economic situation justified the uncertainty engendered by the failure of negotiations on a variety of subjects, particularly the North-South dialogue, the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the role of the Committee of the Whole, coupled with the decline in development assistance and the postponement of reforms in the monetary system. The situation had been correctly summed up by the Secretary-General in his opening address to the Council. International economic relations could no longer be directed by the traditional procedures based on the systematic exploitation of peoples. The promotion of development was a prerequisite of a new and just economic order. The appropriate means were not difficult to identify but they required the industrialized countries to give up some of their privileged positions; they had a particular responsibility, in view of their dependence on raw materials and the profits they had made at the expense of third-world countries. Furthermore, their technical superiority made their contribution to all international development undertakings essential. It was therefore regrettable that the contribution of the advanced market-economy countries to public development assistance flows, already markedly below the target for the Second United Nations Development Decade, had declined still further in 1977. To impede the advance of the developing countries ran counter to the interests of developed and developing countries alike. Co-operation among the developing countries was also important for development strategy and should be encouraged in every way. His delegation trusted that the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries would provide effective solutions to the problems which the third world was facing.

26. Speaking on agenda item 18 (transnational corporations), he said that, while transnational corporations could perform useful functions, international law in their regard was inadequate to protect developing countries; indeed, some abuses had affected even advanced countries. His delegation therefore welcomed the recommendation made by the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices that the Council should re-examine the question of convening a conference of plenipotentiaries to conclude an international agreement on that subject. The Council would remember also the resolution adopted by the Institute of International Law at its session in September 1977 on the advisability of an effective legal régime governing transnational corporations.¹

27. In their approach to world economic problems, the United Arab Emirates were guided by their profound faith in the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their belief in the importance of

¹ See *Annuaire de l'Institut de droit international*, vol. 57, tome I (Bâle, Editions S. Karger SA, 1977), pp. 382-386.

international co-operation. Like any undiversified economy dependent on a single non-renewable resource, their economy was vulnerable and they were urgently in need of development to put it on a healthy basis to meet the needs of future generations when they could no longer rely upon oil. Nevertheless, they had unhesitatingly made substantial contributions to public development assistance both bilaterally and internationally, particularly to the Development Fund of OPEC. In absolute terms, the contribution by the United Arab Emirates was greater than that of many large industrialized countries and in relation to their GNP it was several times greater than the maximum ever achieved by the developed countries. It was stated in an article in the *Christian Science Monitor* of 15 June 1977 that Arab nations had outstripped the West in aid-giving. Attempts had been made to attribute the world's economic difficulties to increases in oil prices, but in reality those difficulties had started well before that time; in any case, the unduly low price of oil had been a relic of past exploitation and recent objective studies had confirmed that even the current price of oil was below its real value.

28. The new international economic order also required reforms in economic and social fields at the national level. In the brief period since they had become independent, the United Arab Emirates had spared no effort to provide their people with free education and medical services, in addition to free housing for low-income families. They had also guaranteed women equality before the law, including equal opportunities with men in employment and education, and had adopted special measures in favour of young people. Underprivileged though they had been in the past, the United Arab Emirates were anxious at the present time to put all their resources at the service of their peoples, in addition to fulfilling their obligations towards the international community as a whole and the third-world countries in particular.

29. Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) said that he wished to discuss two major economic issues: the performance of the world economy and balance-of-payments adjustments.

30. Over the previous two years, economic development had generally been disappointing. Although the world economy was still in an expansionary phase, growth rates in the industrialized world had become slow and uneven; almost everywhere, except in the United States of America, unemployment had remained high and world trade was expanding by only 5 per cent per annum. A few of the industrialized countries had made progress in bringing inflation under control but in many others high rates of inflation continued and the situation was worse in the developing world. Exchange markets had once again become unsettled in the last quarter of 1977 and the first quarter of 1978, and their movements reflected major shifts in balances of payments and differentials in inflation rates.

31. Such developments were hazardous for the world economy, since they resulted in an increasing resort to protectionist measures. Although recent measures taken by the industrialized countries had primarily affected trade with other industrialized countries, they had militated against a balanced growth of international trade and had been particularly harmful to the developing countries which were endeavouring to expand their non-traditional exports and which were excessively vulnerable to the stagnation of markets in the industrialized world and to reduced access to those markets.

32. Nevertheless, it would be one-sided to regard the world economic situation as one of unmitigated gloom. In particular, the non-oil-producing developing countries had succeeded in maintaining an average annual growth rate over the period 1976-1978 of only one percentage point less than during the period 1967-1972, although, in view of the decline in their terms of trade since the late 1960s, it had been difficult for many of them to maintain their investment growth rate. In Asia, the growth of GDP in non-oil-producing developing countries had actually exceeded the average for the period 1967-1972 in each of the previous three years—a favourable outcome largely attributable to their pursuit of prudent economic policies of adjustment; growth rates in the Latin American and Caribbean region had been less satisfactory and they had been particularly disappointing in many parts of Africa.

33. There had been a sharp decline in a former major element of imbalance in the world payments situation, namely the current surplus of the major oil exports, which in 1978 stood at under one third of its 1974 figure, those countries having increased their imports of goods and services. Some of the most serious external payments problems of the industrialized countries had also been mitigated. Other serious imbalances, however, had arisen among the industrialized countries, largely owing to the increasing deficit in the United States current account and the sharp increase in the Japanese surplus. Furthermore, non-industrialized countries throughout the world continued to suffer severely from problems of external payment adjustments and indebtedness.

34. In those circumstances, it was becoming increasingly clear that an effectively co-ordinated strategy of policies was required to restore satisfactory growth and price stability and to improve international adjustment processes. In view of the interdependence of national economies, the authorities, at least in the major countries, should take due account of conditions and policies abroad in the formulation of their programmes.

35. The strategy for the period ahead must reflect the fact that it was no longer possible to make a valid distinction between three strong economies—those of the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan—that could lead economic recovery as “locomotives”, and those of a number of other countries preoccupied with balance-of-payments and inflation problems. Many of the latter had made substantial progress in dealing with those two problems, while the position of the United States had weakened in respect of both of them. The strategy must also make a more basic contribution to stability in exchange markets than could be achieved by market intervention and monetary policy.

36. Two factors could be expected to bring about a major improvement in the world payments situation over the next two or three years: the first was the “pipe-line effects” of the depreciation of the United States dollar and of the appreciation of certain other currencies which had not yet been reflected in trade flows, but which were expected to reduce substantially both the United States deficit and the German and Japanese surpluses. The second factor was the expectation of a significantly lower current-account surplus of the OPEC countries in 1980 than in 1977, which would tend to strengthen the payments position of most industrialized countries.

37. The guiding principle in the formulation of a strategy for growth and adjustment was that individual countries, both developed and developing, should contribute to world economic growth in relation to the strength of their payments position and their success in combating inflation. A growth rate below the recent 4.5 to 5 per cent seemed appropriate for the United States of America, in view of the limited slack remaining in its economy and the current tendency for inflation to worsen; it would have the effect of constraining the size of the United States current account deficit. For all industrialized countries combined, the aim for the two years ahead could be a significantly higher growth rate—perhaps by 1 percentage point—than the sub-par rate of about 3.75 per cent experienced in 1977 and expected for 1978, such a modest increase being, in the view of the Fund, fully compatible with the overriding need to combat inflation.

38. The achievement of higher growth, together with the two factors he had mentioned, would lead to a pronounced improvement in the distribution of current account balances in the industrialized world. If national authorities could implement a general strategy along the lines indicated, prospects could be greatly enhanced for a more satisfactory rate of expansion throughout the world economy, within a pattern of differentiated growth rates among countries that would reduce external payment imbalances and diminish the threat of rising protectionism. Such an improvement would make for greater stability of exchange markets and would help to achieve the higher growth rates desired and improve the prospects for developed and developing countries alike.

39. The twice-yearly meetings of the Fund's Interim Committee of 20 Ministers and Central Bank Governors² had proved increasingly fruitful occasions for national policy-makers to receive a concise report on the world economy from the Managing Director, to discuss major issues of common concern and to try to draw policy conclusions. In assisting Ministers to arrive at a common view, the meetings contributed to bettering the world economy. They also played a major role in the Fund's decision-making process on such matters as the enlargement of quotas and of access by members to Fund credit, and a broad range of issues involving SDRs.

40. The extent to which—and the tempo at which—payments imbalances should be eliminated by policy action or be financed continued to be a major issue facing members of the Fund. On the one hand, an excessively abrupt elimination of imbalances could impose intolerable strains on certain economies and, if simultaneously applied on a wide front, might depress the world economy; on the other hand, the perpetuation of large deficits, even if temporarily financed could lead countries not only into severe indebtedness but also to the postponement of necessary adjustments, which could subsequently prove increasingly difficult to make. In recent years, those difficult choices had faced countries in a situation where access to finance was relatively easy for many of them. The Fund itself had substantially enlarged credit to its members, subject to a light degree of conditionality, through the 1974 and 1975 oil facilities and through a substantial liberalization of

its compensatory financing facility. Finance had also been available on a large scale from the international banking system. Without such relatively easy availability of credit, adjustment in many countries, including many of the rapidly developing countries, would have had to be much more abrupt, with severe effects not only on the countries concerned but also, indirectly, on the world economy. As it was, the developing countries had succeeded in maintaining a reasonable growth rate through the most severe post-war recession and had even been able to act as "locomotives" for the world economy at a time when two, and sometimes three, of the major industrialized countries to which he had referred were failing to pull their weight. On the negative side, some countries had used easy bank credit to support levels of private or official consumption which they could not reasonably hope to maintain in the long run and, when adjustments could no longer be delayed, had found the process much more unpleasant. Certain countries had also delayed using the credit tranche resources of the Fund—which were subject to policy conditionality—until all other sources of credit had dried up. At that point, they had found themselves faced not only with a current account deficit too large to be financed on a sustained basis but also with an outflow of capital reflecting their precarious circumstances. The internal tensions that arose when such countries were forced to take the necessary corrective measures as part of a stabilization programme worked out with the Fund sometimes led to the Fund becoming a target of national dissatisfaction, the inevitable hardships of adjustment being associated with it rather than with the situation which had been allowed to develop over the years. In fact, however, the financial resources made available by the Fund itself, or to which access was opened through arrangements supported by the Fund, enabled such countries to make a less painful adjustment than would otherwise be possible.

41. The conditionality to which he had referred meant, broadly, that the member using the credit must have an economic policy programme aimed at restoring in due time equilibrium in its over-all payments position, which often entailed far-reaching policy changes with important effects on the direction of economic growth, the allocation of resources and the distribution of income. There could be no standardized approach; each programme had to be tailored carefully not only to economic circumstances but also to the social and political realities of the country concerned. The Fund was prepared to give technical views on various aspects of a policy package, but it was careful to avoid imposing conditions that would interfere in matters of social choice or the allocation of resources. Because of its central role in the Fund's activities and the sensitivity of the matters dealt with, conditionality was kept under thorough review—an exercise in which the Executive Board of IMF was currently engaged.

42. In recent years, the Fund had extended the scale and duration of its assistance in cases of major disequilibrium. Its stand-by arrangements now frequently covered periods of up to two years and arrangements under the extended fund facility usually covered a three-year period. Under the supplementary financing facility, designed to assist countries whose imbalances were particularly severe, the Fund would be able to make assistance available on a scale about twice as large, in relation to quotas, as hitherto, and it had

² Interim Committee of the Board of Governors on the International Monetary System.

already found it possible to provide enlarged assistance in some exceptional cases. The Fund had also lengthened the period over which repurchases could be made under some of its facilities. Its promotion of the adjustment process was by no means limited to countries seeking to use its resources. It also held intensive consultations with member countries on their economic situation and policies, which, under the amended Articles of Agreement, had acquired additional importance for that process. The new article IV enjoined upon the Fund the duty to ensure—through “firm surveillance”—that a member’s exchange rate was not inappropriate—a provision which would enable the Fund to make a positive contribution to the adjustment process.

43. The various activities of the Fund to which he had referred were directly related to his two main themes—growth and adjustment. Unless growth was internationally balanced, situations were certain to arise where it would have to give way to adjustment, and the damage to growth would be the greater the longer adjustment was postponed and the more severe the distortions that had been allowed to develop. Only policies aiming at both growth and adjustment could bring about a durable improvement in the world economy, in national economies, and ultimately in the economies of individual households.

44. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) observed that there had been little change in the basic issues facing the Council over the last 10 years; only the context and orientation of its labours had changed. What was now required was more specific action-oriented programmes for the benefit of the international community, whose aspirations, set forth in numerous decisions, including the General Assembly resolutions containing the International Development Strategy, the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and the resolution on development and international economic co-operation, had so far met with a disappointing response. The efforts of the rich nations to contain inflation, reduce unemployment and stabilize the prices of raw materials and commodities at “fair and acceptable” levels for both producers and consumers had not produced the results hoped for.

45. Most experts agreed that, on the whole, 1977 had not been a good year. The growth rates of most developing countries had remained at the 1976 levels, some even at 1975 levels. The latest *World Economic Survey* reported a growth rate in the agricultural production of developing countries of only 2.1 per cent, which was lower than the average rate from 1971 to 1976 and far below the 4 per cent target of the International Development Strategy, while the rate for industrial production was much lower than in 1976. Most of the industrialized countries were endeavouring to hold down their rates of inflation, and only a few of them had achieved positive growth, ranging from 1.9 to 6.8 per cent. After a 4.5 per cent decline in world trade in 1975, there had been a rise of about 11 per cent in 1976, but available figures for 1977 indicated only a 6 to 7 per cent growth. The continuing external deficit of the non-oil-exporting developing countries, estimated at about \$25 billion for 1977, reflected a decline in the growth of their export earnings.

46. The major conferences held within and outside the United Nations system in 1977, such as the UNCTAD meetings on the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation and the negotiations on the renewal of the Multi-fibre Arrangement, had done little to improve a deteriorating global economic situation, which had been characterized by a further widening of the gap between rich and poor countries and between intentions and reality.

47. The goal of establishing a new international economic order based on principles of justice, equity and global interdependence, which had been set in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), had remained elusive and little progress had been made in translating the Programme of Action into concrete and viable terms. That failure had served to strengthen the grip of the powerful forces wishing to preserve their pre-eminence in the existing world economic structure by perpetuating the inequities which had contributed to its lopsided development. As a result, it had become more difficult to carry through the requisite structural changes in vital sectors of the world economy.

48. At their London summit meeting in May 1977, the seven heads of State representing the main industrialized nations, while agreeing to expand opportunities for trade and to strengthen the open international trading system, had emphasized their rejection of protectionism. Nevertheless, protectionism had continued unchecked, particularly in countries which were supposedly the leading exponents of an open international trading system, and a number of developed countries were in the process of institutionalizing some of the most damaging types of protectionist measures, such as the creation of artificial barriers to protect industries incapable of sustaining international competition. That attitude had also seriously hampered trade liberalization efforts in the current multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of GATT and, after more than three years, there had been no substantial improvement in the over-all trading position of developing countries, whose efforts to reduce barriers to their primary exports or to remove non-tariff barriers to their industrial products had been fruitless. They were also concerned about the attempts by some developed countries to exact virtually reciprocal trade concessions from developing countries, in direct contravention of the spirit of the 1973 Tokyo Declaration.

49. Other international moves to improve the trading position of developing countries had been equally disappointing. In addition to its inherent limitations, the benefits of the generalized system of preferences were being slowly eroded by the imposition of restrictive measures, and the Integrated Programme for Commodities had yet to be translated into specific measures. Its basic component, the Common Fund, was still in the initial stages of discussion, in spite of the agreement at the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation that such a fund should be established as an important instrument for achieving the objectives of the Integrated Programme. Fluctuations in the export prices of primary products seriously affected the economies of developing countries and all possible efforts should be made to accelerate the establishment of the Common Fund as a means of stabilizing them.

50. The over-all flow of resources, including official development assistance, from developed countries had

fallen disappointingly short of the International Development Strategy target of 1 per cent of GNP, although that target had been reached by a notable minority of developed countries. His delegation therefore welcomed the recent announcement by the Prime Minister of Japan that his country intended to double its aid flow within three years and hoped that other donor countries would follow that example. The Secretary-General's appeal for increased official assistance from countries farther behind in their assistance effort and his reference to the need for additional massive transfers of resources (17th meeting) had been most timely. In that connexion, his delegation strongly supported all international initiatives to accelerate disarmament, the achievement of which would not only remove the greatest inherent danger to mankind but also liberate resources that could substantially improve the quality of living of two thirds of the world population.

51. His delegation strongly supported the implementation of the recommendations for the restructuring of the United Nations system, so as to make it capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a more comprehensive and co-ordinated manner. The restructuring should be carried out as soon as possible, in order to complement the efforts being made to establish the new international economic order. He therefore hoped that a consensus would emerge during the current session on the subject of the implementation of the recommendations.

52. In view of the inadequacies in international co-operation, many nations had established regional groupings to supplement national development programmes. Such regional co-operation could help to solve many of the more intractable problems at the international level. He was glad to note that the various co-operative endeavours of ASEAN were now yielding fruitful results.

53. One field in which the disparity between developed and developing countries was most pronounced was that of science and technology. It was important to bridge that gap and to make scientific and technological knowledge available to all. He hoped that the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would open up new prospects for co-operation in that area. Technical co-operation among third-world countries, too, needed to be expanded; he hoped that the modest progress so far made in that direction could gain momentum. His delegation looked forward to participating in the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which would be of great importance in that respect.

54. The conclusion of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation in 1977 had given rise to the need for a more universal forum to deal with outstanding world economic issues. The Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174 had been intended to meet that end. Although the Committee's first session had been disappointing, it had provided valuable lessons on the need for greater flexibility in the course of negotiations. The Committee could make a useful contribution to the debate on development and on international economic co-operation by clarifying issues and facilitating the conclusion of agreements. Every effort should be made to ensure that its future meetings were successful. He could not accept the view that the Committee of

the Whole should not be a forum for negotiations, for there would be no point in persuading States to be represented at a high level if the Committee was not expected to arrive at agreements. Nor could he agree that the Committee should be designated an "Overview Committee", which implied that it merely looked at the situation and took no effective action.

55. If the disparities between developed and developing countries were to be eliminated and if the economic and social objectives of the International Development Strategy were to be attained, the international community must fulfil its obligations and honour the agreements which it had concluded. There should be a real determination to resolve differences and to act in concert to accelerate the establishment of a new international economic order. In his opinion, global economic interdependence, which had been stressed by many previous speakers, should imply preferential treatment for the developing countries, on the principle that the rich and strong had an obligation to assist the poor and weak. That required a demonstration of political will on the part of Governments and peoples, especially those of the developed countries, to overcome the obstacles to global co-operation and development.

56. There was no doubt that the absence of political will had been mainly responsible for the failure of the Second United Nations Development Decade. Nevertheless, much could be learnt from the experience of that Decade and he was confident that the world could look forward to greater progress in the 1980s, with the international community working together on the basis of shared interests rather than of narrow nationalist considerations.

57. Mr. CARPIO-CASTILLO (Venezuela) said that many obstacles remained to be overcome before true international co-operation within the United Nations system could be achieved. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the demonstration of political will was the only means of achieving a climate of understanding in international negotiations, particularly as far as the North-South dialogue was concerned. His country had been inspired by that spirit at the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, when the developing countries had tried to replace confrontation by co-operation. Unfortunately, no understanding had been achieved and the atmosphere had often been one of frustration and pessimism.

58. In recent years, there had been a marked change in the nature of exports from developing countries. Whereas, in 1960, 87 per cent of their exports had consisted of raw materials and 13 per cent of manufactured goods, by the year 1980 those figures would have altered to 51 per cent and 49 per cent respectively. Venezuela was greatly concerned at the increasing tendency towards protectionism in international trade in manufactured and semi-manufactured goods.

59. The problem of economic development at the international level could not be dealt with in watertight compartments. While there were certainly different levels of development among the countries of the third world, the growing interdependence of nations and the relationship of dependency between developing countries and the various centres of political and economic power demanded global solutions, since the fundamental cause of the problem of under-development was one of structure.

60. A clear indication of the protectionist trend in the developed countries was the fact that the legal, political and economic goals set by the developing countries in the multilateral trade negotiations had not yet been achieved. Those goals should have received specially favourable consideration in the context of the establishment of the new international economic order. The protectionist trend was having a marked effect on the discussions going on in various economic forums with a view to setting up appropriate machinery to allow the manufactured and semi-manufactured goods of developing countries better access to the markets of the industrialized nations. According to GATT, the trend had had harmful effects on the developing countries, in that it had blocked exports to a value of \$5,000 million in 1976, a year in which the increase in development aid had been less than \$500 million.

61. The same discouraging picture was to be seen in the critical areas of raw materials, in which efforts to stabilize the market had not been successful. Negotiations in that field, as in the field of world food production, were now at a standstill. The barriers imposed on international trade by the industrialized countries had had serious effects on world food production, which had increased less in the current decade than in the decade of the 1960s.

62. Joint action by the entire international community was the only way to solve the problems besetting the world economy. The establishment of the new international economic order provided the means for such joint action. Unfortunately, no means had yet been found of establishing the new system of relationships which that required, the reason given to justify that failure being the problem of unemployment or under-employment in the developed countries. It was admittedly a vicious circle, but it was a circle which could be broken. In recent years, the developing countries had provided an important market for the exports of developed countries but they would be unable to maintain that demand unless the industrialized countries opened their markets to exports from the developing world.

63. Stress had been laid on the concern of the developed countries to satisfy the basic human needs of the developing countries, but that concern appeared to overlook the fact that the international community had approved the establishment of the new international economic order, a concept which included by definition the satisfaction of those needs. It seemed permissible to conclude that the concern of the developed countries was to give only temporary satisfaction to those needs rather than to find any final solution to the problem of the poverty of the majority of mankind. Only the creation of the necessary structures would make that possible.

64. Similarly, there could be no hope of the international community achieving any degree of stability in exchange rates unless the international monetary system was restructured. Little or nothing had been done to adapt that system to changing needs, with the result that the problems of inflation, monetary instability and excessive increase in international liquidity had helped to aggravate the international economic situation.

65. It was clear that the present system did not meet the needs of either the developing or the developed countries. At their recent meeting at Bremen, the countries of the European Economic Community had tried

to find a solution to the problem. They had at least found a way to prevent sudden currency fluctuations, to provide against violent changes in the value of the dollar and to create a basis for European monetary solidarity, but it was deplorable that no attempt had been made to analyse the serious repercussions of that situation on developing countries, many of which had reserves in dollars and had thus found their purchasing power substantially reduced. The fact was that the only effective, direct, and complete transfer that had been made from the developed to the developing countries was the transfer of inflation.

66. His delegation had always firmly upheld the need to establish a new international economic order, but after four years of lengthy negotiations little progress had been achieved towards that goal, in clear contravention of the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. That situation reflected an obvious lack of political will on the part of the developed countries to comply with the resolutions adopted in the various economic forums of the United Nations for establishing international economic relations on a more just and equitable basis. The situation was not, however, irreversible; the industrialized countries could give greater thought to the problem and to its social implications. Meanwhile the third-world countries were exploring all possible ways of speeding up their development process. The forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries was a first step in that direction.

67. The need to find ways of directing the development process towards the desired goals was based on the recognition that technological dependence was one of the main obstacles to development. Existing institutions were divorced from reality, in that their work tended to serve the interests of the industrialized Powers. The developing countries needed to obtain greater control over the technological market and to ensure that international co-operation was a strong force in developing their technological capacities in accordance with their needs. Latin America had taken important steps in that direction at the regional level, notably through the decisions taken under the Andean Pact.³

68. The international community had echoed the concern of the developing countries and in General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) it had proposed such measures as an international code of conduct for the transfer of technology, the revision of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, and the holding of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. Those measures had not all achieved equal success; greater efforts were needed on the part of all if there were to be any success in putting an end to the state of dependency of the developing countries. The developed countries must show the political will necessary for the successful conclusion of negotiations, so that science and technology might constitute basic elements for the establishment of the new international economic order.

69. He wished to stress that co-operation among developing countries was not directed against any country, group of countries, or system. It was an expression of collective self-reliance, which had so often been

³ The Cartagena Agreement (Subregional Integration Agreement), signed at Bogotá on 26 May 1969, the signatories being Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, joined later by Venezuela.

emphasized by the developed countries. It was not intended to replace the development assistance which the developed countries had undertaken to provide, but was a supplement to make it respond fully to the needs of the developing countries.

70. He felt obliged to mention the concern felt by his delegation about the tendency of some developed countries, after the conclusion of the Paris North-South Conference, to adopt more rigid positions and not to attach sufficient importance to the Committee of the Whole as a means of revitalizing the debate.

71. Whereas, at the time of the creation of the United Nations, economic and social considerations had been of secondary importance, the increase in membership following the accession to membership of the developing countries had led to greater emphasis being placed on the problem of economic and social development and its importance to world peace. That had led to institutional changes, which unfortunately had taken the form of the creation of new bodies with functions duplicating those of other bodies. His country had supported the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, which it considered could make a useful contribution to the solution of the problems of the developing countries.

72. He welcomed the prompt action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197, first in introducing changes in the Secretariat to facilitate the restructuring process, secondly in appointing Mr. Dadzie as Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, and thirdly in appointing Mr. Ripert as Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs.

73. In connexion with the important question of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency, he regretted that it had not been possible to reach agreement on the approval of its draft charter at the Conference held in March 1978. He considered that the Council would be an appropriate body to suggest to the General Assembly a course of action which would make it possible to emerge from the present deadlock. He also wished to express his delegation's concern that the budget allocation for technical assistance in industry to Latin America had been reduced by 17 per cent in 1977. He hoped that it would be possible to arrive at an agreement on that matter, as on others, which would make it possible to advance along the road to true international co-operation.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

23rd meeting

Monday, 10 July 1978, at 3.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.23

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. KIBRIA (Bangladesh) said that, as the Second United Nations Development Decade approached its end, it was appropriate for the Council to take a searching look at its achievements and failures. There was little cause for pride. The need for concerted action to narrow the gap between the rich and poor nations had rarely been so pressing.

2. The International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade had been explicit about the minimum resources to be transferred from the rich to the poor countries. Despite many assurances, the flow of official development assistance to the developing countries fell far short of the target of 0.7 per cent. There had, in fact, been no increase in the net flow in absolute terms between 1975 and 1976. There was therefore an urgent need to prepare a programme for increasing the flow of official development assistance within a specified time.

3. The *per capita* income of the low-income countries was expected to grow at a rate of only 1.7 per cent between 1978 and 1985. It was that group of countries that offered the greatest challenge to the international community for the years ahead. Efforts should be concentrated on increasing the rate of economic growth

and meeting the basic needs for food, shelter, clothing and public services. Those goals would require a large-scale increase in investment in all sectors concerned, in addition to a greater flow of concessional assistance.

4. His delegation welcomed the decision taken by the Trade and Development Board at the third part of its ninth special session, held at the ministerial level in March 1978, with regard to the external indebtedness of the developing countries and in particular to the adjustment of the terms of bilateral official development assistance to the poor countries.¹

5. New instruments had to be devised not only for the transfer of technology but also for the creation and dissemination of technological knowledge and skill to meet the specific needs of the developing countries. In the 1960s, it had been assumed that a massive transfer of science and technology from the industrialized countries would substantially assist in the removal of poverty and hunger in the less developed countries, but time had proved that assumption to be false. Not only was much of the technology of the North unsuitable for the South, but access to such technology had proved to be more difficult than had been envisaged.

6. The Integrated Programme for Commodities had been launched in 1976 amid expectations of a breakthrough in that vital sector. His delegation was deeply

¹ See *Official Records of the Trade and Development Board, Ninth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (TD/B/701)*, resolution 165 (S-IX).

disappointed that no significant progress had been achieved. Negotiations on the Common Fund remained deadlocked, and, despite numerous meetings and promises of co-operation from the developed countries, little progress had been made on individual commodities. International trade in commodities and raw materials could only be established on an equitable basis if the structure of trade was modified to meet present-day requirements.

7. An important key to development lay in coherent national efforts. His country's first five-year plan had just ended and the Government had begun work on the second five-year plan, to be launched in July 1980. Meanwhile, a two-year plan had been formulated, giving high priority to population control, family planning, agriculture and rural development. The dominating sector of the economy was agriculture, which contributed over 50 per cent of GDP; nearly 90 per cent of the population lived in the rural areas. His country's economic planning was therefore geared to the development of agriculture, with particular emphasis on rural development. Investment in industry and in the infrastructure was mainly aimed at supporting such activities. Because incomes were so low, the massive investment required could not be mobilized from domestic sources; an increased flow of concessional aid was therefore crucial to the achievement of self-sustained economic growth. His delegation hoped that the Council would not only provide broad policy guidelines in all those fields but would also play a dynamic role in giving the impetus required to achieve positive results.

8. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that the international context in which the present session of the Council was taking place gave grounds both for concern and for hope. There was encouragement to be derived from such forthcoming events as the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and from the new approach to the world's problems based on the establishment of a new international economic order. The approach needed to be more practical, however, if it was to be fully effective. There could be no peace or order until hunger, poverty, sickness and lack of education were eliminated. That could be done only if the rich countries were resolved to apply the principles of international economic co-operation. Few results had so far been achieved; there was a disparity between words and deeds. The basic problems of the international economy could not be solved by isolated gestures, but required co-ordinated and unified action.

9. In seeking solutions to the serious problems of development and international economic co-operation, the Council should give particular attention to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which called for greater understanding on the part of people in the developed countries. Changes in the international economic system were urgently required, including, in particular, improvements in the primary commodity field, the reform of the international monetary system to provide greater resources for the most needy countries, a transfer of technology adapted to national conditions and access to industrial and capital markets. The freeing of resources hitherto devoted to arms production could help to solve the problems of developing countries. The promotion and control of foreign investment was essential for the development of each country. International efforts to induce the transnational

corporations to work for the welfare of the countries in which they operated should be continued.

10. While external problems were not the only ones, they often prevented countries such as his own from achieving internal solutions.

11. For the past two years, Mexico had been adjusting its internal economic structure, with a view to overcoming the adverse effects of the international recession, which had severely damaged its export trade. Particular attention was being given to efforts to reconcile the interests of national groups with the objectives of social equilibrium and well-being. His country was convinced that it was capable of achieving further success in controlling inflation and of moving into a favourable trade situation. It had been necessary to learn to live temporarily with external disequilibrium as a requirement of the age. The problem of poverty could be solved only by the appropriate use of the proceeds of increased trade, particularly in petroleum products, to reduce unemployment and under-employment.

12. Administrative reforms were being applied, with a view to overcoming the problems of economic and social development. The aim was to bring together the programme and the budget into a single instrument, so as to ensure that the programme could be put into effect. The Government's programming policy, which was mandatory in the public sector, was based on agreement with the federal and municipal bodies and was designed to encourage respect in the private sector for the rights of the majority.

13. The Government had also embarked on political reform, which allowed free expression on the part of minority groups and of those holding extreme political views on social development. The objective was to adjust the country's economic machinery so that it met the needs of the people. Mexico's main concern was food production, in which it was confident that it could become self-supporting by the early 1980s, provided that international economic conditions were favourable. To succeed in its plans, his country required international financial co-operation to supplement domestic investment.

14. Steps were being taken to improve the conditions of urban development, to overcome the serious housing problem and to reduce population growth, leaving the question of family planning, however, to be decided by the free choice of the people concerned. The Government had combined its efforts in a plan of action aimed at promoting the integral development of the country in a mixed economy comprising the State sector and a broad private and social sector in which the efforts of peasants and workers were combined in co-operative forms of participation.

15. A national system of evaluation had also been established, because his Government was aware that to programme an activity without evaluating its results would encourage erratic development and leave the results to chance, with a possible loss of valuable resources.

16. Those internal efforts were confronted with external problems arising from the deterioration of the world economy caused by protectionism, inflation and recession in the major countries. The unfavourable impact of those events had caused the Latin American countries to slacken their pace of development and to lose much of the results of their efforts to improve the

conditions of economic and social life. Latin America was making great efforts to develop its capacity to face up to economic problems. It was hoping, through the Latin American Economic System, to strengthen the regional productive sectors, to create multinational co-operative enterprises and to organize its countries so that they could protect their export products and deal with other aspects of Latin American relations. It was imperative for all countries of the world to adopt a system of international economic and technical co-operation in support of regional plans of action and national programmes.

17. His delegation was seriously concerned about the slow progress being made towards the establishment of the new international economic order and, in particular, the fulfilment of the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The United Nations should make the instruments of the new international economic order more widely known throughout the world, so that all concerned could co-operate in implementing them. The world was a single entity which technology had helped to unify; it was no longer possible to live or think in isolation. Human rights and economic rights were inseparable; peoples, as well as individuals, required co-operation to help in achieving self-determination. For example, the work carried out in the Commission on Transnational Corporations would shortly lead to the formulation of a draft code of conduct to regulate the activities of transnational corporations, taking into account the interests of all Governments and peoples. Such rules were necessary if it was desired to develop international economic relations among all countries.

18. Efforts to implement the International Development Strategy had met with two decades of frustration, and the quantitative targets of the Strategy had remained mere aspirations. If a new strategy was to be formulated, all concerned would have to do everything possible to fulfil existing objectives and to take steps to ensure that prosperity became the heritage of all mankind and not merely of a few powerful countries.

19. His delegation was interested in the establishment of the Common Fund as a central instrument in the Integrated Programme for Commodities and in the progress of negotiations for commodity agreements. Developed countries should take steps to provide better marketing conditions for commodities, in the interest of the millions of people who depended on them. The special interests of the developing countries should be taken into account in the multilateral trade negotiations.

20. Dependence was a matter of technology, as well as of capital. The United Nations Conferences on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and on Science and Technology for Development should provide the poor countries with the means to enable them to select from abroad, and develop nationally, the technology suited to their individual economies, and thus to achieve technological self-determination.

21. There was a growing interest in national and regional action in various fields of economic co-operation.

22. His country attached particular importance to the work of the regional commissions and other regional bodies. The Council should help to improve the economic position of the regional commissions, so that the results of their work could be applied. Practical machinery should be established on a regional or sub-regional basis to channel the excess financial resources

of developed countries to the developing countries. The volume of international co-operation should at least reach the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP.

23. The disturbances in the international economy brought about by the defects of the present monetary system and of the external development financing machinery had aggravated the internal problems of the developing countries. The international economic order had to be made more equitable in order to strengthen those countries' national and regional economic systems.

24. Mr. SAOUMA (Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that, as the decade moved into its last years, there was little comfort to be drawn from what had been achieved. Nevertheless, there was a determination to do better. The search for new and more effective methods had led to the establishment of the Committee of the Whole under General Assembly resolution 32/174. FAO attached the greatest importance to that Committee as the main forum for the North-South dialogue on development problems. The Committee was to consider food and agriculture in September 1978.

25. In the 1960s, the annual rate of increase in the food production of all developing countries had been 2.9 per cent; in the 1970s, it had dropped to 2.6 per cent. Furthermore, the countries which had been faring worst were the poorest, precisely those in which rapid increases in food production were most urgently needed. In the 45 most seriously affected countries, food production had grown in the 1970s by only 2 per cent per annum, significantly below the rate of their population growth. The region in the greatest difficulty was Africa, where *per capita* food production had been falling by 1.4 per cent per annum throughout the 1970s.

26. Poor performance in the agricultural sector affected all other branches of the economy. A shortfall in domestic food production had to be offset, as far as possible, by imports. Fortunately, food aid had been available to fill part of the gap; nevertheless, in 1976 the non-oil-exporting developing countries had spent over 10,000 million dollars on commercial food imports, equivalent to one third of their current account deficit. Those imports offset the benefits of more than 80 per cent of the official development assistance received by them in 1976. If present trends continued, the developing countries' aggregate import requirements of cereals would rise from their current level of 66 million tons to over 90 million tons by 1985. Even allowing for an increase in food aid from just under 10 million tons a year to 15 or 16 million tons by 1985, many developing countries would certainly have the greatest difficulty in meeting their deficit through commercial imports.

27. The most immediate impact of a weak agricultural performance, however, fell on the consumer. It was estimated that in the period 1972-1974 a quarter of the population of the developing market-economy countries had been under-nourished. In the *Fourth World Food Survey*, published recently by FAO,² it was estimated in the early 1970s the number of under-nourished people in developing market economies had risen by almost 15 per cent, or considerably more than the growth in population. Nearly all the increase was in the most seriously affected countries in Africa and the Far East. Increased food production would not by itself solve the problem

² FAO Statistics Series, No. 11 (Rome, 1977).

of malnutrition, which was inextricably bound up with poverty and thus with economic and social development in general. Nevertheless, a sustained increase in agricultural growth, with more equitable distribution, was a prerequisite for a solution to the problem.

28. Greater self-sufficiency in food would release more foreign exchange for the import of essential capital goods and technology. That would benefit every party concerned. The developing countries could speed up their industrialization; the industrialized nations could increase their exports of capital goods. A solution to the basic food problem would not only have incalculable social benefits but would also provide a boost to the world's economy.

29. For hundreds of millions of people in rural areas, agriculture offered the sole possibility of employment. Experience, however, had shown that maximizing production did not necessarily eliminate poverty. Production was generally increased most easily in areas which were already favoured in terms of soil and water and the skill of the farmers. The challenge facing the Governments of many developing countries was that of bringing into the mainstream of development the small farmers and landless labourers. Those living in remote areas or hostile environments, those who relied on an unpredictable rainfall and those who worked infertile ground must share in the benefits of progress.

30. That was the kind of problem to be tackled at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in July 1979. The concept of rural development went beyond agriculture, to include all forms of development activity and social services in rural areas. The Conference, sponsored by FAO, was being prepared in the closest co-operation with the United Nations and with all interested agencies of the United Nations system. Rural development was perhaps the best hope for preventing the drift of population from rural areas to the towns, which would inevitably create unbearable social and administrative problems if it continued for long.

31. A prosperous agriculture was also the best guarantee for industrial prosperity. Industrial products, such as fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural machinery, were needed to grow and harvest the crops. Food processing was one of the great potential growth industries of the developing world. The additional income of successful farmers would undoubtedly be spent in large part on consumer goods produced in the industrial sector. Agro-industries were probably the most important industrial subsector in a great many developing countries. He wished to draw special attention to the long-term potential of forestry, a sector for which FAO had particular responsibility.

32. The international community should concentrate its attention on two areas: resources and policies. In the matter of external resources, the World Food Council had fixed an aid target of \$8300 million in 1975 prices, of which \$6500 million was to be on concessional terms.³ Those figures were considerably more than double the current aid levels. The targets would have considerably more force if fitted into an over-all developmental framework. In particular, it was necessary to know how far they should be met by a shift of aid from

other purposes to agriculture and how far by an over-all increase in aid towards the target of 0.7 per cent of the GNP of donor countries. In his view, both were needed. In the present state of development, it would be reasonable for one third of overseas development aid to be devoted to agriculture in the broad sense. That was approximately the proportion of current World Bank lending. The ratio under OECD bilateral aid was in the range of 10 to 15 per cent, while OPEC bilateral aid tended to be in the region of 20 per cent. There was thus considerable scope for more bilateral aid to agriculture. However, it would still be inconceivable for the World Food Council target to be achieved without a massive increase in the total amount of overseas development aid. The successful launching of IFAD had been a landmark in the history of the United Nations system, but the present level of resources of IFAD would not allow it to have a major effect in quantitative terms, although in qualitative terms its impact might be more considerable.

33. The quality, flexibility and geographical spread of aid were almost as important as the quantity. As the volume of aid to agriculture had increased, the concessionality had tended to decline; that tendency should be reversed. Greater flexibility would be needed, in the financing of local costs and in the use of decentralized local institutions, for implementing relatively small-scale programmes and projects in favour of small farmers. A far greater share of aid must go to the most seriously affected countries.

34. There was no comparable target for the allocation of domestic resources to agriculture by developing countries. The original FAO calculations for the World Food Conference had foreseen total investment in agriculture as equivalent to about 9-10 per cent of gross agricultural domestic product, of which up to two thirds would come from domestic sources. The developing countries had, for the most part, responded to the world food crisis of 1974 by greatly stepping up their resources devoted to that sector.

35. With regard to policy measures, the establishment of an adequate system of world food security was of fundamental importance. However, before proposing specific action, he preferred to await the outcome of the negotiating conference to produce an agreement to replace the International Wheat Agreement of 1971. He hoped that a new agreement would be concluded in the next few months which would take account of the special needs of developing countries, as indicated by the FAO Committee on World Food Security at its third session.⁴ Whilst the global position of cereal stocks was currently satisfactory, there were areas of very serious deprivation, in particular the Sahelian zone, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The number of appeals for relief in the past year emphasized the overwhelming need for adequate international arrangements for emergency food aid. He therefore welcomed the World Food Council's recommendation that the international emergency reserve of cereals should be established on a permanent basis, with yearly replenishments.⁵

36. Trade was another policy area of the utmost importance. Trade outlets contributed to a solution of the world food problem in so far as they permitted countries to export non-food crops and import food. Trade

³ See the Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council, adopted at its third session (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/32/19)*, para. 1).

⁴ See WFC/1978/7.

⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/33/19)*, part one, para. 30.

was the key to the general development of many developing countries; the World Bank estimated that the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers on agricultural products would, by 1985, increase the export earnings of developing countries by \$6000 million.

37. Finally, it was clear that without a proper development plan, no developing country could hope to overcome its food problems. Unfortunately, the poorer a country was, the harder it was to apply effective policies. For example, without a certain amount of economic elbow-room, it might be almost impossible for a Government to solve the perennial dilemma of high food prices for farmers and low food prices for the urban poor. He therefore appealed to those developing countries which had not already done so to concentrate on strengthening their agricultural sectors. No country could claim true independence if it could not cope with its food problems. At the same time, he appealed to the donor community to be ready with non-conventional forms of aid to assist the Governments of countries with serious food deficits. Only with the extra strength provided by international support would it be possible for those countries to tackle problems which were bound to become more, and not less, acute.

38. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that recovery from the recession of 1974-1975 was painfully slow. The efforts made by the developed countries gave some prospect of overcoming the recession, but many were still troubled by such problems as balance-of-payments difficulties, unemployment and inflation.

39. The developing countries had done better: although their average growth rate of 4.8 per cent was lower than the target of 6 per cent set for the Second United Nations Development Decade, it was higher than the developed countries' rate of 3.3 per cent. However, the rate of inflation in non-oil-producing developing countries exceeded 30 per cent, although there were considerable differences from one country to another. In the long run, a high inflation rate could militate against growth by leading to a decrease in foreign investment, large fluctuations in exchange rates and a deterioration in the terms of trade.

40. The developing countries could be categorized in several subgroups on which effective international co-operation could be based. The middle-income countries, whose *per capita* income ranged from \$265 to \$1,075 (1975 prices), had made a good adjustment to the 1974 recession and maintained a growth rate of more than 6 per cent. Their manufacturing industries were developing, and in selected fields they were internationally competitive. Primary product processing for export had been a leading factor in their growth, which was an important contribution to the expansion of the world economy. The increase of imports from those developing countries would eventually be accompanied by the opening of their domestic markets to international trade. Japan was prepared to respond to their industrial growth by reorganizing its own industry accordingly.

41. Most attention should be devoted to the low-income developing countries, with a *per capita* income of less than \$265, which accounted for about 60 per cent of the total population of the developing world. The average annual growth of their GDP had remained at 3 per cent, a rate which, because of high population increase, represented a *per capita* income growth of close to nil. The economy of many countries in that group was heavily dependent on agricultural production and exports of primary products. Ironically enough, an

injection of large amounts of foreign capital could not be expected because of their low growth and income. Japan was giving them a greater proportion of its overseas development aid and offering them easier terms and conditions.

42. It was clear that no country was able to prosper by its own efforts alone, because of the increasing interdependence of countries; concerted action was therefore required. Moreover, the growth of the world economy could not be achieved merely by macro-economic measures; it also required co-ordinated management in closely related areas, particularly international trade and energy.

43. In the field of trade, there had been increased demands lately for protection, but so far they had been resisted. The chain reaction provoked by protectionism would certainly reduce the volume of trade and consequently the level of world economic activities, including the economy activity of any country introducing such measures.

44. A lack of confidence in the future energy situation was one of the major factors contributing to the slowness of the recovery from the recession. The developed countries should increase their investment in the more efficient use of energy and the development of alternative energy sources. Developing countries should at the same time promote the development of conventional sources of energy.

45. It was essential for every country to carry out policy measures designed to encourage sustained non-inflationary growth. The basic principles should be the maintenance of free trade, the adjustment of the world economic structure in the light of the growing interdependence of countries, the reduction of the income gap between developed and developing countries, and the establishment of a fair social system which included an equitable distribution of income.

46. His own country recognized the influence of its own economy on the world economy. Since 1977, it had carried out a series of important economic measures to stimulate domestic demand, increase imports and expand economic assistance to developing countries. The Government was determined to achieve an economic growth of 7 per cent for the fiscal year 1978 and was seeking to achieve practical results in the multilateral trade negotiations corresponding to the special needs of developing countries. It had pledged itself to double its official development assistance in the coming three years and to pursue a policy of financial aid without ties.

47. The North-South dialogue was one of the most important factors affecting the growth and stability of the world economy. Some of the negotiations had not been progressing as expected and concern had been expressed that, while a set pattern had developed for the North-South dialogue, it was not very productive. On the question how the Committee of the Whole could perform its tasks, his delegation had suggested that debates by high-level policy-makers should identify areas of convergence and divergence between the developed and the developing countries and also among the countries of each group. Each country would then formulate policy measures within the areas of convergence, as a basis for expanding international co-operation. The joint reappraisal of domestic and foreign economic policies by the developed and the developing countries should eventually lead to policy co-ordination by all countries. Although many developed countries

were hampered by serious domestic economic problems, they were nevertheless taking positive action at the international level. Such action must be encouraged and should be closely co-ordinated with the development policies of the developing countries.

48. It was time to speed up preparations for the international development strategy for the 1980s. He suggested the following points to be borne in mind by the United Nations agencies and by the intergovernmental body shortly to be designated.

49. In the first place, the international development strategy was not an exercise in world economic planning; its purpose was to provide targets and strategies for international co-operation. That was not the same as national economic planning, and it would therefore not be appropriate to adopt the same planning techniques. The strategy should not be concerned solely with economics; it should also respond to aspirations for social development, greater equity and the participation of all people in the development process. It should likewise be adapted to the different priorities of the developing countries.

50. Secondly, the strategy should also take into account the problems and changing circumstances of the developed countries.

51. Thirdly, the international development strategy should be realistic. The Second United Nations Development Decade had been largely based on the assumption that steady economic growth would continue in the developed countries and that, with some improvements in aid, trade and technological transfer, it would have a positive effect on the third world. That assumption had lost its validity in 1974. In the new strategy, therefore, a new approach must be devised, to produce targets and strategies which were flexible and could be applied to both expected and unexpected changes in the world economic situation.

52. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of agricultural development in the over-all strategy. Whereas in the developing countries the growth rate in the industrial sector up to 1976 had been 7.3 per cent, as against the target of 8 per cent, in the agricultural sector the growth rate had been 2.4 per cent, as against the target of 4 per cent. While industrial development was the key to a high growth rate, agricultural development was important in providing a stable living for a large part of the population in the developing countries.

53. In connexion with the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, his delegation had whole-heartedly supported General Assembly resolution 32/197. It had stressed the importance of increasing the efficiency of the Council's work and of the operational activities of the United Nations system in the interests of development. Progress was being made in restructuring the Secretariat, and he welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to give speedy effect to the General Assembly's instructions. He hoped, however, that in future Member States would be given an opportunity to express their views on such measures in advance, since they were closely related to the work of the functional committees and of the Council. The measures adopted in each area should therefore pay due regard to the measures being taken in other areas.

54. Mr. DE ANGELI (World Federation of Trade Unions) said that economic growth should be studied in the light of the aims of social progress, within a framework of national, regional and international economic planning under democratic supervision. The

IXth World Trade Union Congress, held in April 1978 and attended by representatives of more than 230 million workers belonging to the different trade union organizations, had strongly endorsed the aspiration of the workers and their organizations to participate in decision-making on economic and social matters. The policy adopted at the Congress was consistent with the need for a new international economic order to serve the interests of all people, including workers.

55. WFTU welcomed the emphasis that the United Nations was placing on social problems, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Distribution of income: trends and policies" (E/1978/29). The conclusions of that report should perhaps have taken more account of the macro-economic situation, for a more likely explanation of the inequality in the distribution of wealth and incomes was to be found in the present crisis in the capitalist system due to stagnation, increasing unemployment, inadequate investment, excessive savings and over-accumulation of capital. An integrated approach to social and economic problems would have revealed that in the socialist economies the impact of the capitalist crisis had been softened by the fact that the distribution of incomes was the most equal in the world and that real incomes had greatly increased.

56. The organization he represented hoped that, in the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, due emphasis would be placed on the social aspect of the new international economic order. The strategy for social progress adopted by WFTU in 1976 had stressed the importance in economic growth of the right to socially useful and well-paid work, secure incomes and increased purchasing power for all workers, and a guaranteed minimum annual income for workers and their families sufficient to meet their material, social and cultural needs.

57. Inflationist pressures were becoming a permanent feature of the capitalist world. They now affected all countries simultaneously, they were resistant to traditional policies of deflation, and they coexisted with unemployment and the slowing down of the economy. The direct result was high prices in developed countries, and even higher prices in many developing countries. Inflation was linked particularly in the developed market-economy countries with State economic intervention, notably through vast unproductive military expenditure and direct public financing. The basic effect of inflation was to increase profits and capital accumulation to the detriment of the workers' purchasing power. Unemployment and under-employment were rife in all the capitalist countries, and their effects would be long-standing. The decline in purchasing power was particularly serious for categories such as migrant workers, women, young people and pensioners. The Council should emphasize the fact that guaranteed wages and increased purchasing power were vital factors in economic and social progress.

58. Among its 190 million members, WFTU had a very large number of industrial and agricultural workers in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In those regions, more than half of mankind lived well below the poverty line, suffering from hunger, malnutrition and illiteracy; only 30 per cent of the labour force was employed, and 40 million children under the age of 14 years were forced to work in intolerable conditions. Poverty and under-development were caused by the exploitation of workers by privileged minorities, both inside and outside the countries concerned, and by imperialist exploitation on the part of highly-developed capitalist coun-

tries and their transnational corporations. The debt servicing ratio now stood at 10 per cent and the unpaid debts of a large number of developing countries were estimated at \$180,000 million. Private banks had assumed a growing part in the pressure on those economies and were increasing the economic and political dependence of the developing countries through the redeployment of resources.

59. Present efforts would not bring genuine and lasting solutions. WFTU had included the following measures in the strategy it recommended for social progress with a view to establishing the new international economic order: multilateral trade agreements guaranteeing stable and remunerative prices for basic commodities; a generalized system of preferences; increased official aid on favourable conditions and with respect for national independence; the elimination of all discrimination based on differences between economic and social systems; the reform of the international monetary system, to free it from the domination of international finance and transnational corporations; international co-operation on a basis of equality among all countries, regardless of their stage of development; and complete disarmament, the resources thus freed to be used for economic purposes and to promote new employment.

60. WFTU regretted that the *World Economic Survey, 1977* had not made a real study of the role of the international financial institutions, particularly IMF. The IMF criteria for credit and the allocation of SDRs—which were vetted by the great Western Powers—often constituted interference in the domestic affairs of the requesting countries. Frequently, those criteria stipulated reductions in expenditure on social needs, the limitation of domestic consumption, facilities for foreign investors and the withdrawal of nationalization measures by sovereign States. Austerity plans imposed

by the Fund on developed capitalist and developing States threatened the rights of workers and allowed transnational corporations to gain a stranglehold on the economies of the countries concerned. The international community, in particular the United Nations, should set up a genuinely democratic and universal international system of credit, as proposed at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo in August 1976.

61. Full employment and social progress in individual countries meant sustained economic development, and that in turn entailed democratic planning for radical structural reform, in particular agrarian reform, the redistribution of incomes and wealth, and the broadening and strengthening of the public sector. The exclusion of workers and their organizations from decision-making was one of the greatest obstacles to any possibility of economic development leading to social progress. The United Nations should prepare a world plan of action on the peoples' participation in economic and social decision-making, which might become a part of the strategy for the third development decade.

62. The workers were also concerned about the technological colonialism being perpetrated by the capitalist Powers and their transnational corporations. Every State had the right to access to advances in science and technology, on fair terms and without economic and political exploitation. WFTU hoped that the Council might expand the study started by UNCTAD on the "brain drain" organized by the capitalist developed countries, which was a serious restriction on the developing countries' full and sovereign use of their material, human, scientific and technical resources. He hoped that the subject could be included in the agenda for a future session.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

24th meeting

Tuesday, 11 July 1978, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.24

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. Mr. AL-MAHDI (Iraq) said that the Council was meeting at a time when important political decisions were called for if the deadlock was to be broken and if progress was to be made in putting together the main elements of the new international economic order. Great efforts on the part of all delegations would be needed if the items on the Council's agenda were to be tackled in good time and the subjects under discussion should be approached in a positive spirit and with a political will. Unfortunately, the industrialized developed countries had hitherto failed to show that political will in many important forums.

2. He noted with interest the decision taken at the organizational session of the Council for 1978 that special attention would be given to agenda item 21

(Science and technology).¹ That was an appropriate decision, in view of the preparations now being made for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

3. Since the Council's sixty-third session in the summer of 1977, no progress had been made towards restructuring the world economy, and the gap between the developed and the developing countries had continued to widen. The position of many developed countries on the just demands of the developing countries for the establishment of a new international economic order remained as rigid and uncompromising as before. The developed countries lacked the necessary political will, in spite of the fact that the developing countries had made genuine efforts to adjust their positions on many of the outstanding issues that still confronted the international community.

¹ See decision 1978/1 entitled "Basic programme of work of the Council for 1978", foot-note relating to the item and para. 3 (b).

4. The present international economic situation was characterized by retrogressive trends in the policy of developed countries regarding trade and the transfer of resources for development. The protectionist trade policies of the developed countries constituted a dangerous new development which would affect adversely the recovery of the world economy. Those policies had had an adverse effect on the economic performance of the developing countries, whose terms of trade had been steadily deteriorating, owing mainly to the decline of their export earnings and of the purchasing power of those earnings as a result of inflation and the instability of exchange rates, especially the sharp fall in the rate of the United States dollar. The results of those adverse trends had been reflected in the decline of the rate of growth of developing countries, which was expected to be 4.5 per cent for the period 1978-1979, a rate far below the 6 per cent target set for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

5. The rate of growth in the imports of developing countries was also likely to fall sharply during the same period. That decline in imports, especially in capital goods, coupled with the expanding debt service ratio, would lead to a severe setback to their growth and development prospects. In addition, the current account deficits of developing countries were expected to reach an estimated \$35-37 billion a year during that period. There was no doubt that if the developed countries persisted in their protectionist policies, the situation would worsen considerably.

6. He noted with concern the attempt of developed countries in the multilateral trade negotiations to reach agreement among themselves, to the almost total exclusion of the interests of the developing countries. If the negotiations were to be successfully completed, fuller and more effective participation by the developing countries was required. In view of the complexity of the subjects under discussion, there should be more flexibility with regard to the date for the conclusion of the talks.

7. He noted with regret that transfers of resources for development from developed to developing countries had fallen in the period 1976-1977. That situation, coupled with the loss in export earnings, had led to an intolerable degree of indebtedness on the part of the developing countries. The Trade and Development Board, at the third part of its ninth special session, held at ministerial level in March 1978, had failed to find new ways to solve the problem, but had tackled it on a country-by-country basis rather than by formulating general guidelines for dealing with it on a global basis.

8. The current international economic situation showed a number of disquieting trends: the decrease in the purchasing power of developing countries as a consequence of the growing imbalance between export and import prices; the adverse effect of the protectionist and discriminatory policies of developed countries on the expansion and diversification of production of manufactured and semi-manufactured goods by developing countries; the harmful effects of inflation on the international economy; an international monetary system characterized by disorderly movements in the major currencies, especially the United States dollar, causing considerable loss of earnings for developing countries which were exporters of raw materials; and, lastly, the mounting external indebtedness of developing countries.

9. The rectification of the existing inequitable situation in international economic relations depended

chiefly on the speedy implementation of the resolutions adopted at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and other relevant resolutions. Serious efforts should be made to halt the continuing deterioration in the terms of trade of developing countries. Measures should be speedily devised and implemented to protect and improve the purchasing power of the export earnings of those countries through indexation and other measures. The creation and strengthening of associations of producers of raw materials and basic commodities in the developing countries would play a vital role in stabilizing and balancing economic relations between developed and developing countries.

10. The unrestricted exercise by the developing countries of the right of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities, through nationalization, was a prerequisite for the participation of those countries in setting up the new international economic order. The activities of the transnational corporations in both developing and developed countries should be closely monitored and regulated. It was vital that the international community should adopt a legally binding code of conduct governing such corporations.

11. The inadequacy of the present international monetary system to meet the needs of the developing countries continued to be demonstrated. There was urgent need for a reform of the system, so as to ensure the adequate participation of the developing countries in all levels of the decision-making process.

12. In the negotiations in progress to establish the main elements of the new international economic order, he noted with concern the lack of a positive response on the part of many developed countries to specific proposals put forward by the developing countries in various international forums. He was disappointed at the failure of the second session of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, a failure which was due to the fact that many developed countries had refused to consider the essential elements of the Fund, including direct government contributions. He hoped that those countries would reconsider their position in the interests of the world economy. The developed countries should also make greater efforts to implement the Integrated Programme for Commodities as a whole.

13. He regretted the delay in the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency and hoped that all parties concerned would make every effort to arrive at a successful conclusion of the negotiations as soon as possible. He noted with satisfaction that IFAD had started its operations.

14. An important development since the Council's sixty-third session had been the establishment of the Committee of the Whole under General Assembly resolution 32/174. It was disappointing, however, that the first substantive session of that Committee had ended inconclusively because of the lack of political will on the part of developed countries and their attempt to misinterpret the mandate and goals of the Committee. His country continued to see the main purposes of the Committee as those of supervising and implementing the decisions and agreements reached in the course of negotiations taking place in various forums for the establishment of the new international economic order, providing the impetus for overcoming any difficulties that might arise in those negotiations,

and facilitating and expediting agreement on outstanding issues. The Committee should not merely act as a forum for the exchange of views on international economic problems, which was what most developed countries wished it to be. The Council had an important supporting role to play in that connexion.

15. Iraq was preparing the paper it was to submit to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development to be held in 1979. The paper would also be presented at the ECWA Regional Conference on Science and Technology, to be held later in 1978. A national seminar on the subject had been held at Baghdad from 27 to 29 June 1978, and an Arab seminar in preparation for the Conference had been held at Baghdad from 17 to 21 May 1978. The latter seminar had called for greater co-operation among the Arab States in particular and among developing countries in general in preparing for the Conference.

16. Iraq had also participated in the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on an International Code of Conduct on Transfer of Technology. It held that such a code should be obligatory and legally binding, in order to ensure that appropriate technology was made available on favourable terms, so as to facilitate and expedite the development process in the developing countries.

17. In the field of regional co-operation, a number of important meetings of ECWA had had to be postponed owing to Zionist aggression and the invasion of southern Lebanon. He suggested that the Council should note that deplorable situation and condemn the Zionist entity for its repeated aggression against Arab countries and the Palestinian people.

18. Iraq, which had always been a strong advocate of co-operation among developing countries, was glad to see that the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries was to be held the following month. That Conference should help towards the achievement of collective self-reliance among developing countries.

19. In conclusion, he informed the Council that the Preparatory Committee for the Regional Conference on the Role of Women in Development had met at Baghdad from 3 to 5 June 1978 to draw up the draft agenda for the Conference, which was to be held at Baghdad in May 1979.

20. Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary) said that the primary objective of his delegation in participating in the present session of the Council was to contribute to the elaboration of international measures to solve the urgent problems confronting the world economy. The United Nations was an appropriate forum for negotiations aimed at establishing a new system of international economic relations free from discrimination and ensuring the sovereign equality of each State. The Secretary-General had referred to the increasing trend towards protectionism in international economic relations; that trend should be halted without delay, since it was likely to prove a significant obstacle to the development of international economic co-operation.

21. Hungary's foreign trade had increased 15-fold since 1950 and its exports represented about 30 per cent of the final product, while the value of its imports stood at about the same level. Since Hungarian products reached more than 120 countries, one of the main concerns of its economic policy was to study the main trends of the world economy and to take into consid-

eration the impact of those trends on the national economy.

22. Since the extensive resources furnished by Hungarian economic development had been exhausted and no new labour force was available, the growth of the national income had to be ensured by maintaining productivity. A new long-term policy had been launched that would eventually result in the transformation of the structure of production. One of the most important elements in that policy was increased participation in the international division of labour. Unfortunately, the tasks dictated by the level of the Hungarian economy had to be carried out at a time when external conditions had become more complicated and the terms of trade had become particularly unfavourable for Hungary.

23. Hungary was to a great degree dependent on external sources of raw materials. The protracted economic crisis in the capitalist world, resulting in a world-wide increase in inflation, and the unwillingness on the part of a number of capitalist countries to eliminate discrimination despite their pledge to do so, had caused serious difficulties for the Hungarian economy. The trend towards protectionism among the developed countries had introduced an unhealthy and damaging element into international trade relations. Sooner or later, that trend might provoke counter-measures which could have serious repercussions on the very countries which had initiated them. The uncertainties of the capitalist monetary system also gave rise to many difficulties.

24. Hungary's co-operation with the countries of CMEA, and above all with the Soviet Union, was of basic importance to its economic interests. That co-operation took the form of the harmonization of economic policies and planning on a basis of equality between participating countries. It had proved to be the chief guarantee of stability in the national economy and the only means of establishing conditions conducive to the implementation of long-term economic goals.

25. In developing its relations with the developed capitalist countries, Hungary was guided by the belief that such relations offered useful opportunities for furthering the international division of labour. In addition, the expansion of economic relations with countries of different socio-economic systems helped to foster international co-operation, especially between the countries of Europe, where such co-operation had an important political and economic impact. The Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975,² had established guidelines for European economic co-operation. It was not the fault of the socialist countries that such slow progress was being made towards the implementation of its recommendations.

26. Hungary maintained trade and economic relations with 86 developing countries, but was not yet satisfied with the share of those countries in its foreign trade. Relations with the developing world were going beyond normal trade transactions and were taking more lasting forms such as long-term agreements, the establishment of joint ventures, and scientific and technological co-operation. While economic relations with the developing countries were chiefly based on mutual advantage, they included elements of assistance; products of more than 80 developing countries enjoyed

² See CSCE/CC/64.

preferential treatment in the Hungarian market, and 26 of the least developed among them had been granted complete exemption from tariffs. The basic objective of Hungary's economic policy towards the developing countries was to contribute to the establishment of their economic independence, to their industrialization, to the training of their national specialists and to the creation of their own scientific and technological basis.

27. There could be no division between political and economic development at the international level; consequently, there could be no development of healthy international economic relations without favourable political conditions. Foremost among such conditions were efforts to prevent the outbreak of a world nuclear war and to maintain and strengthen international peace and security. Efforts to achieve effective disarmament on the basis of the document adopted by the General Assembly at its recent tenth special session³ must also be continued.

28. Some of the conclusions reached by the *World Economic Survey, 1977* gave cause for concern. A number of questions concerning the normalization of international trade had yet to be resolved, the state of the international monetary system was still uncertain and the solution of the economic problems of the developing countries was proceeding at a very slow pace. The fact that such problems could not be solved overnight was no reason for not taking more determined steps to deal with them.

29. The principles set forth in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, together with those embodied in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, provided an appropriate framework for the restructuring of world economic relations. The unequal and unjust relations inherent in the capitalist socio-economic system, however, had not been eliminated by the mere acceptance of those principles, and events taking place in certain parts of Africa bore witness to neo-colonialist efforts to preserve those relations. The present difficulties of the developing countries would not be overcome unless the developed capitalist countries demonstrated their willingness to contribute to the elimination of existing obstacles and to the development of the developing countries. His delegation regarded some of the observations made in the Council as an attempt to belittle the assistance provided by the socialist countries to the developing countries and to conceal the fact that the assistance granted by the developed capitalist countries to the developing countries was insignificant, in real terms, compared with the abundant flow of profits in the opposite direction.

30. Hungary had taken an active part in the international economic negotiations undertaken within the United Nations and had participated in the work of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174. In order to make those negotiations more effective, the activities of the Committee, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should be properly co-ordinated, for it was not yet clear what role the Committee would be called upon to play in the over-all United Nations framework.

31. Consideration of the problems related to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system should be based on the assumption that the United Nations was the best forum in

which to deal with the future of mankind, including the question of the promotion of international economic co-operation. While it was true that significant changes had taken place in the world over the past 30 years, the Charter of the United Nations continued to provide an appropriate framework for the achievement of the Organization's objectives. The negotiations on restructuring provided an opportunity to harmonize, streamline and make more effective the activities of the United Nations system as a whole and his delegation would actively support all measures conducive to the achievement of those objectives.

32. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should offer an opportunity to work out regional and international measures for the amplification of international co-operation and the application of scientific and technological achievements for the benefit of all mankind. The States members of ECE had already drawn up measures that would enable them to contribute to the promotion of scientific and technological development and co-operation at both the European and the world-wide levels. Taken as a whole, the States of the European region represented a significant scientific and technological potential and it was important that they should co-operate with each other in that field. Close attention should be paid at the Conference to the establishment of an independent scientific and technological basis in the developing countries, to the high-level education and training of specialists and experts in those countries and to the adoption of a programme of action that would create the conditions required for the solution of the related problems.

33. Mr. CORRÊA DA COSTA (Brazil) said that the lengthy and strenuous negotiations undertaken within the United Nations during the current decade were aimed primarily at achieving a restructuring of the economic order in which the developed countries subscribed and contributed to the required changes and recognized the increasing interdependence of all nations. Internal adjustments were required in the developed economies so that there could be gradual adaptation to the industrial growth of the developing world. Unless mutuality of interests was recognized and a number of anachronistic features eliminated from long-standing policies, there would be no major breakthrough in world relations and the North-South dialogue would produce only piecemeal and temporary results.

34. For the developing countries, trade was the factor of greatest relevance to the imbalance in present international economic relations. For the past few years, the Brazilian delegation to the General Assembly had frequently pointed to the obsolescence of the norms governing present-day trade and had proposed that action should be taken by the international community to correct existing imbalances. In addition, the resurgence of protectionist measures adopted by the industrialized countries was having extremely adverse effects upon the few emerging industries and the exports of their developing partners. To reason in sectoral terms was to neglect the over-all effect of foreign trade. For example, the annual average loss of jobs in an industrialized country as a result of its engaging in trade with developing countries might be far less significant than the indirect benefit to that country's over-all economy, and even a substantial reduction of its imports might not lead to any significant increase in employment opportunities. A prominent Brazilian

³ See General Assembly resolution S-10/2.

economist contended that as long as the over-all trade balance of developing countries presented a deficit vis-à-vis the developed countries, the aggressive promotion of exports signified the taxation of the consumer in the poor country in order to subsidize the consumer in the rich country.

35. Many difficulties in that field arose from the simple fact that the developed countries considered the developing countries' raw materials too expensive and their industrialized products too cheap. Consequently, when a developing country succeeded in exporting a product in accordance with the underlying principles of the generalized system of preferences, there was a tendency for restrictive measures to be adopted immediately. Prospects in respect of ongoing negotiations remained dismal; in particular, the negotiations on the Integrated Programme for Commodities had as yet met with no success. The developing countries, however, despite multiple and perennial difficulties, would not surrender their just aspirations, which demanded the establishment of a new order.

36. Following the disappointing outcome of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, the decision by the international community to reactivate the consideration of major economic questions on a universal basis had held out some promise. Since then, however, nothing but setbacks had occurred. At the resumed thirty-first session of the General Assembly, sterile exchanges on the results of the Conference had eclipsed more urgent and substantive questions. There had been a failure to reach agreement on the establishment of UNIDO as a specialized agency. Dissension had prevailed at the first session of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, even with respect to the interpretation of the Committee's mandate. Against that background, projects for the coming 18 months would have to be seriously reconsidered if the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1980 was to have a positive outcome. It was particularly important to ensure the success of the forthcoming session of the Committee of the Whole. Given the fact that interrelated subjects were dealt with in a large number of different forums, the Committee's monitoring role should be exercised as fully as possible, so that it could exert the necessary political influence that seemed to be lacking at the technical level. Although the channels of communication were fortunately still open, the mere existence of institutional machinery would not suffice; if the North-South talks were to survive, tangible results must be produced without delay.

37. Ever since preparation had started for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Brazil had played an active role in the efforts to guarantee that the Conference would make provision for the engagement of the entire United Nations system in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries. Although such co-operation did not represent a new programme, Governments and public opinion had only recently become aware of the real possibilities for improving such activities. Traditional patterns of bilateral and multilateral co-operation should not be replaced but, rather, supplemented by a new set of joint undertakings for development. Moreover; the United Nations machinery responsible for technical co-operation activities should not continue to rely almost exclusively on services and expertise from the developed countries. It was not a

question of rejecting the contribution of those countries but rather of generating alternative possibilities elsewhere. Attention should therefore be focused on helping the developing countries to gain equal access to the supply of such services. The existing network of UNDP offices throughout the world should be placed at the service of technical co-operation among developing countries; it should not be necessary to establish new parallel bodies for that purpose. The promotion of access and recourse to the Information Referral System would be an important element in the enhancement of technical co-operation activities.

38. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development was to meet in 1979. Its discussions should not be limited to drawing up resolutions and declarations but should centre round the practical application of science and technology to development and endeavour to prescribe action that would enable the developing countries to build up their technological capacity. His delegation was encouraged by the progress achieved in the preparatory work for the Conference and looked forward to the discussion of substantive issues at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, to which a preliminary draft programme of action based on national contributions was to be submitted.

39. Negotiations on the elaboration of a code of conduct for transnational corporations had reached a crucial stage and the substantive issues to be taken up during the forthcoming sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct would provide all parties concerned with an opportunity to demonstrate their willingness to exercise the required political will. In that connexion, he commended the objective and valuable work performed by the Centre on Transnational Corporations.

40. Yet another example of the developing countries' unceasing efforts had been those they had made in the negotiations on the formulation and adoption of a code of conduct for the transfer of technology. Following the laborious discussions in the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, the developing countries placed their expectations in the forthcoming United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology and hoped that the difficulties which still existed in that connexion would be overcome by high-level officials who were conscious of the political importance of the venture.

41. The results achieved so far with regard to restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system were not proportionate to the efforts expended over the past three years. While certain important decisions had been taken at the Secretariat level, much remained to be done in other sectors. Agreement had yet to be reached on the nature and extent of the subsidiary machinery best suited to the interests and effectiveness of the Economic and Social Council. Although divergent opinions had thus far marred attempts to streamline the Council's machinery, it was to be hoped that a consensus could be reached during the current session, so that the areas of interest that might be taken up at subject-oriented sessions of the Council could be determined.

42. Mr. AN Chih-yuan (China) said that the development of the international situation over the past year had been favourable to the people of all countries and unfavourable to hegemonism, imperialism and colonialism. The struggle for the establishment of a new

international economic order was gaining ground and undermining the old international economic system based on exploitation, plunder and control.

43. Persisting in unity and defending the correct principles embodied in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the third-world countries had continued to score new victories. The struggle with regard to raw materials, which had been initiated by the oil-exporting countries, had extended to other primary commodities and produced good results. An increasing number of developing countries had enhanced their economic independence and were persisting in their efforts to surmount difficulties and advance the self-reliant development of their national economies. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries had developed steadily, as had regional economic co-operation. Those were all significant elements in the developing countries' struggle to protect their economic rights and interests, to break super-Power monopoly and control, and to work towards the establishment of a new international economic order.

44. In a number of international conferences, the third-world countries had acted in close unity and co-ordination to frustrate super-Power schemes to sow seeds of dissension among them and split their ranks. An increasing number of countries had supported their reasonable proposals, including those for the establishment of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the Common Fund and for the reduction or cancellation of their debt burdens. Tried and tested in the course of the struggle, the unity of the third-world countries was gaining in strength and importance. The fact that a number of second-world countries had taken positive steps to promote dialogue and co-operation with third-world countries was a welcome development, for there was wide scope for such co-operation based on respect for independence and sovereignty and on equality and mutual benefit.

45. The obstacles to the establishment of a new international economic order must not be overlooked. The super-Powers, as defenders of the old order, were endeavouring by every means to oppose changes in the international economic sphere. Under the pressure of events, one super-Power had been obliged to change its tactics; while professing support for the creation of a "more just" international economic order, it was making every effort to preserve the unreasonable prevailing international economic system. It had a great deal to say about "meeting the basic needs of the poorest people and the poorest countries", but in fact it always rejected the just demands of the developing countries. Its sole purpose was to spread confusion and undermine the united struggle of the third-world countries. The other super-Power styled itself a "natural ally of the developing countries" and, under the pretext of "opposing discrimination" and "taking the interests of all parties into account", called upon the developing countries to grant it equal opportunities with the other super-Power, with the object of drawing them into its neo-colonialist system. In the face of the just demands of the developing countries, it claimed not to be responsible in any way for their poverty and backwardness, refused to assume any obligations and even objected in principle to the classification of "haves" and "have-nots". While repeatedly stating that the developing countries should take disarmament and détente as premises of development, it pursued aggressive and expansionist policies, increased its armaments, pre-

pared for war and placed obstacles in the way of proposals for genuine disarmament. Its hypocritical preaching about disarmament and détente was designed to bring the struggle for the establishment of a new international economic order within the orbit of its arms expansion, aggression and bid for world hegemony. Its repeated references to aiding the developing countries with funds released by disarmament were mere lip-service and demagogy. If it really wished to be generous, it could begin by following the example of some second-world countries and cancelling the debts incurred by some developing countries through their purchases of arms from it.

46. Owing to the obdurate position taken by the super-Powers, no substantive progress had been made over the previous year in negotiations in various United Nations bodies on the establishment of a new international economic order. The super-Powers continued to make use of the old international economic relations to exploit the developing countries and shift economic difficulties on to them, thus, arousing the indignation of the peoples of the third-world countries and convincing them of the necessity of closer unity and a more vigorous struggle.

47. At its current session, the Council should focus on the serious lack of progress in establishing a new international economic order and should accept the reasonable positions and rational proposals of the third-world countries in that regard.

48. His delegation supported the suggestion for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in 1980, at which the Assembly should assess the experience gained since its sixth special session, review the implementation of the pertinent resolutions, expose the super-Powers' economic hegemonism and remove obstacles impeding the establishment of a new international economic order. United Nations organs should intensify their discussions on related questions, and the Committee of the Whole, which had been set up at the suggestion of third-world countries, should fully play its role in monitoring and giving impetus to negotiations on substantive economic problems.

49. His delegation supported the idea of working out an international development strategy for the third development decade aimed at the establishment of a new international economic order and keyed to the pressing demands of the vast majority of countries and peoples for the abolition of the old international economic relations and the creation of favourable conditions for the independent and self-reliant development of their national economies by the developing countries.

50. His delegation supported the just demand of the third-world countries for the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the Assembly's sixth special session, so that those sectors would be more capable of contributing to the establishment of a new international economic order. Third-world countries should be given more seats in the important organizations, so that they might play their full part in decision-making on international economic problems.

51. It was natural that many developing countries paid increasing attention to the development of national science and technology, which were assuming ever greater importance as factors of production. Developing countries must master science and technology, in

order to accelerate their development and raise their living standards. Science and technology were common assets created by talented people of all countries, but owing to prolonged exploitation by imperialism, especially by the super-Powers, and to their monopoly of scientific and technological development, the science and technology of the developing countries had been reduced to its present state of backwardness. The people of the third-world countries were fully entitled, and had the ability, to utilize the most modern achievements in science and technology and, once the shackles holding them back had been broken, they would certainly make rapid progress in those fields.

52. Countries must adhere to a policy of independence and self-reliance in raising their scientific and technological standards, but at the same time they required to learn from the advanced science and technology of other countries. For the developing countries, an important method was to extend international co-operation and exchange and to learn from each other on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and equality.

53. His delegation welcomed the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and endorsed the proposal of the developing countries for the preparation of the Conference within the context of the establishment of a new international economic order. It was to be hoped that, through the common efforts of the participating countries, the Conference would make a positive contribution towards ending the international monopoly of science and technology and promoting advances in all countries, especially the developing countries.

54. Since the overthrow of the "Gang of Four", China's socialist revolution and construction had steadily improved. In 1978, at the first session of the Fifth National People's Congress, Chairman Hua had put forward a grand development programme and national conference on industry, agriculture and science had been convened. All sectors in China were thriving and, under the leadership of the Party's Central Committee, headed by Chairman Hua, the Chinese People had begun a new "Long March". They were determined to modernize their agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology and to make China a powerful socialist country by the end of the century, a goal towards which they were advancing confidently.

55. China shared common historical experiences with the other developing countries all over the world. All developing countries belonged to the third world and China would always stand unswervingly by the other third-world countries, united with all the forces that could be mustered in the common struggle to safeguard national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, develop national economies and combat super-Power hegemonist aggression, plunder and control, and in the struggle for the establishment of a new international economic order.

56. Mr. YOUNG (United States of America) said that the basis for the stock-taking of the accomplishments of the previous year must be present-day economic realities. The *World Economic Survey, 1977* had rightly noted the widespread unease which existed in every country as a result of economic problems and had stimulated a call for protectionist measures in developed countries at a time when developing coun-

tries required to export more in order to meet current needs and heavy debt burdens.

57. The world community had recognized that the term interdependence conveyed a plain statement of fact: world economic problems could not be solved without the participation of all or without regard for the interests of all. Economic progress for the rest of the century was linked not only to economic revival in the developed countries but to the realization of the world's greatest potential for growth, which lay in the developing countries. The development of that potential was of the highest priority and it should not be difficult to agree on what was needed on the basis of the five steps to which President Carter had referred in his address to the Congress of Venezuela, namely, increased capital flow to developing countries, a more fair and open trading system, the moderation of disruptive price movements in the world economy, the development and conservation of energy sources, and the strengthening of the technological capacities of the developing world.

58. Those steps had to be taken together by both developed and developing countries. They involved major structural changes in the world economy which could not be forced by leaders upon people who did not understand them. Furthermore, the obligation to participate could not be pressed on some by evoking guilt for the past or denied by others laying ideological claims to innocence. No nation that contributed billions to death and destruction in the modern world could claim innocence before the hungry millions in the very areas where that destruction was taking place. Such changes not only required the effective contribution of all countries but must be based on mutual interest. Countries must be flexible about old positions and bring imagination to the search for new solutions. He could state that, as a result of President Carter's discussion on the issues with Latin American and Caribbean leaders in Panama in June 1978, the United States Government was committed at the highest political level to expanding areas of agreement and convergence on North-South questions. The leaders of the industrialized countries who were to meet shortly at Bonn would also devote priority attention to that theme.

59. It was the responsibility of the United Nations system to improve the mechanisms available for the exchange of views and the search for solutions to development problems. He wished to discuss four different ways in which efforts were being made to improve those capacities, namely, in the Committee of the Whole, through the international development strategy, in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, and by the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

60. Although the General Assembly at its resumed thirty-first session had been unable to produce an agreed text on the results of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, there had been a general awareness that a mechanism had to be devised within the United Nations system to bring senior policy-making officials together periodically to exchange views on the world economy and on unresolved issues. It had been thought that General Assembly resolution 32/174 had provided the framework for such a dialogue through the setting up of the Committee of the Whole. The question of procedure, however, had not proved to be a simple matter. Acting on the premise that the

management of the world economy had become a concern for developed and developing countries alike, the developed countries had hoped that a common approach to common problems would be adopted along the lines which had made OECD a useful forum for exchanges of views and that such exchanges, by contributing to a greater understanding of the problems and to national positions, could lead to a greater convergence of views and thus facilitate consensus in the various specialized negotiating forums. On the other hand, most developing countries had seen in the Committee an opportunity to obtain specific commitments from the developed countries on outstanding issues that, in accordance with United Nations practice, would be recorded in a final text agreed upon by the Committee itself. They felt that, otherwise, the premise of joint management overlooked the many proposals for change which they had made.

61. Both approaches had been used when the Committee had held its first substantive session in May 1978, but members had been given little opportunity for a general exchange of views and the failure to agree upon a final text demonstrated the difficulty of such an exercise when substantive agreement was not yet possible. The general conclusion had been that ways must be found to use the Committee as a forum in which neither the roles of existing United Nations policy-making bodies nor those of the existing specialized negotiating forums were reproduced. It would be possible to do so if it was borne in mind that the overriding purpose of the Committee was to facilitate solutions to problems, that such solutions should evolve from high-level discussions and that sufficient time must be given for the ideas and solutions suggested in such discussions to be thoroughly explored by Governments. The end product of the whole process should be the submission of specific new proposals in the appropriate negotiating bodies.

62. The United States Government had given thought to how those requirements might be met through a procedure which brought together the different concepts of the Committee's role. One possible formula was that at subsequent meetings of the Committee of the Whole there should be a period of extensive exchanges of views among high-level officials, terminating in agreement on a list of a few selected topics which participating Governments would engage themselves to explore, with a view to action or the formulation of new solutions in the appropriate international forums. At a later session, the Committee would monitor what progress had been made on those topics and, although there would clearly be no commitment to change positions on every issue, there would be an obligation to carry out a reappraisal. Finally, a last review of progress on the agreed topics could be made at the special session to be held at ministerial level in 1980. The key to success in such an approach lay in the correct selection of topics. Proposals by any delegation for topics for re-examination should be based on a realistic assessment of its Government's capacity for flexibility. Where there was no prospect of the required flexibility on the part of individual Governments or groups, it would be better to move on to more promising areas.

63. Although there was clearly a consensus that all the major problem areas relating to a new international economic order should be discussed during the lifetime of the Committee, he considered that, of the various topics on the agenda for the September 1978 meeting,

the most pressing and the most amenable to new efforts was the problem of food and agricultural development. The long-term problem in that area remained unchanged and 43 per cent of the population of the developing world lived in areas where the increase in agricultural production over the previous seven years had not even kept pace with population growth. People in the United States of America would find it difficult to conceive of a discussion on development which ignored 400 million starving people. Such an issue must not be relegated to second place if the necessary popular support for structural adjustments in the world economy was to be secured; moreover, food security was not merely a humanitarian consideration; it was a precondition of increased employment in the industrial sector, of efforts to combat inflation and of development generally. A country could hardly plan development if much of its foreign exchange had to be used to pay for emergency food imports.

64. The link between food security and development was recognized in the Foreign Assistance Bill currently before the United States Congress, which called for a world-wide co-operative effort to overcome absolute poverty and to ensure self-reliant growth in the developing countries by the year 2000. The greatest potential for expanding food production was in the developing countries, which could yield the highest marginal returns on the utilization of scarce oil-based inputs. The United States wished to make a contribution to such development by the establishment of a special Presidential Commission on world hunger to tackle all aspects of the food security problem. The appointment of Mr. Linowitz, one of the negotiators of the Panama Canal Treaty, to head the Commission was an indication that real results were expected from the new body.

65. The brief discussion on the question of a new international development strategy at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly had revealed the need for a "zero-based approach", i.e. one that asked the most fundamental questions about the uses and utility of a development strategy. The value of the last Strategy and the entire review and appraisal process associated with it needed to be re-examined. His Government did not regard it as a model for the future. It was clear that any new strategy must reflect the concept of building a new and more equitable international economic order, upon which the international community had embarked. If, however, every element on which the discussion of that order must bear was to be included in a new strategy, it was unlikely that agreements on it could be reached in the relatively short time remaining before it should be finalized. Rather than reflect any particular vision of the new international economic order, the strategy should be complementary to and should support the evolutionary process through which a new order would be attained; that meant that it should have reference to some of the problems within the broader concepts of a new order.

66. For example, national and international goals for industrialization presupposed a labour force fit to perform the new tasks demanded of it, adequate food supplies and adequate means of bringing them to the industrialized areas. Development goals presupposed solutions to problems of housing and urban development and of transport and communications, particularly in Africa. Nor must the link between the two decades be neglected. Such questions were qualitative as well as quantitative and his delegation doubted the advisability of adopting a single set of targets and

treating developed and developing countries as uniform groups. The setting of such targets, even by national authorities, was a difficult task and it would be unrealistic to attempt to negotiate them on a world-wide basis. Instead, the strategy should concentrate on designating problems and exploring the means to solve them. Periodic reviews of progress should not be acrimonious attempts to blend reality with abstraction but should present useful exchanges of experience. The development strategy should also be an evolving concept. In working out a strategy over the coming months, past examples should be put aside and the basic question asked should be what form of strategy could provide real support for the process of achieving the new order.

67. His delegation agreed with the priority assigned by the Council to the subject of science and technology for development. President Carter had recognized that the development of the technological capacities of developing countries was essential to promote their self-reliance and had stressed his Government's intention of making co-operation in that field a key element in its relations with them. He had proposed the creation of a United States Foundation for Technological Co-operation, which it was hoped would be in an advanced stage of preparation by the time the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development opened. United States preparations for the Conference were progressing and his Government hoped through its national paper to share its experiences in both the development and the application of technology with the international community. There had been a serious examination of concrete needs and problems through the preparation of national and regional papers and the consideration and selection of illustrative subject areas. He hoped that future work would be grounded on that valuable experience in order to ensure that the subject would not only engage the attention of technocrats but also become a means of improving the quality of life and of strengthening self-reliance in developing countries.

68. His delegation looked forward to participating in informal discussions on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in the course of the current session. It continued to believe that a significant revision of the operating procedures of the Council and its subsidiary organs was essential if the Council was to fulfil the role assigned to it in the Charter of the United Nations. It could and should assist the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly to correlate their work more effectively, in line with the inseparable nature of economic and social progress. In the coming decade, a restructured Council must also be capable of discharging the first of the responsibilities listed in section II, paragraph 5, of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, which was to serve as the central forum for the discussion of international economic and social issues of a global or interdisciplinary nature and the formulation of policy recommendations thereon addressed to Member States and to the United Nations system as a whole. To that end, it must streamline the work of expert bodies, committees and commissions. There was general agreement that the direct assumption by the Council of responsibility for the work of some committees and commissions in subject-oriented sessions was a means of doing that. It was, however, difficult to reach agreement on the specific application of that principle. Governments were inclined to fear

that, if the work of any particular body was taken over directly by the Council, the transfer of functions would be a form of demotion. If all such reservations were added together, however, the result could only be the maintenance of the status quo. He hoped, therefore, that all would agree to try the new approach, provision being made for a review after the first two years.

69. There were two proposals with which his delegation had been closely associated in the past. His Government continued to give high priority to the successful conclusion of work on corrupt practices, particularly illicit payments or bribery, in international commercial transactions. Such practices distorted the process of economic decision-making and the normal flow of goods and services, and raised costs to the consumer, thus contributing significantly to world-wide inflation. He therefore welcomed the progress made by the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices, especially at its most recent sessions (see E/1978/39 and E/1978/115), and the constructive participation in its work of both developed and developing countries. He was pleased to note that the Commission on Transnational Corporations had endorsed the work of the Group (see E/1978/52, para. 75), which had significantly narrowed differences on key issues and was ready to enter upon a new phase of activity. His delegation was preparing to introduce a draft resolution to convene a diplomatic conference on the adoption of an international convention dealing with illicit payments and to make provision for a preparatory committee to lay the groundwork for that conference.

70. Initial steps had been taken to establish a network for the exchange of technological information, in accordance with decisions taken at the seventh special session of the General Assembly. The Interagency Task Force on Information Exchange and the Transfer of Technology, set up in 1975, had confirmed the feasibility of the basic concept and one of its major components, the UNIDO Industrial Technological Information Bank, would shortly become operational. At the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, a consensus resolution, 32/178, had made provision for the submission of further proposals to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. He hoped that agreement could be reached at the current session of the Council on specific organizational steps to that end.

71. Mr. JAY (Observer for Canada) said that the successive phases through which the North-South dialogue had passed had laid the foundation for an understanding of interdependent effects and responsibilities and had identified a programme for international negotiation in specific subject areas. There was general agreement on the broad principles of more equitable international economic relations and on the need to accelerate development in the third world and improve the quality of living, as also a recognition of the fact that all would benefit from the creation of an improved economic environment for developing countries.

72. Efforts to translate such broad principles into concrete action, however, could only succeed if there was a better understanding of the interrelated effects of specific alterations in the international economic process. It was, for example, already clear that the chance of such changes succeeding would be greater in an improved international economic environment and that confidence would grow as the ability to predict their effect increased. The industrialized countries were making great efforts in that direction by strength-

ening their domestic economies and contributing to a healthier international climate. The recent ministerial meeting of OECD had agreed on a promising programme of policy measures and several of the principal industrialized countries were shortly to hold a summit meeting with similar objects in view. The multilateral trade negotiations had entered a decisive phase and the conditions for further trade liberalization and expansion that they were establishing could contribute to world-wide recovery and determine the pattern of international trade relations for the coming decade. It would also be necessary to gain a deeper understanding of the processes of North-South relations and of development by means of a more complete analysis, so that consensus on principles could be extended to agreement on mechanisms.

73. Considerable progress had been made towards the restructuring of the United Nations system, and the response of the Secretariat had been highly encouraging. The over-all direction of the office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation would concentrate Secretariat activities; his delegation also welcomed the establishment of a co-ordinated interagency programme to assist inter-governmental bodies in the formulation of policies for the 1980s and beyond. The studies envisaged—on structural and cyclical aspects of interdependence, on basic needs, on energy, on relationships among such factors as population, natural resources and the environment—would make the concrete contribution to understanding which was required if important forthcoming meetings were to be successful. In addition to an improved international economic environment, a well-organized programme of research and documentation, and Secretariat resources which could be applied flexibly and pertinently to key areas, the will to reach agreed solutions was necessary. Misunderstandings about the objectives and potential of meetings must be avoided. For example, he hoped that agreement would be reached at the current session of the Council on the purposes and working methods of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174. His delegation considered that it should concentrate on issues where progress was possible and thus establish a climate of confidence which would enable it to deal with the more difficult issues. If the Committee approached its work in a positive and non-recriminatory spirit, it could serve as a catalyst for the production of carefully considered proposals for incorporation in a new development strategy at the special session of the Assembly on development to be held in 1980.

74. Progress was being made in negotiations on the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, but it was slower than many had expected; a greater understanding of the interrelated effects of the variety of techniques under discussion was still needed—a further indication of the difficulty of reaching agreement when there was uncertainty about the effects of all its aspects.

75. The best prospect for concrete benefits in the medium term was probably in the field of trade. Canada had always attached particular importance to ensuring that developing countries benefited from success in the multilateral trade negotiations and hoped that the improved climate which they sought to create would lead to an extension of the marked growth of two-way trade between developed and developing countries which had occurred in recent years.

76. His delegation expected much from the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which it hoped would evolve a broader and more constructive basis for the participation of all countries in the technological development process.

77. The UNCTAD secretariat had helped to focus attention on trade, finance and development issues. In preparing for the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, his Government would be seeking to identify issues upon which further international agreement might be possible and useful.

78. Food and agricultural development was closely related to industrial development, which was often promoted by the freeing of resources in the rural sector, and he welcomed the fact that the Committee of the Whole would be discussing both types of development at its next session. Self-sufficiency in food remained an important need of the least developed countries in particular.

79. Increasingly critical attention was being paid to development assistance. There was growing concern on the part of those who financed it about its impact and effectiveness and the efficiency with which it was administered. There were some delays in disbursing aid funds that were ascribable to administrative shortcomings at both ends of the disbursement process. In reviewing operational activities, Member States, especially major donors and recipients, should devote attention to such matters, as well as to the volume of resources, in deciding whether the United Nations system merited the share of aid funds it currently received. At the tenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, much time had been spent in discussing the military budgets of all nations. If they could be reduced, it might be possible to narrow the income gap between developed and developing countries by the use of the resources thus released.

80. His delegation hoped that the Council would focus its attention at the current session on certain issues that could have an impact on international economic co-operation and that, in particular, it would promote agreement on the question of corrupt practices by transnational corporations. It also hoped that the Council would give serious consideration to the idea of a conference on renewable sources of energy. The session also provided an opportunity to agree on methods to make the Council more productive. He urged delegations to sink narrow interests and to respond positively to the paper prepared by the Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee.

81. His delegation considered that there was a tendency for too many international meetings to be held. Attention should be concentrated on key issues over the next few years in preparation for the 1980 ministerial meeting of the General Assembly, at which the main problems of international economic co-operation were to be discussed. In the conviction that what was needed in international affairs was not rhetoric but results, he had sought to emphasize the necessity of reaching agreement on the facts. As the Prime Minister of Canada had stated recently, without an extraordinary effort on the part of the industrialized and the OPEC countries, little progress could be made towards narrowing the real income gap between them and many developing countries and eliminating the poverty in

which more than a billion people lived. The attainment of those objectives was not only a moral imperative but also a practical matter. The industrialized world must not wait to put its own house in order

before turning its attention to countries of the third world, for the fortunes of both groups were inextricably bound together.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

25th meeting

Tuesday, 11 July 1978, at 3.55 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.25

In the absence of the President, Mr. EHSASSI (Iran), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. NAJMAN (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) noted that questions of science and technology were receiving increasing attention, not only on account of the preparations for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, but also through growing awareness of the central role of science and technology in development and in many other aspects of modern life. Nowadays no aspect of education or culture could be considered without due regard to the influence of science and technology. The UNESCO scientific and technological programmes were the outcome of close co-operation with member States and the world scientific community. They were designed, firstly, to help member States to develop their own science and technology policies. That was the aim, for example, of the regional conferences at ministerial level regularly organized by UNESCO. Secondly, the development of science and technology in the service of man was fostered through international co-operation, including collaboration between the intergovernmental and non-governmental levels on problems of common concern, such as data processing or energy questions. Thirdly, national participation was promoted in large-scale joint research programmes relating to problems of world importance; examples were the Man and the Biosphere Programme, the International Hydrological Programme, the International Geological Correlation Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's programmes dealing with marine resources. Fourthly, the links between science and society were strengthened by promoting the spread of scientific knowledge and education and encouraging interdisciplinary consideration of the role of science and technology. Finally, with the assistance of the financing organizations and programmes, member States were helped to increase their own research and training capacity, which many of them so sadly lacked.

2. Pursuant to the decisions of the UNESCO General Conference at its nineteenth session, the science and technology activities to be proposed by the Director-General at the twentieth session had been expanded to the fullest extent compatible with the Organization's budgetary constraints. That part of the programme should increase, in real terms, by 8.9 per cent for the

next two years—the highest rate in the entire programme. Science and technology would thus come to occupy as important a place as education had held hitherto.

3. Particular efforts were being made concerning the problems of adaptation and orientation arising from the progress and transfer of science and technology. The programme of UNESCO was in fact concerned with the same matters as the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, for which UNESCO was helping to prepare. Its resources would be used to the utmost to involve the world scientific community as actively as possible in the Conference and to aid member States and the regional organizations to prepare for their participation.

4. In such activities, UNESCO acted in consultation, and often in close collaboration, with other organizations, especially those of the United Nations system. For example, the organizations concerned were statutorily represented on the managing bodies of the intergovernmental scientific programmes he had mentioned and took an active part in the projects which concerned them.

5. UNESCO was fully aware of the complex problems of co-ordination within the United Nations system on science and technology matters, but thought that new administrative structures would increase rather than lessen them. The solution was to increase the resources available and to mobilize the efforts of the various elements of the system towards clearly-defined goals. For example, in working for the establishment of a new international economic order, it should be possible to identify obstacles at the regional or international level and promote co-operative research programmes to overcome them, to which all member States and organizations concerned could contribute. Such a new approach would focus the research work of developing and developed countries alike on particular targets defined by the competent bodies of the organizations in question, including, in the forefront, the Economic and Social Council and the deliberative organs of UNESCO and of other specialized agencies.

6. The problems could thus be solved within the framework of the General Assembly decisions on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. It was a matter of political will, which it was to be hoped would be evinced at the forthcoming Conference.

7. The other requirement for a real change was, of course, a significant increase in resources, which alone would provide each State with the means to manage

its own scientific and technological development and solve for itself the problems relating to the transfer of technology. The expansion of each country's own scientific potential was not only the way to a broader and fuller independence but also a guarantee that all would be contributing to the spread of science and thus enable it to fulfil its true universal role. Progress in science and technology was indispensable for the solving of mankind's problems and was thus the responsibility of developed and developing countries alike.

8. Mr. KJELDGAARD (Observer for Denmark) said that the adverse economic trends since 1973 had affected developing countries particularly, because they had been in a vulnerable position to start with. But the recession had also affected developed countries. Small industrialized countries, such as Denmark, had faced great difficulties, being based on specialized industry and therefore heavily dependent on international trade. Their ability to pursue an independent economic policy was very limited, and they thus counted on a worldwide effort to promote economic recovery.

9. General recovery would bring important benefits to the developing countries, and faster economic growth in those countries would also improve the economic climate in general. Capital flows to the developing countries from various "surplus" countries should therefore be encouraged. However, such increased investment could only come about on a basis of increased security, which entailed among other things commodity price stabilization and permanent access to the industrialized countries' market.

10. Such new capital flows should be additional to the continuous planned growth of official development assistance. It was regrettable that the level of such assistance, as a percentage of GNP, had been falling. The economic recession was no valid excuse for slackening efforts to assist the poorest nations. Denmark's official development assistance, despite its economic difficulties, had steadily increased; it had amounted to 0.61 per cent of GNP in 1977 and was likely to reach the 0.7 per cent target in 1979.

11. The International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade clearly laid down the minimum scale on which resources should be transferred on concessional terms from rich to poor countries. If the Strategy was to remain a useful instrument in the efforts towards attaining a more equitable world economy, it was important for all donor countries, especially those with strong economies, to do their utmost to achieve, in the very near future, the 0.7 per cent target which the developing countries had come to regard as an indicator of the industrialized countries' political will.

12. While it was vital to meet the targets of the Strategy for the Second Development Decade, work on a new international development strategy must also be pursued, in full recognition of the fundamental decisions taken in various United Nations forums during the 1970s. The broad objectives for a new strategy as outlined by the Committee for Development Planning (see E/1978/46 and Corr.1, paras. 31-56) offered a good starting point.

13. His delegation attached great importance to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, since the Council had a central role in co-ordinating the system's activities. In that connexion, the recent strengthening of CPC was of great importance; only by utilizing the results of the preparatory work carried out by CPC could the Council

regain its central role. His delegation also welcomed the growing willingness of ACC to heed the advice arising from the restructuring exercise and gear its work to the policy-making and programming process of the General Assembly and the Council. Those developments, if pursued, should enable the Council to fulfil more satisfactorily its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

14. Mr. LOEFF (European Economic Community) said that in 1977 the European Economic Community had experienced a further year of poor economic performance and had again faced great difficulty in striving towards its economic targets. The slowdown in growth had prevented a greater utilization of productive capacity; on average, some 5½ per cent of the Community's active population remained unemployed, not to mention the new school-leavers who would make the situation worse. However, there had been a slight lessening of inflationary trends, particularly in the countries where they had been highest, and the Community's over-all balance-of-payments deficit had improved substantially.

15. The European Council, at its April session at Copenhagen, had agreed on the development, by the Community and its member States, of a joint strategy aimed at strengthening the control of economic fluctuations and the stimulation of real growth; such a strategy would deal with economic and monetary matters, employment, energy, trade, industry and relations with the developing world, and would contribute significantly to international measures to promote world economic recovery.

16. At Bremen the previous week, the European Council had adopted a joint action plan aimed at securing a significant increase in economic growth and a resultant drop in European unemployment, by combating inflation, achieving greater currency stability, expanding international trade, making progress in energy matters, lessening regional imbalances and stimulating demand. Care would have to be taken not to endanger the economic balance further; in particular, efforts to reduce inflation and disparities in cost and price trends among countries should be pursued.

17. The establishment of a currency stability zone in Europe was seen as a highly desirable aim in that connexion, and it was proposed to establish a lasting and efficient system, the details of which were to be fixed by 31 October 1978. At the same time, the means which were necessary within that system to strengthen the economies of the least prosperous member States would be studied. The system's corner-stone would be the European Currency Unit; it would be used, for example, for settlements amongst the European Community's currency authorities. An initial fund in that currency unit would be established for the Community's central banks. Two years after the system had entered into force, the existing arrangements and institutions would be combined in a European monetary fund.

18. The European Council had also expressed the view that progress in the North-South dialogue was essential for the solution of international economic problems and the maintenance of world peace and stability. It had affirmed its desire to strike a balance between the two sides' interests in the present difficult period, which would mean opening the industrialized countries' markets to the developing countries' products. The full integration of the developing countries in international trade would be bound to strengthen such trade.

19. At the same time, the Community and its member States were intensifying world-wide development assistance. Current negotiations on the establishment of a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the conclusion of various agreements should be continued until satisfactory results were achieved; in that connexion, the question of stabilizing export earnings should be studied. The European Council felt that the interrelationship of world economic activities called for joint action by all concerned, including those countries whose economies were run by the State.

20. The European Economic Community was also aware that sustained growth in world trade was indispensable for the recovery of the world economy. It was convinced of the need to combat protectionist policies, which had been encouraged by the continuing recession. At the last session of the OECD Council at ministerial level, the European Economic Community had supported the fourth renewal of the Trade Declaration of May 1974,¹ in which Governments of States members of OECD had expressed their determination to avoid recourse to new trade restrictions to meet the difficulties created by the international economic crisis. The Community considered that the agreement had generally proved effective in the face of the difficulties which characterized the economies of the main trading partners; the renewal of the agreement also had a political significance as the expression of the will to maintain a spirit of co-operation and solidarity in a difficult situation.

21. In some sectors, the distortions brought about by the crisis had been made worse by changes in the international division of labour and by the development of industrial capacity in a number of third countries. In that area, too, the Community rejected recourse to a protectionist policy designed to keep unprofitable sectors of activity in existence, particularly since it would give rise to a chain reaction that would only aggravate the world crisis. The necessary structural changes should nevertheless be backed up by a policy designed to limit the economic and social cost. At its Copenhagen meeting, the European Council had emphasized the need for re-establishing the competitiveness of industries that were in difficulties, so as to enable them to meet international competition and thus contribute to the development of international trade.

22. Efforts for a greater liberalization of international trade had continued throughout 1977 in the context of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations. Those negotiations, in which all developing countries which so desired were able to participate as full partners, had recently been accelerated, and appeared to be approaching a successful conclusion. The Community attached particular importance to the fact that the negotiations among developed countries were leading to a more balanced situation and to the application of GATT regulations by all the Contracting Parties; that implied, on the one hand, a harmonization of tariffs and, on the other, a satisfactory balance of rights and obligations in a number of codes dealing with non-tariff matters. The improved international regulations sought throughout the negotiations would facilitate the participation of developing countries in international trade; the Community hoped that those countries would participate as actively as possible, not only in the nego-

tiations but also in the system which was to be established.

23. The previous year had seen the conclusion of the work of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation. Although the results of that Conference did not entirely fulfil the hopes of the developing countries, they were none the less a new stage in the process of establishing a more equitable international economic order. The Community and its member States had also continued to evolve their own methods for co-operation in development. The Community and the Asian, Caribbean and Pacific countries associated with it had started the third year of the implementation of the Lomé Convention.

24. With regard to trade, the countries signatories to that Convention, enjoying since 1 July 1975 free access to the Community market for almost all their products, had increased their exports to the Community by 20 per cent in 1977. That significant development had enabled the total exports of those countries to catch up with total third-world exports, including those of the oil-exporting countries.

25. In the field of industrial co-operation, 1977 had seen the beginning of the activities of the Industrial Development Centre, which collected and distributed information on possibilities for industrial co-operation and facilitated contacts between those responsible for industrial policy and for economic activities in the Community and the States parties to the Lomé Convention. Finally, the machinery for stabilizing export earnings was now working satisfactorily, and thus creating greater security for the rural economy of those countries. In addition, the signature of co-operation agreements with Egypt, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon at the beginning of 1977 was the latest step in the Community's policy in relation to the southern and eastern Mediterranean areas.

26. In a more general context, the Community had introduced a basic regulation for the granting of technical and financial aid to non-associated developing countries. The aid was destined, in general, for the least developed countries, on the basis of a reasonable geographical balance between the major developing regions of the world. Its main objective was to help to improve the living conditions of the poorest levels of the population and special importance was given to rural development and the improvement of food production. The programme had begun in 1976 with an allocation of 20 million units of account from the Community budget, a figure rising in 1977 to 45 million and in 1978 to 70 million, the equivalent of \$87.5 million. The world-wide dimension of the Community's policy of co-operation for development was indicated by its scheme of generalized tariff preferences. The Community's scheme for 1978 included an increase in preferences for the least developed countries.

27. With regard to food aid, the Community's contribution for 1977 amounted to a total of more than 170 million units of account, i.e. more than 210 million dollars. The Community was gratified by the progress achieved by the World Food Council since its establishment and participated actively in its work. The world food problem had economic and human aspects which required new efforts to increase agricultural production in the developing countries and improve food security, including the ability to deal with emergency situations. The Community had taken important steps to improve its strategy for attaining those

¹ See OECD, *OECD Observer* (Paris), No. 70, June 1974.

objectives including approval in principle of participation in "FLOOD II", a vast rural development project in India.

28. With regard to co-ordinating and harmonizing national policies for development co-operation, at the meeting of the European Council at Copenhagen it had been noted that a general increase in the flow of aid to developing countries would enable those countries to play an important part in the general recovery of the world economy. In addition, during the period under review, the European Economic Community had continued to participate actively in the work of various United Nations bodies, particularly in the activities following the Conference on International Economic Co-operation. It had participated in the recent session of the Committee of the Whole established by General Assembly resolution 32/174.

29. The European Economic Community attached special importance to adequate preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development planned to take place in 1979 at Manila. It hoped that the Trade and Development Board would prepare an agenda which would be both concrete and practicable, enabling the Conference to concentrate its work on a number of well-defined objectives, and avoid becoming lost in general declarations of principle.

30. Mr. MARTYNENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the protracted crisis in the capitalist countries, aggravated by the arms race, was still a prominent feature of the world economic situation, harming not only the capitalist system itself but also the progress of the countries which had recently freed themselves from colonial rule. The capitalist countries had suffered a sharp fall in production, increased unemployment and massive inflation. The crisis had also extended to such important sectors of the world capitalist economy as those concerned with energy, raw materials and the monetary, financial and trade spheres. The acute nature of the problem was due not so much to rapid development, and a consequent increased demand for fuel and raw materials, as to the nature of the capitalist system, which impeded equitable trade in natural resources and encouraged the misappropriation of those resources in the interests of monopolistic capital. The transnational corporations had done much to make the crisis worse. By seizing control over natural resources, they had helped to worsen the economic position of the developing countries and to reduce their opportunities of solving their development problems through international trade and the broadening of economic relations. The developing countries' trade deficit had increased, leading to greater dependence on foreign capital.

31. The crisis was accompanied by a growing resort to protectionist policies on the part of the capitalist countries and a combined resistance of those countries to the just demands of developing countries in most spheres of economic co-operation.

32. Increased foreign private investment in the developing countries encouraged the outflow of capital in the form of dividends and profits. The indebtedness of developing countries to private creditors had been estimated at 60 per cent of their total indebtedness. That was one of the main causes of the growing impoverishment of the peoples of the developing countries and of the widening gap between those countries and the developed world. The harmful trends in the

world economy had affected the least developed countries most of all.

33. An essential problem of development was to overcome the danger of world nuclear conflict. The General Assembly, at its tenth special session, devoted to disarmament, had expressed justified alarm about the threat of the arms race to human existence. The devotion of vast resources every year to the development of weapons was in sharp contrast to the state of poverty in which two thirds of the population of the world were living. Resources freed by disarmament could be directed instead to economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries. Hence the need for further détente in all spheres of international relations, with the participation of all countries and regions.

34. The United Nations had an important role to play in reorganizing world economic relations on a democratic basis. Among the important steps it had already taken were the adoption of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. Those instruments gave expression to the aspirations of the developing countries as a whole to overcome their backwardness and do away with their economic dependence on imperialism. They reaffirmed the principles of equity, equality of rights, non-discrimination and mutual advantage. Their practical implementation was among the most important tasks of the Council and other United Nations bodies working in the economic field.

35. The struggle of the third-world countries against neo-colonialism in international economic relations continued to be one of the main prerequisites for their development. The most successful results in economic and social development had been achieved by those countries which had directed their development towards the state sector, relinquished outmoded forms of land tenure, nationalized foreign enterprises, established sovereignty over their natural resources and trained their own qualified personnel. Countries which had followed those principles had been able to withstand the onslaught of monopolistic capital and secure equitable economic relations.

36. Many developing countries had been able to solve their development problems by means of their own internal resources. His delegation supported that policy as the most reliable means of achieving independent development. Outside assistance should not play the major role but should merely supplement domestic efforts. The activities of foreign monopolies and the existing system of international economic relations impeded the mobilization of internal resources for development.

37. His country approached those problems in the light of its own experience. Socialist industrialization, the establishment of a co-operative agricultural system, cultural revolution and a just settlement of the nationality question had played a decisive part in his country's progress. Its development over the past 60 years had not been simply a matter of quantitative growth but had entailed thorough qualitative change, as a result of which a new society had emerged, the society of developed socialism. Such progress had been achieved through the elimination of all forms of exploitation, the safeguarding of human rights, the mobilization of internal resources and the involvement of

all workers in creative labour for the benefit of society as a whole.

38. The Ukrainian economy was developing at a high and steady pace. During the first two years of its tenth five-year plan (1976-1980), it had achieved, in co-operation with all the other Republics of the Soviet Union, further progress in the development of all sectors of the economy. His country's economic development was guaranteed by public ownership of the means of production and by socialist planning.

39. The strong industrial and technological foundation which the Ukrainian SSR had established over 60 years of Soviet rule provided a sound basis for assistance to developing countries, both bilaterally and through international organizations. Such assistance took the form of provision of equipment and expertise, the training of experts from developing countries and the organization of seminars, courses and symposia. His country was at present supplying industrial products to 99 countries. It had had no connexion with colonialist policies, and the assistance it gave to developing countries was therefore not a form of compensation for damage done to those countries in the past.

40. The problem of the restructuring of economic relations was accompanied by the related problem of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Any reorganization carried out had to be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and designed to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations activities without increasing the number of economic and social bodies in the Secretariat. The need for economy should be borne in mind in the adoption of any decisions with financial implications.

41. Assessment of the present economic situation was linked inseparably with the question of the international development strategy for the 1980s, which should be based on the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and on other progressive decisions adopted by the United Nations in recent years. The Council's work in that direction should be aimed primarily at safeguarding the basic and long-term interests of the broad masses in the developing countries and identifying specific tasks in the fields of planning, industrialization, agricultural development and progressive social and economic reform.

42. The development of broad international co-operation also called for further progress in international détente. At the tenth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, the Soviet Union had put forward a set of proposals for practical ways of ending the arms race and achieving disarmament. Those proposals had been supported by most countries, and particularly by the developing countries. The efforts of all States were required to achieve disarmament and to ensure that the resources thereby released were used to promote the general well-being.

43. Mr. MARTINEZ (Argentina) said that the re-appearance in the introductory section of the *World Economic Survey, 1977*, of the phrase "disquieting international trends" was a matter for deep concern. The main disquieting trend was inflation combined with recession, a combination which seemed to indicate a deep-rooted imbalance in the world economy. The Survey also mentioned the existence of 16 million

unemployed in the industrialized economies, and the reawakening of protectionist trends in some of the more powerful countries, which were endeavouring to export their economic problems to weaker countries. The long-term prospects, according to the same report, were affected by forces which, unless reversed by positive action, would probably have a negative cumulative effect on world production and trade. In the short term, there were doubts whether the moderate expansion of the industrialized countries in 1977 could continue at the same rate in the second half of the current year. In the case of the developing countries, there was little or no hope of an increase in their exports during 1978.

44. The introductory statements by the President and the Secretary-General of the United Nations (17th meeting) had made it clear that there had been no progress in introducing the structural changes required by the world economy in order to achieve balanced and stable growth, which was the key to the establishment of the new international economic order.

45. However, certain positive trends could be identified. First, there was the gradual acceptance by the developed countries of the need to establish a new international economic order based on equity. Secondly, there was growing recognition of the interdependence of the economies of all countries and groups of countries. The link between the prosperity of the industrialized countries and the stability of the developing world was increasingly acknowledged. Thus, for example, the developing countries accounted for 40 per cent of the exports of the European Economic Community. Exports from the United States of America to the developing countries were greater than those to the European Economic Community, Eastern European countries, the Soviet Union and China taken together.

46. It was known that thought was being given in developed countries to the idea of reactivating the key economies by using the purchasing power of the developing countries. He considered that such a solution was valid but was dependent upon certain basic conditions. An expanding world economy needed prosperous international trade both in manufactures and in agricultural products. Increased world trade was the only real solution to the other key problem, namely the growing external debt of the majority of developing countries. Without a large growth in those countries' exports, their debts would continue to increase and long-term repayment would be impossible. The abandonment of trade protection by the developed countries as an economic weapon against the developing countries was indispensable if such a policy was to succeed.

47. The developing countries had high expectations of the forthcoming meeting in Bonn between the Governments of the principal industrialized countries. As the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom had said, help for developing countries was not just a moral imperative but a matter of self-interest. Argentina had been confronted at the beginning of 1976 with serious economic problems in the shape of hyper-inflation, internal recession and the threat of a breakdown in foreign investment. In less than two years, the rate of inflation, although still high, had been substantially reduced, a favourable employment situation had been maintained, the balance-of-payments problem had been solved, and the reserves of the Central Bank had been

reconstituted. External foreign assets had recently reached the record figure of about \$7,000 million. The budget deficit had been reduced to 1 per cent of GDP in the current year. The result of those policies had been a 4.4 per cent growth of the Argentine economy in real terms in 1977. The main medium-term and long-term objectives were now to strengthen the struggle against inflation and ensure the gradual and stable revitalization of the Argentine economy.

48. In the international field, the new development strategy should establish aims for the 1980s corresponding to the objectives of the new international economic order based on the principles of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI). With regard to the idea of basing the new strategy on principles emanating from sectoral conferences, the Argentine position was that of the non-aligned countries as set forth in document A/33/118. Paragraph 28 on page 30 of that document stressed the need to stop any attempt to impose global priorities by means of a "basic needs" approach, indicating that any such approach would not only accentuate existing distortions in international economic relations but distract international attention from the urgent need to establish the new order. Paragraph 31 on the same page of the document stated firmly that the development process was indivisible and that development activity should not be concentrated on any particular sector. Foreign interference in the domestic social, economic and political affairs of developing countries was not only undesirable but would be counter-productive.

49. He also wished to refer to the report of the Committee for Development Planning (E/1978/46 and Corr.1), in paragraph 33 of which the Committee regretted that its voice was only one, and not a very loud one, in the debate on a world strategy for the 1980s. He considered that sort of statement inappropriate in a document produced by a body of experts acting in an individual capacity. It was for Governments to decide on the new strategy and not a group of experts, who, on the other hand, could contribute effective advice.

50. Nor was he able to agree with the ideas in paragraph 53 of that report, which could be interpreted as discriminating against countries at the intermediate level of development. On the other hand, he supported paragraph 39, which enumerated the conditions required for the new strategy, namely sustained economic growth, stability, efficiency, equity and diversity. With regard to the responsibilities of developing countries, his view was that the new strategy should establish clear qualitative and quantitative objectives, taking into account the differences existing between the various developed countries and the amount of aid they could offer to the developing world.

51. Certain disturbing trends had become apparent recently when loans from international financial bodies were being considered. The representatives of some developed countries had attempted to introduce arguments of a non-economic nature in the decision-making bodies. His country was resolutely opposed to such politicization, which violated the legal provisions gov-

erning those institutions. He fully supported the action of the President of the World Bank in preserving the political neutrality of that institution.

52. The Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174 should not be regarded as the one and only forum for the negotiation of solutions to all problems, nor should it be seen merely as a seminar for academic debate whilst the major decisions of world-wide implication were adopted by a few countries outside the framework of the United Nations. The restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations was a process designed to provide a growing system for the service of Member States and to contribute to the establishment of the new international economic order.

53. With regard to operational activities for development, he agreed with the need to strengthen the role of the UNDP resident representatives against the tendencies towards decentralization frequently shown by field representatives of specialized agencies. He did not believe that the solution lay in their appointment by the Secretary-General or in their accreditation formalities. On the other hand, a procedure such as that proposed by ACC (see E/1978/53, chap. VII, in particular paras. 334-336 and 347-349) could imply the politicization of officials who until now had functioned efficiently at the appropriate technical level. A proper solution depended upon obtaining a willingness by the specialized agencies to co-operate under the leadership of UNDP and, in the last resort, on the positions taken by government delegations in executive organs or assemblies of the specialized agencies.

54. The convening of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries represented an awareness by the developing countries that the responsibility for their development rested with themselves. Horizontal technical co-operation between developing countries was not an end in itself but a means for promoting economic co-operation in general. Nor was it a substitute for traditional technical co-operation; on the contrary, the developed countries, acting on the basis of real interdependence, should contribute to the promotion of such co-operation through bilateral schemes of assistance and through the activities of international organizations.

55. Perhaps the most novel aspect of the Conference would be the strengthening of the situation of the developing countries vis-à-vis UNDP and international organizations concerned with operational activities. A key function of the organs of the United Nations system should be to increase the capacity of developing countries to co-operate among themselves in the conditions they considered most appropriate. UNDP and its executing agencies should develop procedures to govern the use of their respective resources in bilateral, sub-regional, regional and interregional activities. One of the results of the Conference should be to establish such procedures, since recent experience had shown that their absence had frustrated activities and projects for horizontal technical co-operation.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

26th meeting

Wednesday, 12 July 1978, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.26

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT observed that the statements to be made by the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions would serve not only as contributions to the general discussion but also as introductions to the commissions' reports.

2. Mr. IGLESIAS (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America) said that the year 1978 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of ECLA. Throughout its existence, that Commission had sought to serve the Governments of its member States and to discharge its responsibilities under its mandate in three main ways: first, by contributing to the consideration of the problems of the Latin American region and endeavouring to serve its particular interests (for example, at a time when world problems had tended to be seen primarily from the point of view of the major industrialized nations, it had called attention to the underlying causes of under-development in the region and had made efforts, at both the theoretical and the practical level, to remedy them); secondly, by appealing for the recognition of the value of regional co-operation on all fronts in promoting growth and development; and thirdly, by contributing to the attainment of the major purposes of the United Nations from the particular angle of the Latin American region. In all those ways, the Commission had made an outstanding contribution not only to regional co-operation but also to international solidarity and had helped to lay the foundations for a more just international order. Those achievements would not have been possible without the support of the Governments of the member States. He took the occasion to express his particular appreciation to them and to the Council and to reaffirm the Commission's resolve to continue to serve its region and the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. The economic and social situation of the Latin American region in 1977 had been characterized by contrasting developments. Side by side with unquestionable successes, there had been less happy phenomena, whose persistence was not easy to explain in view of the increased resources that had become available. GDP had risen by an average of 4.5 per cent—a rate almost identical with that for 1976 and slightly higher than that for 1975—which pointed to a continuing steady recovery from the recession. That achievement was particularly significant in the light of the fact that the rate of growth for the industrialized economies in 1977 had been lower than expected, and it demonstrated the increased capacity of the Latin American economies to withstand strains in the world economy.

4. The rate of inflation had fallen from an average level of 63 per cent in 1976 to 42 per cent, largely thanks to a sharp reduction in major inflationary pressures, which indicated that the considerable rise in the price of imports had not been reflected in successive

increases in prices on the home market, as had occurred in earlier periods. As far as the external trading position was concerned, there had been a substantial rise in exports (17.5 per cent) for the second consecutive year, the unprecedented figure of more than \$50 billion being reached. The purchasing power of export earnings had increased at a rate of approximately 8.5 per cent, that too for the second consecutive year; the external trading balance had shown a surplus of some \$3 billion as compared with the deficit of over \$5 billion in 1975; the deficit on the regional current account had been reduced from over \$10 billion in 1976 to slightly more than \$7 billion in 1977, and the net influx of capital had continued at the previous rate, reaching almost \$13.7 billion. As a result, there had been a favourable balance of payments of over \$5 billion. Those advances in the external sector, which had been traditionally considered one of the region's vulnerable points, were among the most favourable developments in the region over the past year. The persisting rise in earnings from exports, which included an increasing proportion of non-traditional items, together with a sustained rate of capital inflows, accounted for the substantial strengthening of the balance-of-payments position to which he had referred. He wished to emphasize the benefits that had accrued to the Latin American economies from their industrialization policies, which it was particularly important to note at a time when the importance of industrialization was sometimes questioned.

5. He did not, however, wish to imply that the underlying problems of the region had been fully overcome. The high aggregate figures quoted concealed a wide diversity and did not always reflect the cost of the achievements to major sectors of economic activity and broad sections of Latin American societies. There was a persisting tendency for the economies of the region to diverge increasingly in point of size, effective resources, productive structures, rate of growth, the structure of external trade, and the availability of external financing, all of which made it difficult to arrive at reliable averages. The capacity of the countries of the region to escape the adverse effects of the external economic situation varied widely, the smaller and less diversified economies being much more vulnerable to such effects. That difference was also evident in the greater or lesser margin of manoeuvre open to various countries in applying internal adjustment policies entailing difficult choices between the rate of economic growth, on the one hand, and the level of external indebtedness and inflationary pressures on the other. In some cases, countries had been obliged to adopt balance-of-payments policies at the expense of the level of economic activity; in other cases, the persistence of long-established inflationary processes was adversely affecting purchasing power and levels of employment of backward groups of the population, and price stabilization policies, which had been pursued with some success by a number of countries, had had varying effects upon real wages. It seemed likely that the internal adjustment policies which the countries of the region had been

obliged to adopt over recent years had had repercussions upon the least privileged groups in their societies to an extent that was not always reflected in the statistics quoted.

6. Turning to the relation between regional and international economic developments, he said that the Latin American countries had shown an extraordinary capacity to respond to the challenges of the world situation. At a time when the countries members of OECD had seen their rates of growth fall to below zero, there had been a growth of nearly 3 per cent in the Latin American region, and it had risen to nearly 5 per cent during the subsequent period of very slight recovery for the OECD economies. That success was no accident; it was due to the productive diversification achieved by the Latin American region and its export capacity in terms of both primary and industrial products. It had not, however, been achieved without sacrifice and many countries had been obliged to restrict imports at the cost of their rate of growth.

7. Another feature of the current situation was the growing interdependence of the growth of the region and the rate of development of the main economies. He hoped that the negotiations currently taking place in the Federal Republic of Germany would result in fresh impetus being given to those economies. In that connexion, it was important to note the positive contribution which the developing countries of the Latin American region in particular could make to such recovery in economic activity. The region's imports, especially of capital and intermediate goods, were a considerable factor in maintaining the rate of economic activity of the industrialized countries. One-way dependence had given way to genuine interdependence, operating in both directions, between the two groups of economies. A recent study by French experts had drawn attention to the fact that in certain important sectors French exports to countries of the third world accounted for as much as 50 and even 65 per cent of the total, and that situation applied to other countries too. United States exports to countries of the third world accounted for as much as 50 and even 65 per cent of the total, and that situation applied to other countries too. United States exports to countries of the third world accounted for as much as 50 and even 65 per cent of the total, and that situation applied to other countries too. United States exports to countries of the third world accounted for as much as 50 and even 65 per cent of the total, and that situation applied to other countries too. United States exports to countries of the third world accounted for as much as 50 and even 65 per cent of the total, and that situation applied to other countries too. United States exports to countries of the third world accounted for as much as 50 and even 65 per cent of the total, and that situation applied to other countries too.

8. Against that background, the resurgence of protectionism in international trade was a cause of grave concern. Recent calculations indicated that the measures taken by developed countries over the past two years to restrict imports of one group of products were adversely affecting trade to a value of between \$30 billion and \$50 billion. The consequence could be a considerable reduction in the rate of development, which would prove much more costly than readjustments to the industrialized economies. The problems with which the latter were faced were by no means simple, in particular at a time of unemployment and relative recession, but it would be a mistake to ignore the great risks inherent in protectionist measures and the advantages to be derived from open trade with the developing countries. In the study mentioned, it was estimated that trade in industrial products with the third world had led to the creation of 100,000 additional jobs in France in the period between 1970 and 1976. If it was genuinely desired that the countries of the third world should pursue their policy of development as a means of

solving their pressing economic and social problems, steps must be taken promptly to increase their import capacity and consequently their export capacity. It was accordingly incumbent upon the international community to continue its efforts to find a solution to the old problem of primary products and to ensure access to international markets for the products of newly established industries. Only if the developing countries were enabled to export their products could they continue to play an active role in the international economy and avoid indebtedness and recession.

9. The Latin American countries had rightly placed great emphasis upon the diversification of their economies and the expansion of exports as a means of increasing imports and raising their rate of growth. It was expected that their combined markets would amount to 600 million inhabitants in the year 2000, which was equal to the size of the European market in 1970. In order, however, to avoid unbalanced growth there must be no falling off in efforts to ensure the internal development of their economies. At one time, industrialization had been seen as a means of reducing dependence on imports, but at present it was also a safeguard against the adverse effects of unfavourable developments in international trade. It was encouraging to note that in 1975, at a time of decline in the economies of the industrialized countries, trade within the Latin American region had increased by between 16 and 18 per cent.

10. He associated himself with previous speakers who had expressed their anxiety about the turn that international negotiations had taken but also their belief that the basis of a realistic negotiating position was to regard interdependence as in the interests of all concerned.

11. The Governments of the world were faced with a double challenge: they were called upon to respond to internal pressures to solve the acute social problems affecting the backward sectors of their societies and to eliminate poverty through distributive justice, but they also had to face up to the need to construct a new international economic order in which principles of internal justice would be matched by a more equitable distribution of opportunities at the international level through greater solidarity in the solution of problems of concern to all mankind. In order to meet that double challenge, there must be not only political will but also machinery which would provide an adequate framework for negotiation. The need to simplify the excessively complex structures of the United Nations system, to modernize traditional machinery and to make it a more effective means of working towards the achievement of the new international economic order had been recognized by the General Assembly.

12. The regional commissions had an important role to play in the restructuring process. In the past, emphasis had been placed on global action, but it was now realized that regional action was an indispensable complement to it. The experience of the regional commissions over several decades placed them in a uniquely favourable position to assist the system as a whole to achieve a balance between those two factors. The commissions also welcomed the emphasis given to the decentralization of United Nations activities. They were aware that decentralization did not mean dispersal and that it consisted essentially in identifying clearly the objectives entrusted to them and in working towards their achievement in areas where they were best equipped to take effective action. In addition to regional and subregional projects, there were other areas in which a regional approach could promote the search

for solutions on a world scale. One such area was that of technical preparations to clarify problems on which international negotiations were to be held. Through the network of communications which their secretariats had built up within their regions, the commissions could also provide valuable institutional and political support for world conferences and they could contribute to such activities as the discussions on the preparation of a new international development strategy. The regional commissions were deeply appreciative of the support they received from all major branches of the Secretariat in their efforts to contribute to a successful restructuring of the system and pledged their fullest co-operation with all other parts of the system, including the Council.

13. Mr. ADEDEJI (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa) said that for the fourth year in succession he was obliged to report that the growth rate of the ECA region as a whole had fallen short of the 6 per cent target set for the Second United Nations Development Decade, having declined from the 5 per cent level achieved throughout the First Decade to 4.5 per cent during the first three quarters of the Second. That figure concealed marked differences within the region; such increases as had occurred were attributable mainly to those achieved by the African oil-exporting countries, whose growth rate had been 8.6 per cent in 1976 and 8 per cent in 1977. Other countries with a *per capita* GDP of over \$300 had achieved a real growth rate of 6.8 per cent and 5.6 per cent in the two years mentioned. On the other hand, the 30 countries with a *per capita* GDP of less than \$200 had achieved a rate of barely 1 per cent in 1976 and between 2 and 3 per cent in 1977, their average for the years 1974-1977 being approximately 1.3 per cent, which meant an annual decline of 1.4 per cent *per capita*.

14. In a situation marked by natural disasters, agricultural production in the region had continued to grow at an average rate of only 1.2 per cent, as compared with the target figure of 4 per cent. In view of the dependence of four fifths of the population of the region on agricultural production, which was also the main foreign currency earner and the main source of public revenue in most countries of the region, the dire effects of that situation on African trade were obvious. A study by FAO showed that 44 per cent of the African continent was drought-prone and 55 per cent affected by desertification. Despite those difficulties, the natural resources available were sufficient, if properly developed, to meet the region's need for food and other agricultural products. A recent evaluation of food production prospects by the ECA secretariat, however, pointed to a shortfall of critical food products in most parts of the region, which could only be remedied by a massive assault on food and agriculture problems based on a recognition of the central role of the small-scale producer.

15. Despite its considerable potential in natural resources, Africa still lagged a long way behind in the manufacturing sector, notwithstanding a slight recovery in some countries after the 1974 recession. The annual growth rate of 5.1 per cent in that sector since 1970 was well below the 8 per cent target for the Second United Nations Development Decade, not to mention the 12 per cent target which, it had been estimated, would have to be attained if Africa's share in world manufacturing production was to rise from its present level of 0.5 per cent to 2 per cent by the year 2000. Behind those figures lay great disparities among African

countries, about one third of which were attaining the target for the Decade, while the remaining two thirds were still far from doing so. Among the factors impeding faster industrialization were a lack of skilled manpower, a low level of investment, shortages of foreign currency reserves, which were an obstacle to the import of necessary factors of production, the narrowness of domestic markets, high production costs, resistance on the part of external markets, competition from abroad and particularly from newly created industries in neighbouring countries, not to mention the obsolescence of equipment and the often exorbitant cost of machinery. Another factor was price inflation, the average annual rate of increase in many African countries having been close to 15 per cent since 1973, which made it difficult for African industries to compete with those of the industrialized countries. There had also been a continuation of the unbalanced growth in the services sector, which would be an obstacle in the long run to the attainment of real welfare and social stability.

16. The pattern of development and growth that now seemed to be taking shape confirmed the growing doubts of Member States about the existing national and international socio-economic order and confirmed the need for a fundamental restructuring of that order. As far as the African region was concerned, that restructuring must in large part begin at home. It was heartening to note a growing realization of the fact that the solution of the problems of the advanced economies was unlikely without a simultaneous solution of the development problems of the third world. The view was also gaining ground that the solution of the problems of development and economic growth in Africa went far beyond the mere availability of access for its exports to markets in advanced countries or the obtaining of supplies of foreign exchange through trade or loans. It was difficult to see how credibility had come to be attached to the theory that trade of itself could bring about in developing countries the massive socio-economic changes that were implied in the targets set for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

17. In referring to the simultaneous solution of world development problems, and notably those of Africa, he had not meant to imply that the solution lay in increased aid; what was needed was assistance in altering the factors which fundamentally affected development and economic growth. It was his belief that at least three major current socio-economic afflictions of the African region were due, in large part, to fallacies associated with the "trade engine" concept.

18. Inflation had been a marked characteristic of the 1960s and had worsened in the first half of the 1970s. Together with trade recessions in the advanced countries, it had led to sharp falls in the value of exports, accompanied by sharp rises in the value of imports, resulting in a tripling of the trade deficit of developing countries and the unavoidable recourse of those countries to borrowing. That situation had led to mounting debt burdens, characterized by short-term loans at commercial rates, which were adversely affected by revaluations of the foreign currencies in which most of the obligations were expressed.

19. The activities of the ECA secretariat over the last 12 months had been conducted within the framework of a new regional strategy for Africa. That strategy was reflected in the ECA medium-term plan for 1978-1981, in its programme of work and priorities for 1978 and 1979, and in its medium-term plan for 1980-1983. In broad terms, the activities carried out

under the various programmes had been designed to promote collective self-reliance and independent and self-sustaining processes of development and economic growth, mainly through socio-economic change at the national level and through socio-economic co-operation among member States.

20. The implementation of the new strategy had inevitably required the creation of new institutions. Five Multinational Programming and Operational Centres had been set up to replace the United Nations Multinational Interdisciplinary Development Advisory Teams. An attempt had been made to integrate the work programmes of those Centres with those of the intergovernmental organizations operating in the various subregions. For example, close co-operation had been established between the Niamey Centre and the Economic Community of West African States and between the Gisenyi-based Centre and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes. An important conference, the Conference on Migratory Labour in Southern Africa, had been organized under the auspices of the Lusaka Centre in April 1978; the ECA Executive Committee had endorsed the resolutions and the Charter of Rights for Migrant Workers in Southern Africa adopted at the Conference and had transmitted them to the Economic and Social Council for appropriate action (see E/1978/L.46).

21. The Commission was determined to use the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres as instruments for promoting subregional co-operation. Already, under the auspices of the Lusaka-based Centre, 17 countries of eastern and southern Africa had been negotiating the establishment of a preferential trade area, as a prelude to the setting up of an economic community for eastern and southern African States.

22. The Commission had taken steps to strengthen the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning. The statute of the Institute which the Commission had adopted at the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers had been referred back to the Commission by the General Assembly, with a view to certain changes being incorporated, in order to ensure that the management of the Institute was not in conflict with the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations. The revised draft had been considered by the Executive Committee at its eighteenth meeting and the Committee had adopted resolution ECO (XVIII/Res.1 (see E/1978/50/Add.1, chap. II) aimed at strengthening the administrative and financial position of the Institute.

23. In resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977, the Council had recommended that the General Assembly should proclaim a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa during the period 1978-1988. Pursuant to that resolution, the ECA secretariat had prepared a preliminary programme for the Decade, which had been considered at an interagency meeting in March 1978. The strategy and objectives worked out at that meeting had then been submitted to the ECA Executive Committee, which, at its eighteenth meeting, had adopted resolution ECO (XVIII)/Res.2 (*ibid.*), calling on the Secretary-General to arrange for the convening of a meeting of donor countries and other institutions with a view to mobilizing the resources required to implement the work programme of the Decade.

24. The programme of action as at present conceived included the setting up of an interagency guidance and

consultative committee; the establishment of a team of experts at ECA headquarters to assist member States to identify priorities in their national transport and communications plans for incorporation in the Decade plan, and to assist directly in the preparation of the plan itself; a meeting of African Ministers of Transport and Communications to examine and approve the draft plan; periodic meetings of African Ministers of Transport and Communications to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the plan; an interagency co-ordinating committee, consisting of representatives of all interested United Nations organizations, OAU and African regional organizations concerned with transport and communications, to be responsible for collecting and collating the material required for the periodic reports which the Secretary-General was expected to submit to the Council and through it to the General Assembly; the strengthening of existing sectoral interagency committees, to enable them to monitor progress in the different areas of transport and communications; and a meeting of donor countries and agencies to be convened by the Secretary-General for the purpose of mobilizing financial, material and technical resources to ensure the successful implementation of the decade plan.

25. Under the natural resources programme, assistance had been given to the countries of the East African region towards the establishment of an African Mineral Resources Development Centre, and the inaugural meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre had been held to approve the legal framework, programme and budget of the Centre. A mission had also been undertaken in the Central African subregion, with a view to exploring the possibilities of establishing a similar centre there.

26. The Commission had intensified its activities in the field of non-conventional sources of energy by preparing a five-year project on the promotion of solar energy in Africa.

27. The Commission had made considerable headway in establishing an African Regional Centre for Technology. The Constitution of the Centre had already been acceded to by 21 African countries.

28. The Commission's new orientation towards practical, action-oriented projects had been shown in the reformulation of comprehensive industrial development programmes in building materials, construction, engineering, basic metals, chemicals, industries allied to agriculture and forest-based industries. Those programmes, which received financial support from UNDP and a number of African Member States, were designed to promote development at the national level, leading to co-operation at the international level. They took full account of the mobilization of technical inputs for industrial production, as also of actual and potential markets. Special attention was also being given to the setting up of multinational institutions of critical importance which could not for the present be established on a national basis, such as, for example, a regional centre for industrial design and manufacturing.

29. Africa's attainment of a substantial share of world industrial production by the year 2000 would mean that past and present industrial policies would require serious overhaul. Arrangements were in hand for a symposium on industrial policy at which basic concepts, policies and instruments would be closely examined. In the field of human resources, stress was being laid on building up manpower requirements for

industrial production, at the same time improving and expanding technical and managerial manpower to meet the needs of industry. Training and fellowship programmes were being launched to provide high-level personnel for basic and strategic industries; studies on manpower needs for major sectors of industry were being initiated; subregional graduate schools of business management were being established, and an Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research had been set up.

30. The Commission's secretariat had been working in close collaboration with FAO on issues of policy orientation, technical inputs, intra-regional trade in food, storage, development of the food industries, and food reserves. It was also participating in the food and agricultural project of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, the Economic Community of West African States and the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

31. The Commission took great pride in its programme for the integration of women in development and was extending and consolidating that programme and placing it on a firmer financial basis. The subject was not susceptible to short-term treatment and *ad hoc* extra-budgetary contributions could not be relied on. It could not be treated in isolation, but should be reflected in all the ECA programmes. There was a clear case for making provision for that programme in the regular budget.

32. The ECA secretariat was preparing to commemorate the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission in 1979, a year which would mark its fourteenth session and the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers. The secretariat attached considerable importance to the anniversary, which it saw as an opportunity for the Commission to undertake a critical evaluation of the results obtained in the region in terms of socio-economic developments and integration. A preliminary programme had been prepared and would include a series of activities spread over the whole year which would have as their central theme economic interdependence and collective self-reliance in Africa. A conference on alternative patterns of development and life styles in the African region was to be held at Algiers early in 1979 and the fourteenth session of the Commission, which would follow at Rabat in March of that year, would mark the beginning of the activities to commemorate the anniversary. He hoped that that commemoration would provide an occasion for planning concrete action aimed at achieving further integration and development in Africa.

33. Mr. MARAMIS (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said that the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1977*, which had been considered by the Commission earlier that year (see E/1978/48, para. 297), had revealed that there had been an improvement in the growth rate of GDP and that expanded trade had strengthened the balance-of-payments and reserve positions of ESCAP developing countries. Stabilization policies, good harvests and greater foreign exchange availability for imports had helped to control inflation. Improved international economic and financial conditions in 1976 and 1977 had given a respite to ESCAP developing countries as far as some of their problems were concerned. There had also been heartening evidence of greater commitment among those countries to the alleviation of poverty and to the reduction of unemployment; Governments had been increasingly

concerned with problems of development in the rural areas, where the overwhelming majority of the people of the region lived.

34. The improvement in recent years, however, could only be considered as such in comparison with the generally low level of performance in the preceding years. On the whole, performances were still below the target set in the International Development Strategy. Unless acceleration could be sustained, the starting-point of the next decade could be lower than had been anticipated.

35. The generally unsatisfactory performances of the developing countries in the ESCAP region during the Second United Nations Development Decade had largely been affected by a rapid succession of externally generated crises—the world food crisis, the international monetary crisis, the world energy crisis and the world recession. Despite vigorous efforts at diversification, weather fluctuations still constituted an important determinant of performance. Policy options were limited, and those which were implemented were dictated by short-term rather than long-term needs. The preoccupation with recurrent crises did not allow policy-makers the luxury of devoting attention to long-term prospects, strategies and policies.

36. Although a number of adjustment measures, some of them painful, had been taken by the developing countries, those countries were once again confronted by a disturbing trend generated from without. Governments of the industrialized countries were still concerned over the effects of renewed acceleration in their economies and over the rate of inflation and the balance-of-payments position. Furthermore, their concern over domestic unemployment had set in motion a trend towards protectionism affecting precisely those commodities which the developing countries of the ESCAP region were in the best position to produce efficiently. Products of particular interest to ESCAP developing countries were often exempted from the generalized system of preferences, while the quotas and safeguard clauses of the Multi-fibre Arrangement had been tightened significantly; more restrictions had been imposed on developing countries' exports of such products as textiles, leather goods and engineering and electrical goods. All that created a sense of uncertainty about the possibility of the recently improved international economic conditions continuing into the 1980s. The phenomenon of stagnation and inflation in developed countries, and particularly the increasing protectionism associated with it, could well become a major factor impeding development efforts in the next decade. Its continuation might create problems of crisis proportions for some ESCAP developing countries and there was therefore need to work out short-term measures to deal with those problems. In the long term, however, he hoped that the recognition of the mutual-ity of interests in a system of world economic interdependence would overcome impediments to the introduction of measures to ensure that the world economy attained the stability which was essential for the orderly growth of the ESCAP developing countries. If appropriate strategies were adopted, the 1980s might see a significant structural transformation in the developing countries which would make them less vulnerable to capricious international market or weather conditions.

37. At its last session, the Commission had agreed that regional development strategies should embody the spirit and substance of the resolutions adopted at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General

Assembly and should take into account the deliberations of the several international meetings held during the current decade, the ultimate objective being the early establishment of the new international economic order. Such strategies would aim for accelerated economic growth combined with increased self-reliance, with the emphasis on social justice and the alleviation of poverty. The Commission had agreed that such an approach should include several essential elements, for example, a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, a more active participation by all segments of society, particularly the poor, in the development process, and effective integrated rural programmes. The latter should provide a framework within which agricultural, industrial and technological development could be harnessed to meet the urgent needs of the masses of the population and to ensure their greater participation both in the process and in the fruits of development. Careful assessment was needed of the various external and internal constraints to economic growth in the region, and of present capacities and future prospects. Account had to be taken of the different economic and social needs of different areas of the region, such as the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and developing island economies.

38. At the same time, if specifically regional strategies were to form an effective part of an international development strategy, they should be capable of translation into action at the global level. There should be a realistic appraisal of the progress made in negotiations in international forums and their bearing on the development of the region. To that end, closer co-ordination was needed among all organs of the United Nations development system, in pursuance of the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly.

39. Once such development strategies had been formulated, they would need to govern, to a greater extent than previously, the programming of the work of the United Nations development system. Many of the essential elements of those strategies were already reflected in the ESCAP programme of work and priorities for 1978-1979 and the draft medium-term plan for 1980-1983, which the Commission had discussed at its recent session.

40. The main objective in the formulation of the Commission's work programme had been to secure an integrated approach to the development problems of the region. Efforts had been made to ensure the adequate and effective co-ordination of work, both within the secretariat and with specialized agencies and other international organizations. Stress had been laid on specific activities aimed at strengthening national capabilities which had immediate relevance to the promotion of the well-being of the common people, particularly those in the lower-income groups.

41. The magnitude and complexity of the various aspects of socio-economic development in the region meant that, despite the Commission's efforts to be selective in programming its work, there remained a significant gap between needs and the resources available. As one means of bridging that gap, the Commission had introduced a new approach at its last session by including on its agenda pledges of support for the activities of ESCAP and other regional institutions in the economic and social field. He was pleased to note that that approach had been successful; not only had the traditional donor countries and agencies pledged financial and technical assistance for develop-

ment in the ESCAP region, but the developing countries themselves had made pledges, both in cash and kind and in the form of technical co-operation, which were often large in comparison with their limited economic resources. That pledging of support was now to become a regular feature of the Commission's sessions.

42. The Commission had extended the scope of its co-operation through the more active participation of the Pacific Island member countries. Although the island countries were separated by vast geographical distances and confronted by problems which were often different from those being faced by larger countries in the area, he was sure that their more active involvement in ESCAP activities would be mutually beneficial.

43. A fundamental *raison d'être* of the United Nations regional commissions was the promotion of collective self-reliance through economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. ESCAP continued to play an expanding role in facilitating such co-operation in various fields, with particular emphasis on areas such as the utilization of water resources, industrial complementarities, agricultural research and transnational corporations. The regional training and research institutions, the recently established regional centres and inter-country co-operation in a number of fields were all geared to the promotion of economic co-operation among developing countries and the increased utilization of technical co-operation among developing countries. ESCAP continued to compile and disseminate information on such technical co-operation through a series of publications that were updated periodically. Furthermore, arrangements were being made to establish a central file on institutions and arrangements for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP was collaborating with UNDP and with other regional commissions in preparations for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. It intended to convene a regional meeting to consider the implementation of the recommendations adopted by that Conference and was planning a meeting to examine the scope and techniques for close and continuing relationships among subregional groupings concerned with economic co-operation in its area.

44. Among the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session, mention should be made of the decision in its resolution 185 (XXXIV) (see E/1978/48, chap. IV) that greater emphasis should be placed on regional and subregional population programmes and that the resources to implement such programmes should be increased. In addition, a draft blueprint had been prepared on the promotion, negotiations and facilitation measures required for the expansion of mutual trade, for submission to the forthcoming meeting of ESCAP Ministers of Trade to be held in August 1978.

45. In order to implement more effectively the wide range of multidisciplinary activities with which it was concerned, the Commission needed to be further strengthened. In 1977, it had adopted resolution 171 (XXXIII)¹, in which, *inter alia*, attention was drawn to the need for orderly and rapid decentralization in the United Nations system. The regional commissions had accumulated considerable experience in the execution of projects in several spheres of economic and social

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (E/5943)*, chap. III.

activity. Activities which could be undertaken more effectively at the regional level should be transferred to the regional commissions, provisions being made at the same time for the decentralization of resources to augment those already available for current work. Since 1974, UNDP had agreed to designate the regional commissions as executing agencies for the Programme, and several projects had already been decentralized to ESCAP. It was most important that, when regional commissions were requested to execute projects within their competence, full authority should be delegated to them and adequate financial provision made. Consequently, he welcomed the early implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI) of 5 August 1976 on the strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation and General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

46. From the point of view of the developing countries, two options were open to the developed countries on the eve of the 1980s. One was to adopt policy measures which, while bringing about a substantial loss for the developing countries, would yield immediate benefits to the developed countries; in his view, that would be a short-sighted course from which neither party might gain in the long run. The other could be described as a "non-zero sum game", where the interests of the developed countries were also served by increasing the benefits to the developing countries from their increased participation in a new framework of global economic interdependence. Through co-ordinated policies, innovative mechanisms for joint action and intensified co-operation between the developed and the developing countries, it would be possible to improve the well-being of the world community and ensure a more equitable distribution of the gains thus obtained. If countries could agree to take the necessary action at both the domestic and the international levels, there was every reason to hope that the more recalcitrant development problems could be overcome during the 1980s and a new era of steady and equitable growth initiated.

47. Mr. STANOVNIK (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe) said that the work programme of ECE had received a new dimension as a result of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which had designated it as the international body to be called upon to implement those provisions of the Final Act requiring multilateral action.

48. Economic conditions in the ECE region had differed considerably in recent years from the prevailing trends of the 1950s and 1960s. In 1977, the economic performance of Western European countries had clearly not been satisfactory. Recovery from the deepest recession since the Second World War had been much more sluggish than originally anticipated. The lack of revival of business confidence had led to the slow growth of investments and a slow return to the innovative process which had been the main factor in economic growth following the Second World War. The economic performance of the socialist countries of Eastern Europe had also been somewhat lower than anticipated in the relevant five-year plans, owing to the constraints encountered in respect of the supply of human and material resources. Those countries were making every effort to bring about a transition from their earlier rather extensive growth model to a new intensive productivity growth model.

49. In those circumstances, East-West trade took on particular importance. During 1977, however, that trade had suffered from considerable imbalances. While the Eastern European countries had reduced their import demand under the pressure of balance-of-payments problems, domestic pressure had made it necessary to maintain such demand at a level which had not enabled the countries in question to eliminate their deficit. The performance in southern Europe had been very much affected by prevailing economic developments in the eastern and western parts of the region. The combined trade and balance-of-payments deficit of the southern European countries had been larger than the combined trade deficit of all the industrially developed countries in the region.

50. It was against that background that the work of ECE had developed in the course of 1977. The Commission had made substantial progress in the preparatory work for a high-level meeting on the protection of the environment, to be convened in 1979. The holding of such a high-level meeting was a new venture for the Commission and, if successful, would encourage a similar approach in other areas such as that of energy. Indeed, there was no issue that represented a greater challenge for the future work of the Commission than energy. The third general energy report, produced by the ECE secretariat in 1977, dealt with the new issues facing the region in the medium and longer terms. The analytical work performed by the secretariat had established beyond any doubt that the problems to be faced in the foreseeable future in the energy field were quite different from those encountered in the past. The demand for energy was developing so rapidly and assuming such dimensions that the existing dependence on fossil fuels was bound to cause major constraints within the next two or three decades. The report therefore called strongly for the further expansion of East-West co-operation as a promising means of solving the problems encountered in that area.

51. Another of the Commission's major achievements in 1977 was the approval and publication of the Overall Economic Perspective for the ECE region up to 1990. The analysis contained therein showed that major problems were likely to be encountered in areas such as investment, energy, the environment, the general structure of manufacturing industries, and transport. By looking into the future and considering its challenges, the Perspective held out great promise for the Commission's future work in sectors such as forestry, steel, chemicals and housing, and for international co-operation. The Committee on the Development of Trade had made a particularly valuable contribution in that respect by deciding to establish a group of experts to consider the trade implications of the prospective economic evolution of the ECE region.

52. With regard to the role and place of the ECE region in the over-all world picture and its contribution to the formulation of a global development pattern for the future, he said that science and technology would clearly become increasingly important in coming years. The regional meeting held recently in Romania on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development had obtained positive results and made an important contribution to the development of the global programme of action to be considered by the Conference. The Commission's work in that field should focus, not on the transfer of available technologies, but on the development of ap-

propriate technologies. The term "appropriate technologies" should not be understood to mean intermediary technologies, but rather those that were the most efficient from the economic point of view and were geared to the particular conditions of the developing countries. Instead of imitating the developed world, the developing countries would need to develop their own parameters and models of growth, and the role of the developed countries would be to assist them in that original autonomous process.

53. Greater attention had been paid by the Commission in recent years to the Mediterranean area, in which most of the countries of the region that were still developing from the economic point of view were situated. In that context, a successful seminar had been held in Malta on the protection of underground water and desalination; the more developed countries had placed their national experience at the disposal of the seminar and had joined forces with their developing partners in an attempt to find practical solutions designed to meet the specific requirements of the Mediterranean countries. The seminar, which had also been attended by representatives of ECWA and ECA, was an example of successful co-operation between the three regional commissions adjacent to the Mediterranean area. For ECE, the Mediterranean was a bridge between Europe and the under-developed world and it was through the further development of such aspects of its work that the Commission had recently been taking a more active part in tackling the problems facing the developing world, thus contributing to the construction of the new international economic order.

54. Decentralization was the focal point of the restructuring exercise aimed at increasing the Organization's efficiency. In their reports to the Council, the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions had stressed that decentralization was a functional process designed to focus international co-operation in respect of each individual problem at the level where it was likely to be the most effective. Certain problems were global by definition and required global solutions, but others, such as water and river problems, inland transport, and housing and urban development questions, were regional in nature and should be tackled at the regional level. The regional commissions were proving in their work that they were perfectly capable of coping with the major challenges facing the Organization. Consequently, there was no place for patronizing scepticism about their ability to be effective executing agencies and he was confident that the Council would continue to give them every opportunity to contribute fully to the construction of a just new international economic order.

55. Mr. AL-ATTAR (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Western Asia) said that it was becoming increasingly apparent that most of the major problems which had faced the international community at the beginning of the 1970s would probably remain with it in the 1980s. For the developing countries, those problems included increasingly disparate income levels between them and the developed world, the persistence of structural and social imbalances, the rapid growth of population and urbanization, inequitable income distribution and widespread poverty, unemployment, inadequate developmental resources and a mounting debt problem, the inefficient use of human resources, increased technological dependence and a precarious food supply situation. For the developed countries, the main challenge was the ability to stimulate growth and

reduce unemployment within the framework of moderate price increases. The weakening of the international monetary system in the 1970s, the instability of exchange markets, and recession coupled with strong inflationary pressures in the industrialized countries had given rise to protectionist tendencies in those countries, with adverse implications for the trade and aid prospects of the developing world.

56. Developments in the 1970s had also had positive aspects. The move towards the establishment of the new international economic order, triggered by the oil-producing countries' action to gain control over their oil resources, held the promise of narrowing the gaps in the levels of living among nations and creating a fairer international division of economic wealth and decision-making. Prolonged recession and inflation in the developed countries had reminded the developing countries of their vulnerability to conditions and policies outside their control. Renewed emphasis had been placed on the need to forge closer co-operation among developing countries as a major development strategy.

57. The ECWA region shared most of the concerns and aspirations of the developing world and the international community at large. The leading role played by some States within the framework of OPEC to establish control over oil resources had perhaps been the first major move towards changing existing patterns of international economic relations. The allocation by some members of a significant portion of their newly acquired oil wealth to assist developing countries within and outside the region reflected a strong commitment to the idea of promoting development through collective self-reliance and solidarity among developing countries. Financial flows from ECWA countries members of OPEC had risen from \$1.28 billion in 1973 to \$6.21 billion in 1976. The concessional component of assistance provided by the same group of countries had increased from \$1.04 billion to \$4.14 billion over the same period. In 1976, concessional flows had been estimated at 4.88 per cent of the combined GNP of Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and the share going to non-Arab countries was estimated to have increased from 10.3 per cent of the total in 1975 to 23.5 per cent in 1976. Similarly, the region's concern with international economic and monetary stability had been amply illustrated in the stand taken by member countries on major issues such as economic recession in the industrialized countries and the energy problem, as well as in the manner in which the oil-surplus members had managed their financial surpluses.

58. Over the previous two years, the countries of the region had continued their efforts to adjust to the opportunities and problems which the 1973-1974 oil boom had generated. Most countries had adopted five-year development plans, the most recent being that of Yemen, which had been launched in November 1977 at the Yemen International Development Conference (see E/1978/49, para. 133).

59. In the sphere of international economic relations, the countries of the region had been feeling their way with regard to the role they should play in the light of their recently acquired financial power. The record had been encouraging; while high priority had continued to be accorded to national development, the problems of other developing countries in particular, and those of the international community in general, had been given due attention.

60. Judged by a number of key indicators, the region's over-all economic performance in 1976 had been significantly better than in 1975. Crude oil production and agricultural output, which had both declined in 1975, had recovered strongly in 1976; the same was true of exports, while the growth rate of imports had been virtually halved. In 1977, on the other hand, crude oil production had increased by only 1 per cent, while agricultural output had declined by nearly 5 per cent from the record 1976 figure. Incomplete statistics showed that the growth rate of exports, too, had slowed down. Nearly all the countries had once again contributed significantly to building up international reserves; by the end of 1977, the over-all reserves of the region, excluding Oman, Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic, had been more than one third higher than in 1975.

61. Although member countries had continued to make progress in finding solutions to their long-standing social problems, recent developments had both accentuated those problems and presented new ones. Urban migration and family disruption had been caused by the fact that living standards in rural areas had improved more slowly than in the towns. Changing attitudes associated with prosperity and the implementation of ambitious development programmes had increased the demand for more extensive social services. The International Year of the Child in 1979 would provide an opportunity to improve the quality of services to meet the needs of children and their families. Another significant development concerned the migration of labour within the region, which was not a new phenomenon but had greatly increased in recent years. Since it could have far-reaching social and economic consequences, both for the countries of origin and for the host countries, a strategy to co-ordinate the migration of labour was perhaps urgently required. Provision might also be needed to compensate labour-exporting countries by financing training and literacy programmes.

62. Recent developments in the region should not be allowed to obscure the position of individual countries. The countries of the region might be grouped into two main categories—the oil economies and the non-oil economies—the latter category including the two least developed countries, Democratic Yemen and Yemen.

63. The oil economies were characterized by the overwhelming dominance of oil in their economic activity, the relatively minor role of agriculture and industry, except in Iraq, and inadequately developed physical and institutional infrastructures. The main obstacle to development was the lack of manpower in virtually all sectors and at all levels of skills. In addition, at least some of the oil economies faced the problems associated with the accumulation of financial resources faster than they could be productively absorbed. Moreover, such resources resulted from the exploitation of a non-renewable resource at a rate determined, not by the needs of the oil-producing countries, but by the requirements of the international community.

64. The non-oil economies, on the other hand, apart from the two least developed countries, had more diversified resources and economic structures, in which the services sector was still disproportionately large. Their physical and institutional infrastructures were relatively developed and, while their manpower was not sufficiently skilled in some respects, it nevertheless met most of their own needs and provided the oil economies with large numbers of workers with the necessary skills. In those countries, the main obstacle to develop-

ment seemed to be lack of capital. Furthermore, like the oil economies, they were heavily dependent on the outside world.

65. In Lebanon, as shown by the levels of industrial production and exports, the economy had been recovering after the civil war, although the services sector, and particularly tourism, was lagging behind. It was to be hoped that current events would not nullify recent progress.

66. The two least developed countries shared the same problems as the other countries without enjoying the same advantages. They therefore required help at the regional and international level.

67. Although the over-all growth in the ECWA region during the first half of the 1970s compared favourably with that of the world and that in other developing regions, the economies of the member countries suffered from many weaknesses. There was a need to effect structural changes, to reduce economic disparities within countries and within the region, to reduce under-employment, to increase the economically active proportion of the population, particularly among women, and to achieve a better balance between the economic and social components of development. Most of those problems could be most effectively solved within a regional context, since the main factors for productive co-operation were present at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels. The availability of capital could act as a catalyst. What was lacking was a stronger political commitment and the identification of acceptable forms of co-operation. On the latter point, the tendency towards co-operation in production, particularly in the form of joint ventures, was continuing and the idea of subregional co-operation was being increasingly accepted as an intermediate step towards regional integration. In recent years, however, regional co-operation had most frequently taken the form of financial co-operation as the expression of a feeling of moral responsibility to contribute to the prosperity of the whole region and to reduce the disparities between member countries. Nor should the increasing importance of the much needed labour provided by non-oil member countries to oil-producing countries be overlooked. Ways and means of enabling regional institutions to contribute more effectively to regional co-operation and integration were being studied.

68. The secretariat had returned to its temporary headquarters at Beirut early in the summer of 1977. Although certain developments had adversely affected the Commission's activities and prompted the decision to defer its fifth session until the autumn of 1978 (see E/1978/49, para. 2), ECWA had nevertheless been able to carry out most of its work programme for the 1976-1977 biennium and to initiate activities in the current programme. For example, it had provided technical and administrative support in organizing the Yemen International Development Conference, held towards the end of 1977. It had given special attention to the problem of food security in the region and to the development and efficient utilization of water resources, including the possibility of setting up a regional water council. A feasibility study had been prepared on the establishment of a centre in Western Asia for the transfer and development of technology. A regional plan of action for the integration of women in development had been approved at an intergovernmental conference and the question of developing an integrated transport and communications network in the region had also been studied.

69. The Commission had continued to maintain co-operation and co-ordination with the relevant regional and international organizations on development matters. In addition to the standing co-operative arrangements with the Arab Fund, the League of Arab States and ECA, it had recently concluded a similar agreement with UNEP and had entered into discussions with UNCTAD to identify areas of possible co-operation, "focal" points having already been established in both secretariats to ensure better co-operation. ECWA also intended to take an increasingly active part in working out the mechanisms for the proposed restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, particularly in so far as they related to regional responsibilities and decentralization.

70. In pursuance of Council resolutions 2088 (LXIII) and 2089 (LXIII) of 22 July 1977, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization had been invited to participate as full members in meetings held under ECWA auspices. They had participated actively and effectively. On a recent visit to Cairo, he had had fruitful discussions with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and others responsible for economic planning and development. Once Egypt's requirements had been ascertained, consultations would be maintained with ECA and other United Nations bodies to ensure the active co-operation of the two commissions in meeting the requests of their common member. If Egypt's needs entailed additional financial resources, appropriate steps would have to be taken to secure the necessary funds.

71. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) thanked the Executive Secretaries of the five regional commissions for their valuable reports.

72. Mr. MOKHTAR (Observer for Egypt) expressed his country's appreciation of the activities towards common goals which had been conducted by the two regional commissions to which Egypt belonged. By being a member of both ECA and ECWA, Egypt was playing its historic role in consolidating Afro-Arab co-operation. He agreed with the Executive Secretaries of both commissions about the desirability of financial

and structural changes which would delegate more authority to the commissions to enable them to meet the needs of the peoples in the two regions.

73. Mr. HUMAIDAN (United Arab Emirates) thanked the Executive Secretary of ECWA for stating so clearly the contribution made by OPEC to development.

74. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed the appreciation of the socialist countries for the interesting reports of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, on the basis of which it was possible to assess common elements and make comparisons. He wished, however, that they would devote more attention to the new aspects of their activities, so that the Council might have an opportunity to discuss new trends and fulfil its appointed role of making a creative contribution to the search for solutions to practical problems.

75. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) expressed his particular appreciation of the concern shown by the Executive Secretary of ECLA about the protectionist trends in the markets of certain countries and about securing external aid to enable countries to diversify their economies and increase their industrial production. He was troubled at the lack of progress in negotiations in all forums which were of crucial importance to the establishment of the new international economic order. He supported the view that the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system should include decentralization and the strengthening of the regional commissions, which would serve to strengthen the system as a whole. He had some reservations, however, about negotiating processes being conducted within the region, since multilateral negotiations were required to define international co-operation.

76. The PRESIDENT welcomed the response of Council members to the reports of the Executive Secretaries, which he hoped heralded an improvement of the Council's work in that field, about which informal discussions had been held.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

27th meeting

Wednesday, 12 July 1978, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.27

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. COREA (Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that a number of the main issues relating to the new international economic order and the North-South dialogue had been under active negotiation in UNCTAD in recent months. The United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities had been suspended in December 1977, but the General Assembly and the UNCTAD *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Committee on

Commodities had requested him to start consultations with a view to resuming the Conference as soon as possible, provided that a basis could be found that offered a reasonable prospect of success. He had just reported to the *Ad Hoc* Committee that there was a desire on all sides that the issue of the Common Fund should be brought to a successful conclusion and that the Fund should be established. That would require agreement on a financing role for the Common Fund in respect of measures other than buffer stocks and the provision of adequate resources for the Fund through direct contributions from Governments. There were still issues to be clarified before a consensus could be reached, but he felt that the time had come to decide on the reconvening of the Conference. It was impor-

tant for it to be reconvened before the preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development were under way, and he had therefore suggested that it should be held in the autumn, the precise dates to be decided in the light of the UNCTAD calendar of meetings.

2. The *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Committee on Commodities was currently meeting to review progress on individual commodity negotiations. Although the situation varied from commodity to commodity, progress generally had not been satisfactory; however, decisive action on the Common Fund and a sharper focus on the mechanisms and actions needed for individual commodities would help to improve matters. He had suggested that the time-table for preparatory meetings and negotiations should be extended by a year, with provision for a review of progress at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

3. Another major task in which UNCTAD had been involved was the establishment of an individual code of conduct on transfer of technology. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on an International Code of Conduct on Transfer of Technology had concluded its sixth and possibly final session, having reached agreement on a number of important points and identified the main issues concerning which differing views still existed between the regional groups. The Group had prepared a draft international code containing the following chapters: preamble; definitions and scope of application; objectives and principles; national regulation of transfer-of-technology transactions; restrictive practices in the transfer of technology; guarantees; responsibilities or obligations of parties to technology transactions; special treatment for developing countries; and international co-operation. The chapters on applicable law, the settlement of disputes and certain other provisions would be completed at the negotiating conference to be held at the end of the year.

4. A third negotiating exercise now under way in UNCTAD concerned the adoption of multilateral principles and rules for the control of restrictive business practices. An expert group was completing its proposals and recommendations, and the negotiations themselves were expected to take place in 1979. The subject was of particular interest to the Council, since the outcome of the negotiations would have a bearing on the work now in progress on a code of conduct for transnational corporations. It was also relevant to the question of consumer protection against the adverse effects of certain business practices.

5. UNCTAD had also been involved in a number of other activities with important objectives. At the third part of the ninth special session of the Trade and Development Board, held in March 1978 at ministerial level, a consensus had been reached on the question of the developing countries' external debt, whereby the developed donor countries had agreed to seek to adopt measures for adjusting the terms of past bilateral assistance to the poorer developing countries, so as to bring them into line with the softer terms currently applied. Great hopes were now placed on the implementation by the donor countries of that agreement, and UNCTAD had been authorized to review those countries' performance. At the ministerial session of the Board, it had been agreed that an intergovernmental group of experts should be convened in UNCTAD to deal with the question of agreed common norms for reorganizing the developing countries'

debt. Work was also in progress on the interdependence of money, trade and development, on inflation and on guarantees for export credits. The related question of the transfer of resources had long been an important issue in UNCTAD, and a paper on the subject had been submitted to the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, at its recent session.

6. Economic co-operation among developing countries had become a major topic in UNCTAD activities. Efforts were being made to carry out the programme of work requested by the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Mexico City from 13 to 22 September 1976, and approved by the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. The subject was likely to be a prominent issue at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other meetings, in particular the meeting of the developing countries to be held at Arusha in 1979 in preparation for that session, since it was a vital part of any global strategy for development. UNCTAD could make a decisive contribution by enlisting the support of the international community wherever possible and, more important, by helping the developing countries to reach co-operative arrangements among themselves.

7. Other topics of major concern to UNCTAD included problems in the field of shipping, special categories of countries such as the least developed, the land-locked and the island developing countries, and trade between countries with different economic and social systems—all of them equally important in international economic relations and in the quest for a new international economic order.

8. Preparations were now being made for the fifth session of the Conference, to be held at Manila in May 1979, after an interval of three years instead of the customary four. The Conference at Manila would undoubtedly be influenced by the outcome of the processes started at the fourth session at Nairobi. Success on the issues of the Common Fund and the code of conduct on transfer of technology, for example, would make for a positive atmosphere conducive to building for the future; on the other hand, negative results would seriously impair the prospects for such an atmosphere. The fifth session should meet three broad requirements. In the first place, it would have to take stock of the results achieved since the fourth session. Secondly, it should try to deal with some of the matters of major concern to the international community, in particular the developing countries, such as restrictions on access to markets, continued payments disequilibria, the lack of adequate resources, and persistent recession and inflation in many of the major industrialized countries. Thirdly, as perhaps the first major conference which could take a comprehensive view of developments on the eve of the 1980s, it should contribute to the formulation of long-term policies. In particular, it should make a major contribution to the special session of the General Assembly to be convened in 1980 and to the global development strategy for the coming decade.

9. The preparations for the fifth session of the Conference were taking place in a climate of continuing anxiety about the development of international economic relations. Two conclusions were beginning to emerge. The first was that the current difficulties were not merely cyclical; they could not be corrected by a

return of the industrialized countries' economies to the pre-crisis patterns, but were symptoms of deeply-rooted problems calling for structural changes and adjustments. The second conclusion was that there was now a growing awareness of the need to view the development of the third-world countries as an integral part of policies aimed at improving the whole international economy. That awareness could help to inject a new dynamism into the international negotiating process.

10. Mr. NETTEL (Austria) said that the debate had revealed an awareness of interdependence and the need for structural change, but had also brought out the uncertainty that still existed regarding specific action to overcome the dangers inherent in the present situation. Governments were caught in a dilemma; they were called upon to take far-reaching decisions to bring about world economic recovery and speed up world development, but they were reluctant to take on new responsibilities at a time when they were faced with increasing problems both nationally and internationally. The present situation was one in which either action or inaction would have a long-lasting impact on future forms of international co-operation.

11. Closer international co-operation was more vital than ever. Bold decisions would be required in trade, energy and finance, in order to restore the confidence that was essential for the growth of the world economy. Every country would have to participate in the process, but the large industrialized nations had a special responsibility. Regional organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the European Free Trade Association and the regional commissions, could make a valuable contribution. He welcomed their active interest in issues related to the management of interdependence and to changes in the structure and balance of the world economy.

12. The United Nations must take the lead in global discussions on international economic co-operation and development, preferably through the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174. The Committee of the Whole was a highly political body, because it was called upon to provide national and international decision-makers with guidance on a number of intricate problems involved in the task of building a new international order. His Government was not discouraged by the lack of success at the Committee's first session, which had been the result of inadequate preparation and consultation between groups. One of the Council's most urgent tasks was to ensure that future meetings of the Committee of the Whole would produce useful results. To that end, participants should avoid arriving at meetings with diametrically opposed positions, but should consult each other in advance in order to select areas where there was a convergence of views based on common interest and then try to extend the margin of agreement. The Committee of the Whole was a new kind of instrument and required fresh ideas and an imaginative approach.

13. In order to strengthen international economic co-operation, every effort would have to be made to stem the rising tide of protectionism and maintain an open multilateral trading system. He hoped that the multilateral trade negotiations would be concluded as soon as possible and that they would stimulate the further freeing of international trade, both among industrialized countries and between developing and developed countries. International trade in raw materials

was a matter of special concern. He was confident that a willingness to make reasonable concessions could open the way to the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the establishment of the Common Fund, which could have a beneficial influence on the implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and on the future development of the North-South dialogue.

14. It was now universally recognized that energy was the key to economic and industrial development. His country had a special interest in non-conventional sources of energy and welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility of holding an international conference on new and renewable sources of energy (E/1978/68 and Add.1). It greatly appreciated the excellent report of the Secretary-General on research in non-conventional sources of energy (E/C.8/56 and Corr.1), prepared in response to Council resolution 2031 (LXI) of 4 August 1976.

15. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that the General Assembly at its tenth special session, devoted to disarmament, had fully recognized the close relationship between disarmament and development and had emphasized that expenditure on arms was a colossal waste. There had been unanimous agreement that resources released as a result of disarmament should be devoted to economic and social development for all nations and to bridging the economic gap between developed and developing countries. His Government looked forward to the expert study to be produced by the Secretary-General on the relationship between disarmament and development.

16. The division of the world into rich and poor countries could be overcome only by more vigorous and far-reaching forms of international co-operation. Policies were needed which would benefit both developed and developing countries, while taking into account the special needs of the latter. The policies and programmes referred by the Secretary-General in his opening address to the Council should be carried out as soon as possible in order to stimulate world economic development without inflation.

17. Science and technology had a vital part to play in promoting growth. The successful transition to a new international economic order would depend largely on the innovatory capacity of society, and hence on the strengthening of the scientific and technological capacity of countries, their research and development effort, particularly in the social field, and their ability to apply science and technology to the problems of development. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would offer an excellent opportunity of achieving that fundamental objective. His country, as host to the Conference, would do its utmost to contribute to its success and would spare no effort to provide the best possible organizational facilities.

18. The world was now in the painful process of transition from an old to a new international order. The post-war system, which had provided a stable framework for international economic and monetary relationships for some 30 years, had run into serious difficulties. The world had become more complex, the number of parties involved had multiplied and differences in aims and national ideas had become more acute. He fully endorsed the conclusion of the Committee for Development Planning that the need for the effective and equitable management of the global economy had never been greater (E/1978/46, para. 38).

The task of constructing and reconstructing international economic institutions could be undertaken only on a basis of common understanding. From the intensive debates over the past three or four years, the basic tenets of a common understanding would appear to be that (a) the limits to sustained economic growth and faster development were political rather than physical, (b) development required far-reaching national and international changes, (c) development should serve people and their basic needs, not the reverse, (d) massive transfers of resources were needed to reduce the gap between rich and poor countries, and (e) further development in the world economy could be ensured only through closer co-operation between developed and developing countries.

19. With those considerations in mind, his delegation agreed with the suggestions by the Netherlands representative (22nd meeting) concerning a programme of work for the coming year consisting of a limited number of topics on which to concentrate in order to achieve real results. The immediate concern at the present session should therefore be to seek agreement on the organization and scope of the further work of the Committee of the Whole and on the restructuring of the economic and social sector of the United Nations, and particularly of the Council.

20. Mr. BLANCHARD (Director-General, International Labour Office) said that the ILO, after a period of severe difficulty, was now on the road to recovery. The departure of the United States of America from the Organisation had, of course, been a setback and had reduced its financial resources by one quarter. Many representatives at the International Labour Conference had regretted that country's absence and hoped that the Organisation's universality would soon be restored. However, the Organisation had been able to pursue its major objectives by means of smaller-scale operations, balanced programme reductions and voluntary contributions both from States and from employers' and workers' organizations, whose generosity he acknowledged. The Organisation had, in fact, recently admitted two new members—Botswana and Djibouti.

21. There was an evident easing of tension, as well as growing interest in the specific aims of the Organisation. Four international instruments had been adopted at the 64th session of the International Labour Conference, which had just ended. The conciliatory spirit shown, moreover, had not been limited to technical matters; for example, the question of supervising the application of international labour conventions, particularly those related to human rights, had not aroused the bitter controversy encountered earlier. Likewise, debate on the ILO institutional structure seemed to have emerged from deadlock, and it was possible to foresee a solution which would enable it to adjust to present needs, while preserving its effectiveness.

22. The Conference had taken two important political decisions: the admission to the ILO, without opposition, of Namibia, and the condemnation of *apartheid* by the Conference at two special plenary meetings. On the subject of assistance to liberation movements in southern Africa, an over-all plan had been worked out in agreement with OAU and the liberation movements themselves. It included fellowships, courses and vocational training projects, to be financed by UNDP, and was already being put into effect.

23. In 1980, the General Assembly, at a special session, was to review progress towards the establishment

of a new international economic order and draw up a new strategy, for which preparations had already begun. The Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC in that connexion had dealt *inter alia* with the problem of "basic needs". That concept had seemingly become separated from the context in which the World Employment Conference¹ had placed it—namely, the problems of unemployment and under-employment, which, in the developing countries, now affected almost 300 million persons and could affect 1 billion by the year 2000 unless vigorous remedial action was taken. The traditional development policies pursued hitherto had not overcome the problem. The unemployed and under-employed in the developing countries generally consisted of the very poor and under-nourished, who lacked education, skill, access to means of production and scope for productive employment to meet their own needs—a situation which in turn hampered growth and job creation.

24. Faced with those facts, the World Employment Conference had expressed three convictions. Firstly, not enough attention had previously been given to the capital-labour relationship in production; more manpower for a given unit of capital, technology better adjusted to requirements, and much higher levels of skill were decisive factors for development in terms of both economic growth and employment. Secondly, more vigorous national expansion of productive employment might help the self-sustained development of the less developed countries by permitting a more productive use of their human resources; for example, improved agricultural productivity and distribution could result in reduced food imports, as well as increased export earnings for industrial equipment purchases. However, basic needs could not be satisfied without intensive industrialization, which would moreover raise income, thereby boosting domestic markets for goods and services and stimulating capital formation and infrastructure development. Thirdly, such measures or policies would make sense only in the context of a new international division of labour and economic relationships, particularly in the field of international trade—a context essential for the growth which would provide the necessary investment capital to satisfy basic needs and thereby generate further employment and growth.

25. Thus, all national development strategies, including those aimed at meeting basic needs, had an international aspect; the least fortunate countries, for example, could not overcome poverty without considerable assistance and co-operation from abroad, particularly with regard to changes in production structure and international trade, on which the development of the third-world countries so largely depended.

26. One consequence of the increasing exports of manufactured goods from such countries to the industrialized countries was, of course, that the adverse effects of the resultant competition on certain industries already hit by economic stagnation might lead to the temptation of protectionism—a remedy worse than the disease in the long run. An enlightened approach was therefore required to the idea of industrial restructuring and adjustment policies as an essential corollary to that of a new world equilibrium. Adjustment policies, although involving complex interaction, had proved

¹ Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution, Social Progress and the International Division of Labour, held at Geneva from 4 to 17 June 1976.

effective; moreover, increased export earnings for the developing countries would enable them to pay for imports from the industrialized countries. All countries, therefore, would benefit from co-operation for development on the basis of general interdependence.

27. To isolate the "basic needs" approach from the context he had outlined would be hazardous. It was not a mere charity measure put forward as an alternative to the growth strategy, but an instrument to promote growth by creating economic infrastructures and employment. Such an approach would in no case infringe national sovereignty; each country would exercise sovereignty in determining its own development policy. In any case, the "basic needs" approach implied no uniform pattern in employment policies, which had to be suitable for particular national conditions and subject to periodic revision, since poverty was a relative and changing concept. What the approach did call for was a political will, at both the national and international level, which had often been lacking but to which the new development strategy should give shape and vigour.

28. The ILO was pursuing its efforts to give effect to the conclusions of the 1976 World Employment Conference; an interim report on recent developments, both in the ILO and elsewhere in the United Nations system, was given in the note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the World Employment Conference (E/1978/88). In 1979, the International Labour Conference would review progress and difficulties, on the basis of reports from the Governments of member countries; the findings, supplemented by any views the Council might express, would be a valuable guide for the future.

29. Building for the future would depend primarily on national efforts and expectations, but also on international co-operation, whose nature and form would be determined by the new strategy. Growth, job creation and the satisfaction of basic needs should all form part of the endeavours, so that the new international economic order might be attended by social justice between and within nations.

30. The PRESIDENT welcomed the comments by the Director-General of the International Labour Office with regard to basic needs. He hoped the Council would take advantage of the opportunity to discuss the matter and that the discussion would be further pursued in any other appropriate form of the United Nations.

31. Mr. FARTASH (Iran) said that the current period was marked by uncertainty about the immediate and long-term prospects of the world economy. The *World Economic Survey, 1977* and other documents offered little hope of any immediate increase in the real growth rate of developing countries. The international community had been able to identify the fundamental areas of concern and the specific hard-core problems; action was now needed to reverse the downward trend. Genuine efforts had to be made to bring about the structural changes required for the establishment of the new international economic order. The lack of resolve on the part of the international community, and particularly the major industrialized countries, was disquieting.

32. After the failure of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation to live up to expectations, there had been another phase of inconclusive

discussion by the Committee of the Whole. In order to be fruitful, the Committee had to open up prospects and areas of agreement on important questions. While the Committee was not required to act as a negotiating forum for specific issues that were under consideration in other bodies of the United Nations system, one of its main functions was to monitor the implementation of agreements reached in the negotiations on the establishment of the new international economic order. A number of such agreements had already been reached by consensus between developing and developed countries. The Committee of the Whole was therefore in a position to identify the measures still to be implemented and to make appropriate recommendations on them. It was regrettable that, despite an overwhelming convergence of views, the Committee at its first session had failed to achieve results because of differences on the interpretation of its mandate. His delegation hoped that the Committee would do better at its next session.

33. While agreeing with many of the conclusions reached in the *World Economic Survey, 1977*, his delegation could not accept all the assumptions on which those conclusions were based, particularly in view of the report's lack of orientation towards the vital issue of development. The Leontief study on the future of the world economy² indicated that even if the growth targets envisaged by the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade were reached by developing countries and maintained to the year 2000, the gap between the rich and the poor nations would remain as great as in 1970. In order to narrow the gap by half, considerably higher growth rates would be required in the developing world in the 1980s and 1990s, with growth rates in the industrialized world remaining at a lower level. Far-reaching internal changes would be needed in developing countries, together with significant changes in the world economic order. The study also noted that balance-of-payments problems would place a serious limitation on the growth of many developing countries in the coming 25 years, unless a wide range of international trade, aid, price and financial reforms were introduced.

34. Against that background, it was distressing to note that official development assistance provided by the developed countries was less than half the 0.7 per cent target set by the International Development Strategy. A continuous and increased flow of financial resources was essential for the developing countries, particularly those at lower-income levels. The international monetary system should be made more responsive to the requirements of the international community, and particularly of the developing countries.

35. The role of IMF and its supplementary credit facilities could be further expanded to meet the needs of the developing countries, through a review of the conditions attached to drawings on IMF, the creation of long-term machinery and the further liberalization of the compensatory financing facilities. Although the IMF credit facilities had been effective for dealing with short-term imbalances, one of the longer-term solutions to the balance-of-payments problems of the developing countries, which were mostly of a structural nature, lay in the prompt revision of quotas. The sev-

² W. Leontief et al., *The Future of the World Economy: a United Nations study* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1977).

ent general review of the quotas was unfortunately long overdue.

36. The international trade situation was also discouraging. Indications of a massive slow-down in the volume of world trade reflected the inability of the present world economic order to cope with structural inequalities and adjust to periodic fluctuations. The conditions governing world trade had had a disruptive effect on the economies of the developing countries and adversely affected their terms of trade, further aggravating their debt burden and consequently worsening their balance-of-payments position.

37. The adoption of protectionist measures by many developed countries had also helped to reduce the export earnings of developing countries. Fluctuations in the volume and prices of raw materials and commodities in 1977 had strengthened the conviction that machinery was needed to stabilize commodity markets.

38. Insufficient progress had so far been made in the individual commodity negotiations under the Integrated Programme for Commodities. There seemed to be wider agreement on the main points of divergence which had led to the suspension of the Common Fund negotiations. A few Governments, however, still had to exert the political will for the negotiations to be resumed on a sound footing.

39. Unless major steps were taken to meet the objectives of the new international economic order, the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations would be taking place in a vacuum.

40. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would provide the international community with an opportunity of dealing extensively with a crucial area of international co-operation.

41. Although a number of long-term targets and priorities for the Second United Nations Development Decade would still be relevant in the 1980s, the strategy for the third decade should be in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

42. Mr. KHANE (Executive Director, United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that industrialization played a central role in all development policies; if there were limitations on the rate of industrialization, all economic and social progress might be brought to a halt. It was feared in some quarters that the industrialization of the developing countries might produce unwelcome changes in the global economic and political balance. He believed, on the contrary, that the faster the rate of industrialization in the developing countries, the more quickly could aggregate demand be stimulated and the world economy reflat. Developing countries would long continue to require manufactured consumer goods to meet their various basic needs, as well as capital goods and machinery even for the most elementary industrialization. Unless they had the means to pay for those items, there was a prospect of international confrontation rather than of a new international economic order.

43. The new international economic order should be viewed not only as a fairer relationship between the developed and developing worlds but also as a better system of world management. If the developing countries were to buy what they needed for industrial development, thereby stimulating world demand, they

should be allowed to pay in the form of the simple products they were able to offer. If they were paid reasonable prices for their industrial goods and raw materials, or if they were charged lower prices for their imports, there should be no fear that they would cause problems in the developed countries by flooding foreign markets with their exports. Such steps should enable the world economy to move towards the steadier growth required for the achievement of other objectives of the new international economic order, particularly the eradication of poverty, on which widespread concern had been expressed. A spokesman for the OECD Development Assistance Committee had rightly observed that, while economic growth might occur without benefiting the mass of poor people, poverty could not be relieved without growth.

44. The UNIDO World Industrial Co-operation Model showed that, in order to achieve the 25 per cent target of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation by the year 2000, manufacturing value added in the developing countries had to grow at a rate about 5.5 per cent greater on average than in the developed countries. If manufacturing value added in the developed countries grew by 5 per cent, it would have to grow at about 10.5 per cent in the developing countries, compared with an average of 7.4 per cent for 1960-1975. Enormous efforts on the part of all countries were required if the Lima target was to be met. The growth pattern of individual countries would differ, depending on their endowments and stages of development. While industrialization would be essential for all countries, its manifestation would vary in type and degree from country to country.

45. Energy was one of the most urgent problems now facing the world. UNIDO studies showed that if petroleum continued to be used at the current rate, little would be left by the 1990s to meet the requirements of developed or developing countries. Since little coal or nuclear energy was available in the developing world, apart from India and China, the plight of the other developing countries could become precarious before the end of the century and it might be impossible to meet the Lima target. Energy conservation and pricing policies had to be carefully reviewed and implemented if the rapidly diminishing and non-renewable sources of energy were to be husbanded. Efforts must be made to stimulate the production of other sources of energy capable of fostering self-sustaining industrial growth in all countries, and particularly in the developing world. In view of the present serious situation, it seemed impossible for the time being to hope for a better world growth rate than 2.8 per cent, or 2 per cent for the developed countries and 6 per cent for the developing countries. A partnership of the developed and developing world, and a political, social and economic solidarity contract to develop the partnership, were therefore required. UNIDO would endeavour to show what dangers or obstacles were ahead and do what it could to avoid them, but the contract itself could only be entered into by Governments. The Council might be the appropriate body in which to negotiate it.

46. Mr. AKRAM (Afghanistan) regretted that 1977 had passed without any real improvement in the world economic situation. Once again, the least developed countries had suffered the most, and the gap between the economies of the industrialized countries and those

of the third world had widened. There were many reasons for that state of affairs, but the most important one was the very nature of the world economy as it now existed, which no longer corresponded to the needs of society.

47. Scientific and technological progress had opened up the possibility of improved economic development, particularly for the large part of mankind lacking the most elementary needs. In order to remove the injustice inherent in the present system, the sixth special session of the General Assembly had decided to establish a new international economic order. But no effective steps to overcome the world economic crisis had yet been taken. The economic imbalance inherited from the colonial period continued to exist, and decisions taken at international meetings had not yet had any favourable impact. It seemed that the lack of political will on the part of the rich countries might be the cause. A study of the economic situation in 1977 revealed that the developed countries had taken advantage of the disorder in world economic relations and had become richer still at the expense of the developing countries. However, the third-world countries had not lost hope and still counted on the support of the industrialized countries in assisting the General Assembly at its special session in 1980 to establish a new economic order for the good of mankind in general. Close economic interdependence existed between developed and developing countries, and due account should be taken of that fact in decisions and debates in all the specialized economic organizations of the United Nations.

48. At the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held at Nairobi in 1976, a number of recommendations concerning developing countries had been made. He hoped they would meet with a favourable response from all Members of the United Nations and would be implemented, in the interests of the international community. One of the measures taken at that session concerned the problem of debts owed by poor countries to rich ones. There was no doubt that the long-term and short-term debts owed by the less fortunate nations to the rich ones, amounting to \$500-600 billion, had a negative effect on the economic development of the debtor countries. His delegation was gratified to note that some developed countries had made the generous gesture of converting their loans into gifts. Similar steps of that kind would help to accelerate the improvement in the living standard of the poorest peoples.

49. The international trade situation in 1977 gave cause for disquiet. The markets for finished products and primary commodities exported from third-world countries had once again come up against the protectionist measures of the developed countries. Such barriers served only to aggravate the critical situation of the developing countries. His delegation proposed that special attention should be given to the problem at the current session, in the hope of finding an equitable solution.

50. Another factor which militated against the expansion of international economic relations and had resulted in an adverse balance of payments for the developing countries was the unstable international monetary system. A solution must be found, since, otherwise there would be serious consequences not only for the developing countries but also for the developed countries themselves.

51. Afghanistan was one of the group of land-locked States the majority of which were developing countries. The right of free access to and from the sea was a perennial problem. Despite a series of measures adopted at the international level, including recommendations adopted at the fourth session of the Conference, the trade of the land-locked countries was still hampered by extra transport charges which brought the cost price of commodities to a level where they found it difficult to compete on the international market with coastal countries. In order to compensate for such additional costs, the General Assembly, at its thirtieth session, had approved the establishment of the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries. More than two years later, its board of governors had still not been elected, and contributions were on the low side. His delegation was disturbed at the slow progress and requested the Council to call upon member States to increase contributions to the Fund, so that it could finally become operational.

52. Turning to the social and economic situation in Afghanistan, he pointed out that lack of qualified personnel, together with inadequate resources, had prevented his country from obtaining the results it might have expected. There had been, of course, a certain amount of progress, and the co-operation and help of friendly countries and international organizations had contributed a great deal. But the introduction of new economic ideas and a system of planning in a country with old traditions had never been an easy thing to do. Following the revolution in April 1978, a democratic republican régime had been established in Afghanistan. The new Government had set about reorganizing the economy, introducing a democratic agrarian reform, developing hitherto uncultivated land, expanding the irrigation system, and seeking a solution to the problem of pastures. It also intended to eliminate the feudal system, introduce appropriate measures concerning domestic and foreign trade in the collective interest, develop the public sector of the economy, and use scientific planning to exploit the natural riches of the country. Finally, social life and the governmental system would be democratized.

53. His country's resources were extremely limited and it would have difficulty in attaining the objectives of an economic plan. For that reason, his Government, at the very outset of its existence, had made an urgent appeal to the international community for assistance, without conditions which might prejudice its sovereignty. He hoped for international co-operation and greater assistance in order to create a national economy which would be healthy and adapted to the needs of a free and sovereign society.

54. Mrs. DE METZ NOBLAT (International Chamber of Commerce) said that the world was emerging from the severest recession of the last 40 years. However, the recovery was slower in 1977 than might have been expected from the revival of economic activity in the second half of 1976. World economic recovery seemed to be dependent upon three conditions: the revival of productive investment, the maintenance of an open trading system free from distortions and barriers, and a greater integration of developing countries in the world economy.

55. A revival in productive investment could be achieved only if the confidence of the private sector was restored and if business profitability was allowed

to rise. Through its quarterly *Survey of Economic Trends*, ICC kept a check on the views of over 1,500 firms in 50 countries regarding the business climate. The most recent survey covering the first quarter of 1978 showed that for the vast majority of firms confidence was still weak. Two factors were responsible for that situation: over the last 10 years, business profitability had been gradually eroded, and at the same time government interference had tended to increase. Declining profitability, together with the persistence of high inflationary pressures, constituted a major disincentive to investment. A return to price stability was absolutely essential for the revival of investment. But beyond purely economic factors, the growth of investment was closely linked with the re-establishment of the status of the entrepreneur, which had been somewhat questioned in the past. It also hinged on a clearer definition of the respective roles of government and business; that was increasingly recognized by some Governments which, both in developing and in industrialized countries, were re-assessing their relationships with private enterprise. There was considerable potential demand and an acute need for investment in the developing world. Through realistic economic planning, Governments could allocate scarce resources in a balanced fashion and so establish the basis for an acceleration of investment in the future. But Governments could not assume all tasks, and in particular the task of expanding agricultural and industrial production should rest principally with the private sector, assisted, as the case might be, by private foreign investors.

56. The revival of the world economy was also highly dependent upon the maintenance of an open trading system. ICC attached paramount importance to the Tokyo Round negotiations and hoped that rules would be adopted to prevent recourse to restrictive measures which were short-sighted and selfish. It seemed that two considerations were behind the present protectionist trends: the desire of the major countries to retain, and if possible to expand, their share of world exports at a time when the growth of world exports was slowing down, and the legitimate wish to maintain employment in particular domestic industries which, for one reason or another, had lost their competitiveness. The first consideration had given rise to a proliferation of subsidies, whilst the second had prompted Governments to impose import restrictions, reflecting the refusal of countries to adjust to the emergence of more efficient

and competing industries abroad. The unwillingness to assume the cost of structural changes had been reinforced by the fact that the cost was made greater by the adverse economic situation. However, ICC believed that protectionism froze existing patterns of production and diminished the pressures for adjustment; far from assisting Governments to ride out the recession, it actually exacerbated and prolonged it.

57. Turning to the question of greater integration of the developing countries in the world economy, she felt that the political climate was now more favourable than at the beginning of the decade. As the process of industrialization in some developing countries had moved faster, it had come to be realized that the world economy could not be artificially divided between developed and developing countries. The pattern of international economic relations was essentially an evolving one marked by growing interdependence.

58. ICC supported the United Nations in its determination to attack the economic and social problems of the less developed countries and it wished to contribute to action aimed at solving such problems. Both the ICC and its members, as private entrepreneurs engaged in all sectors of the economy, could play a crucial role in the development process. The experience of recent years showed that those developing countries which had encouraged private entrepreneurship and adopted market-oriented outward-looking strategies had attained relatively higher rates of fixed capital formation and growth.

59. If the business sector was to play its full part in the development process, it was essential that there should be regular communication and consultation with Governments and intergovernmental organizations. A most valuable mechanism to that end was the ICC/United Nations/GATT Economic Consultative Committee. ICC attached great importance to strengthening the domestic private sector in the developing world, and was expanding its programme of seminars and training for businessmen from developing nations on such topics as trade procedures, banking techniques and arbitration. It was also aware of the need for foreign investments in developing countries and would put forward at its congress in October 1978 precise proposals for expanding the contribution of world business to economic development.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

28th meeting

Thursday, 13 July 1978, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.28

In the absence of the President, Mr. Mwanguhunga (Uganda), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) remarked that inflation, monetary instability, recession, unemployment and

protectionist tendencies had created in the developed world an atmosphere of uncertainty about the future. The situation was even worse, however, in the developing countries, because the present world economic system was not adapted to meet their needs. "Stagflation", unemployment and stagnant or declining standards of living and *per capita* growth rates had led those countries to increase borrowing to such an extent that the level of their indebtedness was swallowing a grow-

ing percentage of their export earnings and aggravating their balance-of-payments problems. Economic surveys indicated that the gap between the developed and developing countries was growing wider and that only a massive transfer of resources could narrow if not bridge it.

2. The developing countries had hoped that the Conference on International Economic Co-operation would help to reduce the imbalance in world economic relations; in fact, however, the Conference had reached a dead end. They had then staked their hopes upon the Committee of the Whole established by General Assembly resolution 32/174, but it was common knowledge what the results of the first session of that Committee had been. The Sudanese delegation nevertheless considered, like others, that those negotiations had contributed to an understanding of different points of view and should serve as a starting-point for continuous efforts to generate the political will required to resolve the principal issues faced by the international community.

3. Referring to the negotiations in progress within UNCTAD and GATT, he deplored the lack of progress made in the implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and, in particular, the Common Fund and individual commodity negotiations. Although stability in international commodity markets and the long-term stability of raw material markets were indispensable for developing and developed countries alike, some of the latter were still reluctant to agree to any action aimed at greater stabilization and the improvement of market structures. If the agreed objectives of the Integrated Programme for Commodities were to be attained, the developed countries would have to fulfil the commitments they had entered into at the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held at Nairobi and show more co-operation. His delegation hoped that, as a result of the informal consultations being conducted by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities would be resumed shortly. The entire Integrated Programme had to be implemented if the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was not to hold its fifth session against a background of failure. As for the multilateral trade negotiations, they had made little progress in the space of five years.

4. All members of the Council recognized that the present international system must undergo structural changes and, in that respect, the international community had at its disposal the resolutions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly. It was most regrettable that many countries had cast doubt upon the relevance of those decisions, thus hampering the establishment of the new international economic order and the application of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The restructuring of the world economy required the transfer of resources to developing countries, but the targets set almost 10 years earlier were far from achieved. The developed countries and international financial institutions should therefore assume commitments in that respect within the framework of the new international development strategy. The restructuring of the world economy would also require the transfer of technologies to the developing countries, so as to enable them to select those which suited their development goals. His delegation was relying on the preparation of a code of conduct

for the transfer of technology, and hoped that the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would make suitable arrangements for accommodating the needs of developing countries.

5. Turning to financial and technical assistance, which formed the core of the developing countries' needs, he said that the objective of his country's economic and social development plans was to satisfy the immediate needs of the people, as well as to lay the foundations for a prosperous economy for future generations. The Sudanese Government was giving priority to self-sufficiency in foodstuffs and to the provision of adequate health, housing and education services. The Sudan had accordingly formulated a number of agricultural and industrial projects, many of which were or were about to become operational. Although the country was now almost self-sufficient in food supplies, it still needed foreign aid to establish the socio-economic infrastructure that would bring the economy to the "take-off" point and place it in a position to satisfy the basic needs of the population. His delegation welcomed the decision taken by some of the developed countries to cancel the debts of poor countries, and hoped that others would follow suit. It also believed that it was necessary to speed up disarmament and to divert the resources thus released to social and economic development.

6. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the current consultations on the reorganization and rationalization of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system would yield satisfactory results, and that the Council would apply the recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197.

7. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that the general debate on international economic co-operation and development revealed concern about the implications of the present situation for individual countries and for international economic relations. One of the main conclusions to be drawn from an analysis of the situation was that relationships between the economies of individual countries called for a qualitative transformation and an expansion of international economic co-operation which would contribute to the establishment of the new international economic order and the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The mobilization of domestic resources for development, combined with the expansion of international economic co-operation based on equality, mutual advantage and non-discrimination, in a climate of peaceful coexistence, would create favourable conditions for the development of all countries, and particularly the developing ones. It was for the Council at its present session to devise measures that could be taken in that respect.

8. The search for ways of speeding up the expansion of international economic co-operation was all the more necessary as political developments were directly linked to the state of economic relations. During the past 10 years, the socialist countries had played a paramount role in the consolidation of world peace, but many obstacles still had to be overcome on the way to détente. His delegation hoped that the recommendations made at the tenth special session of the General Assembly, which had underlined once more the connexion between détente, disarmament and development, would have a positive influence on international economic co-operation.

9. The problem of development could not be dissociated from other economic problems; it entailed

both economic growth and social transformations and, moreover, depended on specific political circumstances. A combination of internal and external factors affected the rate of growth of every country and, consequently, the levels of living of nations and individuals.

10. The world of today consisted of States differently endowed with resources, at different levels of economic development and with different social and political systems. If, therefore, States were to implement the principles which were to govern their economic relations in the coming decade, they had no choice but to take into account the lawful interests of all countries, particularly the developing ones. As a member of CMEA, Poland was interested in closer economic co-operation with the developing countries and with developed market-economy countries on the basis of respect for the principles of equality, non-discrimination and the sovereignty of States. It was prepared to assist the developing countries in strengthening their development capacity, and therefore attached considerable importance to such features of social and economic progress as industrialization, the co-operative movement, the public sector, planning and programming machinery and progressive social and economic reforms. However, his delegation also shared the reservations expressed in respect of the basic needs concept and the idea that developing countries should be advised to change their priorities and to direct their development efforts towards the satisfaction of those needs.

11. The world economic and social situation called for concerted action. Inflation and unemployment in the Western countries were having a disruptive effect on economic co-operation and international trade, with corresponding repercussions on balances of payments. Short-sighted protectionism, as reflected in the maintenance of discriminatory measures and the introduction of new barriers which slowed down the process of the liberalization of international trade and economic recovery, was on the increase and added to the uncertainties in current international economic relations and domestic policies. Protectionist measures ran counter to an expansion of broad mutually-beneficial international co-operation and discouraged development efforts. In the long run, they would have a negative impact even in the countries applying them. Moreover, each country's import potential was directly proportional to its export earnings. But it was not enough to criticize protectionism, and many delegations had rightly stressed how important it was that the multilateral trade negotiations should produce satisfactory results.

12. Experience in the last few years had shown that, owing to the structural nature of the difficulties faced by the developed countries, economic mechanisms, and especially market and monetary mechanisms, could not be expected to bring about a readjustment of the situation by themselves. There was thus the need, recognized at the current session, for structural adjustments. In other words, since the over-all situation had changed so profoundly, there was an urgent need to seek ways and means of guaranteeing steady, rapid, balanced and just economic and social development. Responsibility for the choice of those ways and means undoubtedly lay with Governments, and the role of the United Nations should be to stimulate universal economic co-operation in the broad sense. The widening gap between developed and developing countries was a matter for serious concern, as under-development in one coun-

try affected growth in another. For that reason, the international community should strive, in the common interest, to bring about the development of all countries, and the developing ones in particular, by expanding and extending economic co-operation so as to improve the levels of living of all peoples.

13. His country fully supported the efforts of developing countries to achieve economic independence, as an indispensable foundation of their political independence, and for that purpose it was essential to promote international co-operation. Poland therefore approved the progressive principles contained in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Consequently, all forms of colonial and neo-colonial exploitation of developing countries, particularly by transnational corporations, must be eliminated and favourable conditions created in those countries for the maximum mobilization of their domestic resources and the implementation of social and economic reforms. His country therefore supported the work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations; it had great hopes of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, and was gratified by the successful conclusion of the work of the Committee on Review and Appraisal. Of similar importance, in that respect, was the effective preparation of the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Third General Conference of UNIDO.

14. His country was also participating actively in the negotiations aimed at bringing about a new international division of labour and establishing a new, and more just, international economic order. It was particularly interested in all aspects of the expansion of international trade being discussed in various United Nations bodies. The negotiations within UNCTAD on the Integrated Programme for Commodities were of great importance, not only for the developing countries, but for all countries participating in world trade in raw materials. As a net importer of raw materials, his country was in favour of the multilateral regulation of commodity markets, provided that the interests of both producer and consumer countries were taken into account. Like the other socialist countries of Eastern Europe, it had also accepted the idea of the establishment of the Common Fund.

15. The Council was focusing particular attention at the current session on science and technology. It was common knowledge that technological progress was vital to development, that technological co-operation was essential, and that countries which were less developed in that respect needed modern technologies in order to build up their industrial potential. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would therefore have to analyse and formulate recommendations likely to promote universal scientific and technological co-operation in the interests of development and peace, and for the benefit of all countries. But, first of all, it would be necessary to identify those areas in which technology was particularly useful. As had been emphasized at the regional preparatory meeting held at Bucharest, the Conference would have to consider all possibilities of co-operation aimed at achieving technological progress. His own country hoped that such co-operation would be sought at the world level, and was also interested in the potential role of science and technology in the future.

16. Studies of long-term economic trends at the sectoral, regional and world levels, in collaboration with the United Nations, were also important from the point of view of development planning and decision-making. The regional and world forecasts to be prepared in accordance with General Assembly and Council resolutions would be invaluable for intensifying international economic co-operation and speeding up the establishment of the new economic order. They would also render good service in the international negotiations on major economic problems and in the preparation of a new international development strategy. They would reveal existing and anticipated production capacities, as well as the degree of complementarity among various regions, and help to identify specific needs for international economic co-operation.

17. Another field of co-operation concerned the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. His country, which was participating actively in the consultations on that important subject, considered that restructuring must proceed, as had been agreed, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and that the reorganization of the United Nations Secretariat should not prejudice the principle of the equitable geographical distribution of posts.

18. Countries members of CMEA, which had just been joined by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, were applying the Comprehensive Programme for the Further Extension and Improvement of Co-operation and the Development of Socialist Economic Integration by the CMEA Member Countries and endeavouring to broaden their economic relations at the international level. Lastly, the leadership of the Polish United Worker's Party attached special importance to the intensification of economic co-operation with developing countries. At present, Poland traded with more than 100 such countries, and in the space of two years had more than doubled its imports of manufactured goods from them. It continued to assist developing countries throughout the world, particularly in their industrialization programmes, and accepted, in repayment of the credit it made available to them, the output of their industries or other goods.

19. His country was interested in developing its economic and trade relations with the Western countries, particularly within the context of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It hoped that its efforts would meet with a response and that its Western partners would eventually eliminate all barriers to trade. In that spirit, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries members of CMEA had proposed, in ECE, the convening of three high-level all-European meetings (on the environment, energy and transport) the results of which, in addition to being of vital importance for the economic development and living conditions in Europe, would be felt well beyond the ECE region. His country was gratified by the very positive evaluation by the Executive Secretary of ECE of the progress achieved in the preparations for the meeting on the environment. That proved once again that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System had been right to advocate the strengthening of co-operation within the framework of the regional commissions.

20. The general debate revealed that the gap between ideas on the world economy was narrowing from one

Council session to another. As the Secretary-General had indicated in his introductory statement, the transformation of international economic relations and the strengthening of development co-operation called for concerted decisions. The Council must therefore seek a broad consensus on major problems of international economic relations which would be sufficiently genuine and sincere for its decisions to be implemented. His country hoped that the current session would live up to expectations, and would permit the expansion of international economic co-operation for the benefit of all, thereby contributing to détente in the world and to the maintenance of international peace and security.

21. Mr. SALIBA (Malta) said he endorsed the views expressed by nearly all countries, irrespective of the nature of their economic system, concerning the world economic situation. However, the vast gap between aspirations and results was inevitably a source of disappointment. The fact that the world economic situation was far from satisfactory was not enough to explain that gap and should not conceal the real issue of global interdependence, which applied to all countries, regardless of their level of development, social and economic system, history or geographical situation. It was that interdependence which called for bold decisions that people should be made to understand and accept and for the application of just principles even if they were not always in the interest of all. In particular, countries in a dominant position must not equate global interdependence with the maintenance of the status quo.

22. The profusion of meetings, conferences and negotiations on the new international economic order were not producing any tangible or foreseeable results and served, on the contrary, as an excuse for postponing decisions. That situation was most disturbing and it was essential not to prolong unduly, for example, the work on the restructuring of the United Nations system, which was proceeding very slowly. It might even be asked, in the light of the discussions in the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, whether those efforts were not doomed to failure.

23. Several delegations had rightly pointed out that economic development should go hand in hand with social development. It was difficult to reconcile such statements with the fact that developing countries which had given priority to social development were denied, on those grounds, the resources which they required. For its part, his Government had always endeavoured to promote social development by following an order of priorities which, in theory at least, seemed to find approval among developed countries. Yet, when Malta, encouraged by all the policy statements made in support of disarmament, had sought a transfer of resources amounting to the cost of one item of military equipment relatively modest in importance to maintain its level of development and to switch over from a war economy to one of peace, its calls had fallen on deaf ears. Would the response have been more favourable if Malta had requested those resources to increase its armaments, or if deteriorating economic and social conditions had created what could be called an unpleasant situation?

24. How could progress be achieved? First of all various United Nations bodies, including the Council, should focus attention on certain priority issues on which specific decisions could be taken, given the necessary political will. Secondly, criteria for the transfer of resources should not be unduly restrictive. Account

should be taken, in particular, of certain basic permanent economic weaknesses, such as the absence of natural resources, especially in small open economies, and the inherent shortcomings of certain categories of countries, such as small island developing countries; moreover, the extent to which a country's policy was in conformity with the principles and resolutions of the United Nations, particularly in the field of disarmament and social development, should also be ascertained.

25. He noted that the secretariat of the Council of Europe, whose Committee of Ministers was currently under the chairmanship of Malta, had issued a paper on the Council's intergovernmental and parliamentary activities which were directly related to a number of items on the Economic and Social Council's agenda, particularly with regard to the social aspects of economic development. Those activities were by definition of concern to the region, but the 20 member States of the Council of Europe—the majority of which were developed countries—would certainly wish to contribute, either individually or as a group, to the solution or mitigation of current difficulties.

26. Mr. EXCHAQUET (Observer for Switzerland) stressed the importance of the Committee of the Whole in the North-South dialogue, to which reference had rightly been made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his opening statement. In particular, the Committee might further elaborate the ideas expressed concerning the links between the increased transfer of real resources to the developing countries and the recovery of the world economy.

27. With regard to the work of the Committee of the Whole, which was to be resumed in the autumn, the Swiss delegation wished to list some considerations of a general nature. First, it would be necessary to facilitate the solution of substantive problems. Efforts should accordingly be directed towards securing prospects for progress on matters of substance. The answers to questions of form could then be determined more easily. Next, the Committee should make clear its wish to devote attention, at a high level, to a few general areas of common interest. Those areas in which genuine progress was considered both desirable and possible would be the subject of further discussion. The Committee might, for example, decide to maintain permanently on its agenda an item entitled "Consideration and assessment of the main factors influencing the world economy and, in particular, the economy of the developing countries". In addition, it might establish a link between the general area concerning the "transfer of real resources to the developing countries", taken up at its May 1978 session, and the two other general issues of agriculture and industrialization, by arranging for consideration to be focused on the possibilities of investment in agriculture and industry, and also in other sections. In that way, the debate would be expedited simultaneously in several major areas.

28. In spite of difficulties in the political and economic fields, Switzerland wished to demonstrate its desire to be associated—by participating in the work of the Committee of the Whole, of which it was a member—with the efforts aimed at international co-operation being made by the United Nations, particularly in favour of the third world.

29. Mr. SUSSEX (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) said that the trade union movement was very concerned about the economic and social situation in the world, which was bad for all countries whether

industrialized or developing. There was every reason to be concerned, in particular, by the persistent nature of unemployment and under-employment which prevailed everywhere. In its *World Economic Survey, 1977*, the United Nations Secretariat had clearly brought out the seriousness of the situation, which it attributed to, among other things, the recession policy being followed in all quarters and the nature of the international monetary system. The free trade union movement had consistently maintained that the monetary system should be restructured, in particular by substituting SDRs for the national currencies which served as international reserve currencies, and that it was essential to establish a link between development financing and the creation of SDRs and to bring short-term capital movements under the scrutiny of the authorities.

30. The free trade unions had protested against events which threatened the rights acquired by workers and mortgaged the future. In Western Europe, they had called for a common economic recovery strategy based on the stimulation of the consumption of the lower income groups and public investment, in order to ensure full employment as a matter of priority. ICFTU had just adopted a charter on development, in the elaboration of which trade unions throughout the world had participated and which was its contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the ILO World Employment Conference. It hoped that the United Nations, in drawing up a new development strategy, would draw guidance from that charter and from the Programme of Action.

31. With regard to the elaboration of a new United Nations development strategy, the Committee for Development Planning had, in the report on its fourteenth session, made some useful suggestions which called for a few comments. ICFTU approved of the fact that the Committee had placed stress on growth, but it would have wished the Committee to give as much importance to the creation of jobs as to the satisfaction of basic needs as a means of increasing purchasing power, controlling inflation and improving income distribution. ICFTU also approved of the objective of institutional reform, which included recognition of the role of rural workers' organizations, in particular to ensure agrarian reform and development; in that regard, the new development strategy should refer to relevant ILO standards. The Committee for Development Planning had done well to extend the scope of the strategy to industrialized countries, since the reduction of working hours without loss of purchasing power, the improvement of labour conditions, the satisfaction of basic needs, and industrial planning were among the matters that had to be tackled. Governments should not merely make policy statements about the desirability of the mobility of labour, but must demonstrate in a tangible manner their good faith by giving adequate financial support to a genuine labour market policy.

32. As any strategy, whatever it might be, had to be based on a sound operational programme, ICFTU followed closely the operational activities of the United Nations system, particularly those of the ILO. Its members participated in a number of United Nations technical assistance activities. It hoped that Governments would increase their contributions to United Nations bodies, and in particular UNDP, that their financial contributions would be regular and reliable, and that they would avoid making contributions in inconvertible currencies, which amounted to tied aid. Such financial assistance should, moreover, be accompanied by know-

how and technological expertise. That was why it was necessary to increase the technical assistance potential of the specialized agencies, which should not become mere financing bodies. That twofold nature of assistance was important to the developing countries, and particularly to the least developed among them. Furthermore, ICFTU thought that UNDP should be asso-

ciated more closely with the world of labour and management, as had been recommended by the International Labour Conference in a resolution at its 63rd session in 1977, provided that the participation of the representatives of transnational corporations was not encouraged to the detriment of that of the trade unions.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

29th meeting

Thursday, 13 July 1978, at 3.50 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.29

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. SRIVASTAVA (Secretary-General, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization) said that, like the Economic and Social Council, IMCO was greatly concerned with the subject of the transfer of technology to the developing countries. The desire of developing countries to participate equitably in international shipping was understandable and widely appreciated. The planning and maritime authorities in developing countries were now giving due importance to the development of a national maritime capability. The most serious handicap, however, was the shortage of maritime expertise and it was in that context that the transfer of technology was a matter of vital importance for the developing countries.

2. During the 20 years of the existence of IMCO, the shipping industry had undergone an unprecedented technological revolution. Ships had become more complex, more sophisticated, more automated, and more varied in type and size. There were now more than 65,000 ships traversing the oceans, from small ships carrying traditional cargoes to mammoth tankers, the whole amounting to about 400 million gross register tons. Those far-reaching developments made the promotion of maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution from ships matters of great urgency; indeed, they were the two fundamental objectives of IMCO. As recent accidents had shown, no country was immune from the danger of pollution. IMCO was therefore giving continuous attention to the promotion of worldwide co-operation in the adoption of the highest practicable standards in regard to the design, construction and equipment of different types of vessels, the safety of navigation and the training of personnel.

3. In February 1978, IMCO had convened an international conference for the specific purpose of improving technical standards for the safety of tanker operations and the protection of the marine environment. The conference had adopted two instruments which should guarantee those improvements. In the last resort, however, the most crucial element in ensuring maritime safety and protecting the marine environment was the human factor. IMCO had paid its tribute to the seafarers of the world by dedicating its first World Maritime Day, held in 1978, to them. Recognizing the

great importance of effective training as shipping became more and more complex, IMCO had convened another international conference, which had just adopted the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978. IMCO had thus been able to establish a comprehensive and co-ordinated set of international standards covering different facets of maritime activity. Its efforts were now directed towards ensuring their universal acceptance and implementation, which necessarily involved a transfer of technology; hence the importance of the IMCO technical co-operation programme.

4. As part of that programme, IMCO had appointed regional maritime advisers in Asia, Africa and Latin America, who visited developing countries to provide on-the-spot advice to their maritime administrations. It had also appointed interregional advisers on maritime safety administration, maritime legislation and the prevention of marine pollution from ships. In addition, IMCO was making special efforts to secure the participation of developing countries in various technical meetings at its headquarters. It organized workshops and seminars devoted to subjects primarily of assistance to the developing countries, with the object of helping them to accept and comply with various technical standards and thereby develop their national maritime capability. IMCO had also prepared a number of manuals on specific matters such as the transport of dangerous goods, the combating of oil pollution, etc., which were of benefit to all countries, particularly developing countries. Finally, recognizing the importance of the training of personnel, IMCO was providing assistance to a number of developing countries for the establishment of national or regional maritime academies. The implementation of that comprehensive and pragmatic programme of technical co-operation with the developing world, which was making considerable headway, was helped by the financial support received from UNDP, UNEP and a number of aid agencies in developed countries.

5. IMCO was pursuing its activities in co-operation and consultation with other specialized agencies and programmes within the United Nations system, particularly with the ILO, UNCTAD and UNEP. Its technical assistance work had been greatly assisted by collaboration with the regional commissions. As an agency exclusively concerned with maritime matters, IMCO had closely followed and actively contributed

to the work of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. It fully supported the restructuring programme initiated by the Council and was actively participating in the discussions relating to that programme, particularly within ACC. As part of its concern to increase its co-operation with the various bodies of the United Nations system, IMCO had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNIDO and another with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. The IMCO secretariat, believing strongly in the important objectives of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to be held shortly, was actively contributing to the preparations for those Conferences at the global and regional levels.

6. In conclusion, he said that IMCO now had a membership of 107 countries, of which more than two thirds were developing countries. Considering that its activities were limited to maritime matters, IMCO was reaching its optimum size and had become truly universal. Structural changes had already been made within the organization, in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill, to ensure the full participation of the developing countries in all its activities, side by side with the developed countries.

7. Mr. DE OLIVEIRA NUNES (Portugal) said that the all-pervading theme in many delegations' statements and in the analysis of the world economy in 1977 was that of uncertainty. In many developed countries, there was a slowing-down of economic recovery, a reduction in gross fixed investment, difficulties in checking inflation, balance-of-payments disequilibria and growing unemployment, all of which pointed to the inability of traditional policies to deal adequately with such problems. On the other hand, the persistence of the difficulties faced by the majority of the developing countries, in particular the slowing-down of their agricultural and industrial growth and the increasing burden of their debt and debt service payments, was a cause for concern in the immediate future.

8. His delegation had noted the interesting distinction made in the *World Economic Survey, 1977* as far as the developed countries were concerned, between major industrialized countries, other industrialized countries and primary producing countries (see E/1978/70/Add.1). His country was included in the last group, which in the *Survey* was considered to be a group heavily dependent on external economic conditions and where recovery was particularly difficult. His country's current economic problems of inflation, unemployment and high balance of trade and payments deficits had certainly been influenced by external factors.

9. The general economic situation demanded careful consideration by the international community as a whole. There was a great deal of talk about interdependence and collective responsibility, but the question remained as to what had been done to pave the way for that growing interdependence. Portugal was of the opinion that all countries must translate that sense of interdependence into co-operation, the harmonization of policies, mutual accommodation, the definition of common goals and the study of ways and means to attain them; but to achieve that objective they must also have the determination to set up effective machinery. The need for structural reforms, at both the national and the international levels, was now generally recognized and that was a positive development that would have profound repercussions on the world

economy as a whole. The economic expansion of the developing world was an integral part of the general progress of the world economy; global solutions must therefore be found for the interrelated economic and social problems.

10. His delegation was convinced that the establishment of a new international economic order could bring about a solution to the current difficulties. An important element in a short-term strategy would be resistance to the danger of protectionist tendencies and possibly a global adjustment of production to enable an efficient international division of labour to be established.

11. In order to cope with the new realities of interdependence and the need for increased global harmonization, the United Nations would have to adapt itself and develop the necessary machinery. In that context, his delegation regretted the inconclusive results of the first meeting of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, which had raised high expectations. That experiment must not be permitted to fail, for a great deal was at stake. His delegation therefore urged flexibility and a readiness for innovations in working procedures. The Committee should not be seen as a mere seminar; it must provide an impetus, directly or indirectly, to the development of international co-operation by concentrating its work on a few key issues.

12. In the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, every effort should be made to avoid duplication of work within the system. His delegation noted with regret the sluggish pace at which the Council itself was proceeding with the implementation of the recommendations on the restructuring of its subsidiary machinery and the holding of subject-oriented sessions. It supported the general ideas which appeared to prevail in the documentation issued in New York on those subjects and hoped that the intensive consultations and negotiations due to take place at Geneva would produce good results. It was important to bear in mind the advantages of such subject-oriented sessions as a means of enhancing the importance of the subjects to be dealt with and revitalizing the role of the Council, which had recently been diminishing.

13. The intensive study and application of new and renewable sources of energy was of great importance to the international community. His delegation also welcomed the inclusion of the subject of science and technology in the general debate, in view of its importance and in view of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, to be held at Vienna. If the goals set forth in the International Development Strategy and in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation were really to be attained, the process of disseminating technological and scientific knowledge must be started without delay. In that connexion, he stressed the value of data banks in permitting easier access to available technologies. The discussions that would be taking place in the period up to 1979 should allow of the elaboration of a plan of action, to be approved by the Conference, which should be taken into account in the definition of the international development strategy for the next decade. He reiterated his delegation's interest in the elaboration of an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology.

14. Mr. METAXAS (Greece) said that his statement would be concentrated on three points in relation to the world economy, international economic co-operation and development aid, namely, the evolution of the international economic situation, multilateral action, and the need to reorganize the institutional framework and reshape development policies.

15. The current world economic crisis, the most serious since the 1930s, was forcing Governments faced with inflation and unemployment to seek a satisfactory growth rate and monetary stability. Despite the strong interdependence of economies which the crisis had revealed, there were considerable differences between the problems to be solved; hence the need to determine priorities among the objectives and to adopt new policies calculated to bring about the structural changes that were essential for the achievement of those objectives. He therefore welcomed the general programme of concerted action at the international level adopted by the countries members of OECD at the recent meeting of its Ministerial Council, when they had reaffirmed their commitment to an open multilateral trading system. The programme was concerned mainly with action in the fields of international trade, energy, and monetary co-operation. The Ministerial Council had also commented on the effects of the growing interdependence of developed and developing countries in matters of trade and investment.

16. The various international organizations were endeavouring, within their particular spheres of competence, to promote co-operation and aid for development; although results so far were in many respects disappointing, some results had been encouraging, such as the work of UNCTAD on the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the continuance of the Food Aid Convention, the negotiation of an international arrangement to replace the International Wheat Agreement, and the multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of GATT. In view of the growing threat of protectionism, it was important that those negotiations should be brought to a successful conclusion as soon as possible and that the developing countries should at last be accorded the special differential treatment prescribed in the Tokyo Declaration.

17. He welcomed the progress achieved towards the conclusion of an agreement on the elimination of corrupt practices of transnational corporations and the preparation of a code of conduct for those corporations.

18. With regard to the transfer of public and private resources to the developing countries, in particular the problem of the developing countries' external debt, resolution 165 (S-IX) adopted by the Trade and Development Board at the third part of its ninth special session, held at ministerial level in March 1978, should facilitate the dialogue in progress between experts from creditor and from debtor countries in the *Ad Hoc* Group of Governmental Experts on the Debt Problems of Developing Countries. The implementation of a proposal made at the last annual meeting of the Executive Directors of IMF concerning a multilateral system for credit guarantees for the developing countries would strengthen the international capital market and facilitate access to it by the developing countries which were in need of financial resources.

19. The United Nations system would undoubtedly need to be organized on a more rational basis to ensure collective action and the necessary concerted inter-

national effort. It was in that spirit that the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174 should provide for a constructive dialogue between developed and developing countries on world economic problems. The establishment of more rational and more equitable relations between developed and developing countries would make it easier to meet basic needs and to ensure economic and social advancement in accordance with the principles set forth in the resolutions on the establishment of a new international economic order and in conformity with the long-term requirements of the new international development strategy.

20. Mr. ENE (Romania) said that a feeling of uneasiness was growing throughout the world as a result of the recurrent crises which affected the economies of all countries, but especially those of the developing countries. The analyses carried out by the secretariats of the United Nations, UNCTAD and other United Nations agencies all painted a picture of a world economy in the grip of an uncertainty attributable to the injustice inherent in the international economic system. Disparities and inconsistencies were constantly in evidence. Certain developed countries had made unilateral attempts to repair their economies without taking into account the interests of the world economy as a whole and had thus aggravated the situation in the developing countries, which were at present suffering from an unprecedented level of external debt, so that about 25 per cent of their export revenue had to be used to service their debts. At the same time, they were exposed to the adverse effects of protectionist measures, which were being increasingly adopted by the Western countries and which affected primarily products coming from the developing countries. In addition, the critical situation of the international monetary system was upsetting the machinery of international prices and inhibiting the development of long-term international economic co-operation. All those factors could not but aggravate the state of insecurity and instability which was at present characteristic of international relations. An intensified struggle was developing which might lead to a fresh division of the world into new zones of influence, thus endangering the independent development of peoples, the cause of peace and the security of the whole human race.

21. The old international economic order was not only inequitable, but had even proved incapable of serving the interests of either the industrialized or the developing countries. The restructuring of the world system of international economic relations, which had become a matter of prime urgency, had already been the subject of special sessions of the General Assembly and of numerous international conferences and had resulted in the issue of declarations, statements of principle and programmes of action for the establishment of a new economic order.

22. Unfortunately, the results of all the negotiations to resolve problems as serious for all States as those of trade in commodities, industrialization, the transfer of resources, the transfer of technology etc. had so far proved disappointing. His delegation could not but conclude that there was a lack of political will on the part of the developed countries, which were not really interested in contributing to the solution of those problems. The Secretary-General had been the first to emphasize the need for an affirmation of the political will to achieve, in a new atmosphere, significant progress in major international negotiations, and particu-

larly in North-South relations. His delegation, too, hoped that the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities would be resumed at the earliest possible date, and that tangible results would be achieved; it would also like to see the deadlock broken in the negotiations on the commodity agreements under the Integrated Programme for Commodities. The multi-lateral trade negotiations under the auspices of GATT should also be continued, but with the emphasis on their original aims; the developing countries had recently found that in the course of negotiations in GATT the major developed countries had not been greatly concerned with the interests of the developing countries. He whole-heartedly supported the many members of the Council who had called on the developed countries to abandon all protectionist policies in favour of a genuine liberalization of international trade.

23. In his opinion, all the negotiations to which he had referred should result in precise commitments, on the part of all the participating States, which would constitute a real code of international economic relations, covering the principles and standards governing economic relations between States and their rights and obligations in the different fields of international co-operation. The interdependence which was already obvious in international economic relations should be the very factor to foster the political will to undertake such commitments, since statistics showed that there was a direct link between the prosperity of the developed countries and the stability of the developing world; it was in fact the developing countries which continued to absorb a large proportion both of the exports and of the investments of the developed countries. It was not therefore a question of the developed countries making fairly substantial "concessions" to the developing countries. The only effective approach was to transform the actual structure of the international economic system and to rebuild it on a more just and more equitable foundation.

24. In his opinion, it was the responsibility of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174 to mobilize the political will of all States to play their part in that transformation; it should in fact supply the political machinery to ensure the establishment of the new economic order. The reason why the Committee of the Whole had not yet evinced the necessary dynamism was not so much that its mandate was open to differences of interpretation, but that certain States had not demonstrated the necessary will to enable the Committee to perform its function. He sincerely hoped that the consultations undertaken by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole would enable the Committee to resume its work in a new spirit.

25. It was in the same constructive spirit that, within the framework of international economic relations, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries should be developed; the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to be held shortly in Argentina, should enable a programme of action to be adopted for co-operation among the developing countries, so that it would in the future be regarded as an essential component of the world economic system.

26. Similarly, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, to be held at Vienna in 1979, should make it possible for a pro-

gramme of action to be drawn up. Some conclusions and recommendations which would make a useful contribution to the preparation of that programme of action had emerged from the preparatory European regional meeting held at Bucharest in June 1978.

27. He hoped that the Economic and Social Council, too, would soon be better able to respond to the new requirements of international economic co-operation. Any institutional measure directed to that end should be designed to achieve more and more effective action by the Council to find ways of settling the questions on its agenda.

28. Mr. HARRIMAN (Nigeria) said that the search for solutions to the problems of international economic co-operation for development had unfortunately lost momentum and that contrived moves to buy time for the so-called process of public education often disguised a lack of political will. He denounced the selfish and destabilizing exploitation of divisive tendencies in African countries by some economic power structures which might be expected to behave otherwise after their long history of slavery, colonialism and collaboration with the racist régimes in southern Africa. What Africa needed was unity, not paternalism or intervention.

29. His country eschewed any "doomsday" approach to international economic relations, since that would be unlikely to yield the desired results. On the contrary, it trusted in the efforts of the developing countries to grapple with their own problems, and in co-operation, for which the United Nations was the most appropriate forum.

30. The recent experience of the Committee of the Whole suggested, however, that the concept of equality of all States, affirmed in the United Nations Charter, could be undermined. All States had a natural right to participate in the decision-making processes in all international forums. Perhaps a distinction should be drawn between the competence of the organizations concerned and their powers. None the less, the long overdue changes in their powers should take account of the needs of the developing countries.

31. The real issue, however, was the absence of the necessary global political support for the prescriptions of the new international economic order. Agreement on concrete decisions was still lacking, especially with regard to key elements such as a binding code of conduct on the transfer of technology, the Common Fund, the guidelines for creditor-debtor negotiations, and measures to restrain the economic collaboration between the transnational corporations and their home Governments with the racist minority régimes in southern Africa.

32. His delegation agreed with the appeal made by the Secretary-General at the seventeenth meeting of the present session. Indeed, development concerned human beings who were suffering from the effects of abject poverty, illiteracy, hunger, unemployment and disease, ills which the international community had the means to remedy; it concerned people who aspired to human dignity as a right in the land of their birth, whether that land was South Africa, Zimbabwe or Namibia. All those people inhabited the third world, and Africa was the least developed region in the third world, with the highest proportion of the least developed societies, countries needing food priority and land-locked countries. The international community should therefore

take specific measures, in concert with OAU and ECA, to redress that unfavourable situation in Africa, on the following lines: the terms of trade should be improved and protected; official development assistance should be increased, made continuous over a number of years and untied, and the grant element should be maximized and free of political conditions; guidelines for creditor-debtor negotiations should be adopted to guarantee the permanent sovereignty of African States over their natural resources and economic activities, due regard being given to a negotiated balance between the interests of the debtor countries and those of their creditors; African countries which were trying to create intermediate and capital industries should be assisted to do so; industrial growth should be seen against the fact that the promotion of light import-substitution industries had resulted in limited value-added margins, little new employment and narrow linkage effects in triggering off the establishment of other industries; restrictive business practices in such fields as technology should be eliminated; and, lastly, the financial resources needed for applying the strategy for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa should be mobilized and ECA should be given the increased resources and technical support it needed to discharge its role as the "lead agency".

33. His delegation welcomed the appointment of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. The creation of that post, which was perhaps the only major concrete result of the conclusions of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, established an important institutional link between the Secretariat and the new international economic order. The recruitment and promotion policies of the Secretariat needed thorough rationalization to ensure that capable officers were given a chance to support the many changes required under the new international economic order. The Committee of the Whole had an important part to play in that respect. Admittedly, the process of restructuring was only in its early stages, but care should be taken to ensure that vested interests did not impede the promotion of the social and economic well-being of the third world. The responsibility for co-ordination now lay with the Director-General, under the authority of the Secretary-General; he needed the full co-operation of all Member States, particularly the Western States, which had not yet clearly stated their positions concerning the role of the Director-General. His delegation was pleased with the speed with which an interagency task force had been mobilized for the elaboration of the draft strategy for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, and with the designation of ECA as the "lead agency" for its implementation.

34. With regard to the streamlining of the Council's machinery, his delegation hoped that a decision could be taken on those bodies which were to be discontinued and whose functions were to be directly assumed by the Council. Clarity should be brought to bear on the proposals for subject-oriented sessions, so as to ensure that they did not simply replace the discontinued bodies. Care should also be taken to ensure that, if a sessional committee was established for the subject-oriented sessions, its relationship to the Council was unambiguously defined. The mandate and composition of the bodies which could not be immediately absorbed by the Council should also be rationalized,

with a view to their being regrouped on manageable lines. In that respect, his delegation noted the decision of the United Nations Special Fund to suspend its activities, since it could no longer carry out its main function of providing assistance to the most seriously affected countries (see A/33/21, para. 8). The Secretary-General should therefore look into the feasibility of entrusting the monitoring functions of the Fund to an existing United Nations body. The Committee for Development Planning should also examine the concept and definitions underlying the list of the most affected countries, in order to determine what relationship they bore with other groups such as that of the least developed countries. The least developed countries should be given high priority under that scheme.

35. His delegation recognized the courage of the Centre on Transnational Corporations, which despite political difficulties had produced yet another study on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa. True to type, Vorster had swiftly reacted by banning all supply of business information to external organizations by the transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia. That was yet another brick in the *apartheid* edifice designed to reduce the freedom even of the transnational corporations, which constituted the main pillar of support for Vorster and his lackeys in Salisbury. His delegation hoped that during the present session the Council would take a firm decision on the recommendations made by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its fourth session (see E/1978/52 and Corr.1-3). His own country had taken punitive measures against some transnational corporations which violated its official policy towards southern Africa. He was happy that others were following its example. He appealed to the transnational corporations and their home Governments which were collaborating with the minority racist régimes in southern Africa, in the belief that cheap black labour was guaranteed by the *apartheid* machine, to realize that their collaboration was condemning black men to remain slaves in the land of their birth. The argument that the cessation of investment in and trade with South Africa would ultimately hurt the blacks most was a spurious one. Even if it were true, the impact would be short-lived and, in any case, the blacks could make that sacrifice and were willing to do so in order to eliminate *apartheid*, which was a crime against humanity. The transnational corporations should realize that investment possibilities in the rest of Africa were limitless and therefore offered a credible alternative. To use accidental identity of race as a basis for economic co-operation was tantamount to practising economic racism in favour of a régime which was trampling on those freedoms and values to which the developed market-economy countries were attached.

Mr. MARTYNEKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

36. Mr. HÖHNE (Observer for the German Democratic Republic) said that the general debate in the Council showed clearly that it was for good reason that the United Nations was focusing its attention on the democratic restructuring of international economic relations. The elimination of all forms of exploitation, discrimination and inequality was an urgent problem. It was for that reason that the German Democratic Republic, together with the other socialist States and all progressive forces, was pursuing the implementation

of the principles of peaceful coexistence based on equality and mutual advantage.

37. For several years, a multi-faceted crisis had been affecting the economy of the capitalist world, which had reacted by resorting increasingly to protectionism. Those most affected both by the crisis and by protectionist practices were the developing countries, whose economic growth mainly depended on increasing their exports to industrialized capitalist countries. Those exports had, however, decreased by 10 per cent between 1973 and 1975, which meant a rise in the foreign trade deficit of the developing countries and a deterioration in their terms of trade. The transfer of investment profits, however, had risen between 1960 and 1975 from \$3 billion to \$10.6 billion. Since those were figures published by the corporations themselves, it was no exaggeration to say that they merely represented the visible tip of a giant iceberg. The transfer of profits gained in the developing countries already exceeded the real transfer of capital to those countries.

38. It was therefore a matter of urgency to examine the volume of profit transfer and to draw up effective measures to restrict and prevent such practices. Furthermore, it was necessary to extend the investigations of the activities of transnational corporations to international banking monopolies, whose huge profits were derived solely from monetary manipulation. Consequently, as far as the restructuring of the Economic and Social Council was concerned, the German Democratic Republic would like the Commission on Transnational Corporations to continue its work and to concentrate its activities on the problems he had mentioned.

39. The current world economic situation could develop favourably only after a democratic and thorough restructuring of international economic relations. Accordingly, the German Democratic Republic proposed that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, as also the decisions adopted at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly, should be implemented as an inseparable whole. Those who advocated a selective approach were obviously pursuing different objectives.

40. The German Democratic Republic shared the point of view expressed at the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries at Havana in May 1978 that concepts such as that of "basic needs" were designed only to undermine the establishment of a new international economic order and to permit interference in the internal affairs of the developing countries.

41. Moreover, those "basic needs", whether social, economic or cultural, had been defined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹ and there was no doubt that the policy of the developing countries was aimed at the harmonious development of their economies in the interests of their people and without interference from abroad. The German Democratic Republic, where all working people benefited directly from every economic advance, would like other States to accede to that Covenant; furthermore, as it had stated in the Committee of the Whole, the concept of the "massive transfer of real resources" offered neither the means nor the possibility of achieving a genuine solution.

¹ See General Assembly resolution 2200 (XXI) of 16 December 1966, annex.

42. In connexion with "interdependence", he said that for his country that term, as Marx and Engels had stated, meant that the development of productive forces made it possible to overcome national isolation, which was then replaced by a general dependence among nations. Interdependence signified the international division of labour. Since it was a concrete concept, interdependence was determined by the nature of the relations on which that division of labour was based. There was no such thing as automatic interdependence; the economic growth of developed capitalist countries had never led automatically to prosperity for the developing countries. On the contrary, the gap between the two groups had widened steadily. If the concept of interdependence was to be used to maintain the developing countries' relations of dependence in the market-economy system, his delegation rejected that concept.

43. The German Democratic Republic was among those countries which sought increasingly to develop their external economic relations. Long-term and mutually advantageous co-operation in the economic, scientific and technological fields had enabled the German Democratic Republic to increase its trade with the developing countries by 14 per cent. The crisis of the capitalist countries and their protectionist tendencies had impeded the development of its trade with those countries; nevertheless, import and export agreements had been concluded with a number of them on equal terms.

44. The long-term agreements concluded by the German Democratic Republic, especially with developing countries, made bilateral relations both stable and reliable. Relations of that type between socialist and developing countries constituted a new element in the development of international economic relations. They contributed to the implementation of the decisions of the sixth special session of the General Assembly and that of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

45. In June 1978, at the thirty-second session of CMEA, the Prime Ministers of the member countries had adopted a programme for the further development of economic co-operation which had a direct bearing on the work of the Economic and Social Council. The most important decision at that session had been the adoption of long-term economic co-operation programmes up to 1990, which would enable the countries members of CMEA to strengthen their mutual co-operation and to broaden their economic relations with all States, whatever their social system.

46. For the German Democratic Republic, as a socialist State, peace and disarmament were a necessity. It needed them in order to build up an efficient national economy and to guarantee social and cultural progress for its people. Disarmament was inseparably linked to the economic development of all countries, first and foremost the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. That was why the German Democratic Republic whole-heartedly supported the disarmament programme proposed by the Soviet Union.

47. Mr. GODOY ARCAYA (Organization of American States) said that most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region had succeeded in bringing about a considerable improvement in their rate of economic growth during the last two years, following the adverse effects of the world economic crisis which had begun at the close of 1973. They had succeeded as a

result of systematic internal adjustment policies which had enabled them to take full advantage of the limited opportunities which had arisen from the very slow recovery of the world economy. Those policies, which had already been followed before the crisis, were directed towards diversifying the exports and international markets for the produce of Latin America and the Caribbean region. Other significant factors which had brought about the relative improvement included the increase in public investment and, in general, in economic activities in the public sector.

48. There was also a generalized tendency in the region to increase investment coefficients; that, unfortunately, was not accompanied by an equally vigorous growth in domestic savings.

49. The recent improvement in the economy of the region should not, however, mask its vulnerability to fluctuations in world economic activity in general and to fluctuations in the prices of its major export items on international markets. Despite the relatively high average income which was a feature of the economy of many of the countries of the region, there continued to be a number of serious problems, such as a high level of unemployment, under-employment, unequal distribution of income and the existence of broad sectors of the population living in conditions of dire poverty.

50. The recent international crisis had increased the effects of the above-mentioned factors, since, as a result of inflation and recession in the industrialized countries, the export earnings of the countries of the region had fallen or had ceased to increase and the cost of their imports had risen. In the absence of adequate public credits, they had been forced to have recourse to private and much more expensive sources of financing. That type of financing had enabled them to maintain higher growth rates than would have been possible had no such source been available, but on the other hand the level of their external indebtedness had risen sharply in recent years, compelling them to allocate a considerable proportion of their export earnings to debt servicing.

51. Moreover, the flow of public assistance to development had fallen off in real terms. That trend had coincided with the rechanneling of financing on favourable conditions towards the poorest countries of the world, to which practically none of the countries of the region belonged. That had caused considerable concern among the States members of OAS, since, although some of them had succeeded in gaining greater access to the international capital markets, a sufficient flow of financing on favourable terms continued to be a prerequisite for the development of others relatively less advanced. For the great majority of the developing countries of the region, a continuous flow of financing by multilateral institutions remained a factor crucial to the success of their economic policies and explained why the strengthening of agencies

such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank was of fundamental importance for the region.

52. In all the developing countries of the region, export earnings formed the main source of revenue, enabling them to purchase the imported goods they needed for their economic growth. Consequently, an increase in export earnings was a priority target and it was not an exaggeration to state that the aspect of inter-American and international co-operation of most concern to the region was that of international trade. Against that general background, the General Assembly of OAS had at its last session considered a number of issues related to the economic and social development process in Latin America and the Caribbean. It had been alarmed by the growing protectionism in trade of the industrialized countries and had decided, *inter alia*, to reaffirm the extreme concern of its members at that tendency, to draw the attention of those countries to the fact that protectionist pressure was contrary to their commitment to respect the status quo and to the principles of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and to note that those measures had a serious impact on co-operation between the States members of OAS. Furthermore, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the American States, aware of the need to strengthen the machinery for regional solidarity, had devised a system of consultations to deal with emergency situations. That system would enable them to meet from time to time in order to discuss problems which might affect them and to take joint co-operative action. During that session of the General Assembly of OAS, the American States had also adopted resolutions relating to specific problems; on the generalized system of preferences, the Assembly had reiterated its deep concern about the retention of the United States legislation of 1974 on foreign trade and the discriminatory provision penalizing Ecuador and Venezuela because they were members of OPEC; on sugar, in which the crisis on the international market created a serious problem for member States exporting that primary commodity, the Assembly had referred to article 37 of the Charter of OAS, which stated that member States should make individual and united efforts to bring about, *inter alia*, the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, improved conditions for trade in basic commodities through international agreements and improved international co-operation, with a view to lessening the adverse impact of fluctuations in export earnings experienced by countries exporting basic commodities. Furthermore, it had drawn attention to the entry into force of the International Sugar Agreement as a basic instrument for stabilizing the international market in that commodity at price levels which were fair and remunerative for exporters and equitable for consumers.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

30th meeting

Friday, 14 July 1978, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.30

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. AL-SUDEARY (President, International Fund for Agricultural Development) expressed his appreciation for the support which IFAD had received during the process of its formation from the Economic and Social Council.

2. He wished to draw the Council's attention once again to the gravity of the problems affecting vast numbers of people in rural areas in many developing countries. Despite the relatively good harvests of the past two years in many parts of the world, widespread hunger persisted in the developing countries, particularly among the population groups that were too poor to be able to benefit from such harvests. If hundreds of millions of people suffering from malnutrition had little or no chance of increasing their food consumption at the present time, when global food supplies were good, what would be their situation in a few years' time, when demand had increased and the inevitable cycle of bad crops had begun again?

3. The task of overcoming the basic problems which caused poverty and hunger in the developing world was of compelling importance from the economic, social, political and humanitarian standpoints. Because those problems were deep-seated, and because time was short and resources scarce, the challenge was an exceptionally difficult one for both national authorities and the international community. In meeting that challenge, IFAD was prepared to play the role assigned to it by the Governments of its member States and to assume a substantial share of the responsibility for financing agricultural and rural development, having regard both to the critical importance of ensuring larger resource flows for food production and agricultural development and to the trust and hopes placed in the Fund.

4. In assisting its member countries to eradicate rural poverty, the Fund would try to channel as great a share of its resources as possible to the poorest population groups in developing countries. Its lending policies, which provided that resources should be devoted primarily to increasing food production, particularly on small farms, promoting greater employment and income opportunities for the poor and landless, and reducing malnutrition, were geared closely to the aims and purposes of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. Furthermore, the objectives and spirit of the new order were reflected in the structure of the Fund, in which the developing countries had a substantial voice and which was a remarkable example of co-operation between developed and developing countries.

5. The Fund had come into existence in December 1977 as a specialized agency of the United Nations,

with a membership of 114 States and initial financial resources of \$1 billion. The replenishment of its resources would take place within the next three years and would take into account the magnitude of the food problem and the minimum investment targets proposed for the agricultural sector. The bulk of those resources would be made available in the form of highly concessional loans, repayable over 50 years with a 10-year grace period, at a 1 per cent service charge. A noteworthy provision was that the Fund should not normally finance projects whose over-all impact on income distribution would be regressive; to his knowledge, an explicit criterion of that kind had never before been adopted by a financing institution. The Fund would also seek to promote economic co-operation among developing countries. By helping to increase food production, for example, it could facilitate greater co-operation between food-surplus and food-deficit developing countries. Co-operation among developing countries could also be encouraged by the application of the provisions of the Agreement establishing IFAD which stipulated that the Fund's procurement regulations, while conforming to the principles of international competitive bidding, should give preference to experts, technicians and supplies from those countries.¹

6. The Fund's first two loans had been approved by its Executive Board within four months of its establishment. Despite the considerable amount of time required to prepare projects in the agricultural sector, it was expected that seven or eight further projects would be approved before the end of the current year. Although initial operations would of necessity be concentrated in co-financing projects with other institutions, every effort was being made to make the Fund operate at full capacity as quickly as possible, and missions were currently being organized to many developing countries, in order to identify and prepare projects for exclusive financing by it. In performing its task, IFAD would draw upon the expertise of other international organizations within and outside the United Nations system. For that purpose, formal co-operation agreements had already been concluded with FAO, the World Bank, UNDP and the three regional development banks, and similar agreements were being negotiated with several other organizations. The co-operation already received from FAO and many other organizations was highly gratifying.

7. The Economic and Social Council's capacity to co-ordinate the policies and activities of United Nations bodies and agencies in the social and economic fields had been much enhanced by General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. IFAD would co-operate whole-heartedly with the Council in its future endeavours to promote the effectiveness of the system as a whole.

8. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that for many years the third world had been calling for

¹ See A/CONF.73/15, article 7, sect. 2(f) of the Agreement.

fundamental changes in the international economic system and in the relationships between industrialized and developing countries. Over the past four years, the interdependence of economies had been recognized and a commitment made to work for the establishment of a new international economic order. However, the results achieved so far had been very limited. Although the discussions that had culminated in the resolutions adopted at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States should have promoted a closer understanding of common economic interests, the North-South dialogue was still encountering difficulties. While there was insistence in some quarters on the need for a further exchange of views in order to foster better understanding of economic problems, numerous developing countries, where poverty, malnutrition and disease were rife, were naturally impatient that action should be taken to remedy their plight. The developing countries, which were perfectly familiar with their own economic problems, had suggested solutions on many occasions and their efforts were, slowly but surely, bearing fruit. The statements made so far in the general discussion were reassuring, provided that they could be translated into positive action. The new international economic order, it should be noted, did not necessarily constitute a demand for the redistribution of existing wealth.

9. In the context of the efforts to establish the new international economic order, the Council would be required to adopt a more dynamic attitude towards its role under the United Nations Charter, so that the international community would not hesitate to use it as the principal forum for the achievement of political consensus on the matters within its purview. Much had been said in recent years about the difficulties faced by the Council in fulfilling its role, and its effective performance had been linked to the success of the restructuring exercise. Although the exercise had by no means achieved all its objectives, the creation of the post of Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation was an encouraging start. Every effort should be made at the current session to reach agreement on streamlining the Council's machinery and identifying areas of interest which could be taken up at sessions devoted to specific subjects.

10. It might be desirable for the Council to focus its attention more closely on specific schemes and to highlight priority issues that were ripe for solution, leaving more general discussions to the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 and to the Second Committee of the General Assembly. The Council should be regarded not as a parliament of members but as a gathering of sovereign States. Although equal in independence, those States were not equal in the economic and other leverage they exerted. Accordingly, priority issues should be identified and handled on the basis of a meeting of minds rather than by means of voting accompanied by formal reservations.

11. That approach should also prevail in the Committee of the Whole. A sound basis would be laid for the success of the forthcoming development strategy if the world community could reach agreement at the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1980. His delegation was concerned at the failure of the Committee of the Whole to reach any conclusions at its first session or even to agree on the subjects it should discuss and the kind of conclusions it should

aim at. The Group of 77 had shown flexibility in that respect, and it was to be hoped that the other groups would follow suit at the Committee's forthcoming session. It was sometimes necessary to exercise restraint with regard to priority issues which were not ripe for generally acceptable solutions, but that could be done without compromising on principles.

12. In view of its own situation, Uganda attached priority to the solution of the problems of the least developed countries, the majority of which were to be found in Africa. The *per capita* income of the 30 poorest African countries—half the total number—had actually declined annually by nearly 1.5 per cent over the years 1974 to 1977. The economic future of such countries was bleak unless there was structural economic and social change accompanied by massive doses of assistance. It was of little consolation to such countries that global economic models forecast a doubling of *per capita* income in the developing countries by the year 2000, since if that prediction proved correct as a statement of the average, it was open to doubt whether it would be true of the least developed countries; even if it were, the gap between different countries would still be widening.

13. Some progress had been made in debt rescheduling, and it was to be hoped that further positive results would be achieved. He trusted that other countries would follow the recent announcements by some developed countries cancelling all outstanding public debts owed by the least developed countries. Arrangements should be worked out to minimize the effects of debt servicing on the economies of any developing countries that wished it. Even with the cancellation of their outstanding public debts, the debt burdens of many of the least developed countries were likely to increase, owing to inflation and the resort to short-term loans at commercial rates, unless they re-examined their priorities and considered structural economic and social changes. It was naturally for sovereign States to take the decisions about such changes.

14. As a mainly agricultural country, Uganda attached great importance to commodities and hoped that the negotiations on the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities and on commodity agreements would soon be resumed and achieve tangible results. His country was in favour of giving due priority to food problems and agriculture. At present, Africa, where the population was growing faster than food production, had to spend its limited foreign exchange on food imports. There was no reason why the continent should not increase its output of food, given concerted national and regional efforts and international co-operation, since at present nine tenths of the farm land was unused. In considering food problems, the world community should also pay attention to trade and related issues connected with agricultural production.

15. Uganda was committed to economic co-operation among developing countries as a means of improving collective self-reliance. It was heartening to note that assistance to the least developed from the wealthier developing countries, especially the OPEC countries, was on the increase, and he hoped that trend would continue. His country also attached great importance to technical co-operation among developing countries and was well advanced in its preparations for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the subject, at which it hoped to be represented at the highest level.

16. Uganda had been a member of the Commission on Transnational Corporations since its establishment and had also participated in the most recent sessions of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of 'Corrupt Practices'. His delegation welcomed the substantial progress made by the Working Group in drafting an agreement on corrupt practices, but noted that several sections still remained in square brackets, including article 7, to which his delegation attached particular importance. In view of the number of unresolved issues in the draft, there was a need for adequate preparation before convening a conference of plenipotentiaries, although his delegation had no objections in principle to such a step. However, he wished once again to stress the importance his delegation attached to the formulation of a code of conduct for transnational corporations. African countries considered that such corporations should refrain from co-operating with the minority racist régimes in southern Africa. He hoped that the Council would give wide support to the draft resolution on the subject which the Commission on Transnational Corporations had recommended for adoption (E/1978/52, chap. I, sect. A).

17. Mr. HILL (Jamaica) said that, although faster development in the developing countries would certainly have a favourable impact on recovery in the industrialized countries, it should be borne in mind that interdependence had not begun in the 1970s; many decades before, the prosperity of the developed countries had depended on raw materials from the developing countries. The advanced economies still required ready access for their agricultural and industrial production to the markets of the developing countries. The developing world must therefore be vigilant to ensure that the increasingly recognized interdependence of it and the developed countries did not merely result in a maintenance of the status quo. True interdependence was a mutually reinforcing partnership in a common enterprise to provide the means for development and self-generating growth in the developing countries, together with concomitant opportunities for the developed countries. Developing countries must not allow themselves to be side-tracked by a debate about who was responsible for their underdevelopment. They expected all countries, regardless of their political, social or economic systems, to ensure that the new international economic order promoted social justice, equality and peace.

18. His delegation felt that the Committee of the Whole should properly be viewed as an action committee for hastening the establishment of that new order. General Assembly resolution 32/174 had given the Committee four clear functions, and although, in view of the complexity of outstanding issues, the emphasis might on occasion shift from one function to another, the majority of developing countries hoped that the underlying aim would generally be to achieve tangible results. It would be a misuse of the Committee's time if it merely engaged in periodic exchanges of views. The issues were not new and merely became more acute with the passage of time. The Committee must serve as a monitoring mechanism to ensure that commitments were translated within agreed time-tables into concrete programmes of action.

19. Five points were relevant to the functioning of the Committee: first, whatever the subject under discussion, the instructions to representatives came from Governments; secondly, the work of the Committee

was not a substitute for work in the appropriate specialized agencies; thirdly, there was a close link between bilateral discussions among developing countries and between developing and developed countries and the work undertaken in international organizations; fourthly, the Committee could not act as if it had started with a clean slate, but must take over the areas already identified for discussion; and lastly, the priorities decided by the Committee must reflect a balanced set of policies, which, although taking due account of national interests, were not to be arbitrarily juggled because some groups of countries found it inconvenient to discuss particular issues.

20. The post-war world economic order had been falling apart since the beginning of the Second United Nations Development Decade because the beneficiaries of the system had experienced increasingly severe competition among themselves, while their economies were reaching the limits of the expansion on which the system was based; in addition, it had been subject to strains through the third world's increasing expectations of greater equity. It was for those reasons that GATT had sought, through the Kennedy Round of the late 1960s, to provide an impetus for the revitalization of economic growth through a greater liberalization of trade. Although the declared objectives had been that developing countries should not be expected to make reciprocal contributions and that their legitimate trading interests should be defended, little had been done to achieve those objectives. The present round of talks, the Tokyo Round, was again proving a means for the industrialized countries to revitalize their economies through increased access to each other's markets, in spite of the fact that the Tokyo Declaration had pledged more favourable treatment for developing countries.

21. The markets of the developing countries provided ready access for the agricultural, consumer and capital goods of the advanced countries. The developed countries' own markets, however, were protected by a wide range of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and new barriers were erected whenever exports from developing countries threatened competition. The advanced countries should make firm commitments to remedy that situation by means of measures to assist adjustment in the various sectors of their economies.

22. The generalized system of preferences, conceived nearly two decades before, had not been implemented until the beginning of the 1970s, and the GATT negotiations had not given those preferences either protection or permanence. However, he was pleased to note that the developed countries had agreed to incorporate a non-reciprocal, non-discriminatory generalized system of preferences in GATT so as to provide security for the exports of developing countries.

23. Access to markets was only one problem which affected the exports of developing countries; an equally important problem was the adverse trend in their terms of trade. The remedy to reach agreement to stabilize commodity prices and to provide the necessary means for financing that stabilization. For that reason, it was essential that the Common Fund should be established as soon as possible, to act as a central source of finance, not only for commodity stocks, but also for other measures designed to strengthen the commodity sector. He hoped that all members of the Council would agree on the urgent need to resume the negotiations.

24. Many developing countries were faced with severe balance-of-payments deficits. The Secretary-General had referred to the necessary complementarity between increasing transfers of resources and expanding trade relations. Such transfers of resources, if effected at market rates, would result in the developing countries being burdened by onerous repayments. A recent report by OECD had shown that the volume of official development assistance from its members had declined in 1977 as a percentage of their GNP. His delegation wished to pay tribute to those countries which had not only maintained the level of their assistance, but had exceeded the 0.7 per cent target. He was also glad to note the undertaking given by certain countries to increase their official development assistance significantly.

25. The international monetary system had shown itself incapable of coping with the problems of developing countries during a period of rapid adjustment, featuring volatile exchange rates and large payment imbalances. The representative of IMF had drawn attention (22nd meeting) to the difficult choice to be made between adjustment and financing. While that might well apply to the advanced economies, which could make short-term adjustments through fiscal and monetary measures, in the case of the developing countries the adjustment period should be longer because of the structural rigidity of their weak economies. He therefore joined with other developing countries in calling for a fundamental overhaul of the international monetary system, including a review of the terms attached to loans from IMF and other public and private financial institutions and a review of IMF quotas. In particular, he would like to see more discussion on the need for balance-of-payments support in the medium term as opposed to the short term.

26. The global economy was, to a large extent, dependent on the availability of conventional energy supplies. It was not until the international community had realized that those supplies were not only non-renewable but also under-priced that attention had been given to devising means for ensuring continued energy supplies, both of fossil fuel and of renewable resources. Some producer associations, with the backing of third-world countries, had succeeded in reclaiming sovereignty over their natural resources, and the right to such sovereignty was now accepted.

27. His delegation had appreciated the stress laid by many representatives on the central place of energy in any consultations on a new international economic order. There was an urgent need for those consultations to continue and to reach conclusions benefiting the entire international community. They should give particular attention to the scope and timing of intergovernmental action on new and renewable resources, and in that connexion he welcomed the steps taken by the World Bank in initiating lending policies for fossil-fuel energy development.

28. The view had been expressed that at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development issues being dealt with elsewhere should not be taken up. He believed that, on the contrary, the Conference should take stock of relevant developments in other bodies and try to indicate guidelines to be followed, and subjects which required particular attention in the over-all context of science and technology for development.

29. He hoped that the developed countries would respect the needs of the developing countries and avoid the increasing trend towards policies which took no account of those needs. That was particularly relevant in connexion with the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

30. The Council would have a significant role to play in monitoring the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. There was a need for a significant improvement in the Council's own working methods, and he hoped that steps would be taken at the present session to bring about such an improvement. Disappointment had been expressed regarding not only the scope of the work which had culminated in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 32/197, but also the current work being undertaken with regard to the Council itself. However, progress in restructuring had far outdistanced progress in other areas which had been pinpointed for special attention at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly. It would be unrealistic to expect that all the deficiencies which had developed within the United Nations system over 30 years could be remedied immediately. Besides the specific measures needed at the moment, there was a need for machinery designed to permit a continuous restructuring process. The setting up of such machinery was essential if the Council and the United Nations system as a whole were to achieve greater dynamism in their activities. If there was to be any hope of revitalizing the operations of the Council, it would be necessary to think in somewhat broader terms than the idea of holding sessions on specific subjects.

31. It was evident that certain basic principles which had always been applied between developed countries now needed to be applied between all countries, and notably between developed and developing countries. The fact that they were not lay at the root of the difficulties now being faced in the implementation of the relevant recommendations.

32. He wished to draw special attention to the question of the liberation of southern Africa. The Government and people of Jamaica were giving all the moral, political and material support that lay within their power to liberation movements which were devoted to obtaining for their peoples the basic rights of freedom and self-determination. The Council should stress the urgent attention that should be given by the international community, and notably by those with some residual responsibility for the current situation, to trying to solve that problem speedily and effectively.

33. One of the essential features of a new international economic order must be an information system which did not concentrate on news of an exceptional or catastrophic nature and which did not give the world a false picture of the peoples of the developing countries. The true issues should be presented to readers in such a way that they realized that their interests were better served in a world community where prosperity was shared by all, instead of being the prerogative of a few. If that was to be done, the idea of interdependence as a form of charity needed to be replaced by that of interdependence as a commitment to change.

34. Mr. CHARRY SAMPER (Colombia) noted that, although some attempt had at last been made to bridge the gap between North and South, there was nevertheless a certain scepticism on the part of the

peoples of the developing world concerning the discrepancy between words and deeds and concerning the role of the Council and of the United Nations as a whole.

35. The Council's discussions had shown that in the different positions adopted there were certain common elements. The first was a general attitude of pessimism, or what might better be termed realism, about the world situation. The second was the universal expression of solidarity with developing countries, regarded by some sceptics as merely rhetorical. From a more optimistic standpoint, however, there were grounds for believing that the time was now approaching when agreement could be reached, at least in principle, on certain fundamental problems which had remained unresolved for the past 70 years.

36. A third common element was the general recognition that the marked differences in living standards and in levels of scientific and technological development were not only ethically unacceptable, but counter-productive. There could be no effective commercial and economic relations founded on inequality and privilege. The global interdependence which it had been agreed was characteristic of the present era should be seen in the light of the fact that, while all countries bore an equal responsibility, it was the developed countries which were called on to make greater contributions and greater concessions.

37. Colombia's concern at the nuclear threat had led it to adhere to the Treaty of Tlatelolco,² which had declared Latin America to be a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Nevertheless, Colombia considered that non-proliferation treaty to discriminate against the interests of developing countries and believed in the right of all nations to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. It was also of prime importance to halt the pile-up of conventional armaments, which drained the resources of developing countries, threatened their independence and prevented them from devoting the necessary resources to economic and social development.

38. He shared the views of many developing countries which had condemned the trend towards protectionism. However, it was useful to distinguish between protectionism as a policy of developed countries and the purely defensive protectionist measures which developing countries were forced to employ. There was a need to study both the protectionism of the centrally-planned economies and that of the market-economy countries, since both had far-reaching effects in the context of world interdependence. The impact of the energy crisis and its consequences for the non-oil-producing developing countries was another factor that should be taken into account. Colombia was trying, through the multilateral trade negotiations, to halt the marked protectionist trend, which now seemed to have reached its peak. Unfortunately, however, the main aims of those negotiations seemed to be to liberalize trade between developed countries to the detriment of the developing countries. The latter had hoped to obtain from the talks substantial changes in the principles that had governed international trade for the past 30 years. Contrary to the spirit of the Tokyo Declaration, however, the developed countries seemed concerned to introduce measures which would increase discrimination against developing countries and penalize those which

wished to win a share in the markets of the developed world.

39. On the occasion of the recent signature of a treaty between Panama and the United States of America, President Carter had signed a communiqué which encouraged the hope that the United States would commit itself to working together with the developing countries to attain certain concrete objectives. That communiqué had declared that efforts would be made to attain a more equitable international economic system and to ensure that the current multilateral trade negotiations reached an early conclusion, resulting in benefits to all countries, notably the developing countries, and in the improvement of the standard of living of the world's peoples.

40. His delegation attached particular importance to the research being carried out by the Centre on Transnational Corporations into the economic, legal, social and political effects of those corporations' activities in developing countries. It agreed that it should lead to the formulation of a code of conduct with binding force which would enable host countries to derive real benefit from the presence of transnational corporations in their territories. Not only corrupt practices but also the commercial policies of the corporations could cause serious damage to the economies of host countries, and it was essential to restrict their competitive capacity and reduce their "market power" at both the regional and the global level. The code of conduct should be in line with work on the transfer of technology, the world system of industrial property and the control of restrictive business practices. It must be made clear that host countries should exercise full sovereignty over the corporations unrestricted by existing principles of international law, in the formulation of which the developing countries had not participated and which needed to be revised and brought into line with the requirements of the new international economic order. The code must not be weakened by exception clauses derogating from principles recognized by the international community. The political will that had made it possible to initiate negotiations sometimes lost its impetus in the process of negotiating on specific points and ebbed away in a series of formulations designed to preserve the status quo. The code should be of universal application, but, if existing inequalities were not to be consolidated, it must make provision for preferential treatment for developing countries.

41. His Government had prepared a paper for submission at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development dealing with the question of the machinery required to integrate science and technology in the development process, the obstacles to be overcome and the factors that would make for a strengthening of national creative capacity. Colombia would also be submitting proposals on international co-operation, with special reference to technical co-operation between developing countries, and recommendations to the United Nations system and other international bodies for the establishment of a new international technological order. His delegation hoped that the Conference would agree on principles and objectives that would provide a basis for future binding international instruments and create a new international law in the field of science and technology for development as a means of achieving peace and social justice for coming generations.

42. The process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system was being

² Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, p. 326).

impeded by disagreements. It was essential that agreement should be reached on the basis of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee in the eight critical areas identified by it and that joint policies should be worked out for the application of its proposals. In order to avoid duplication and waste, any new bodies should be financed and staffed by means of transfers from existing bodies, and their activities should be carefully co-ordinated with those of other organizations engaged in similar work. As far as the Council was concerned, its programme should be established on a biennial basis, with more frequent sessions devoted to specific subjects spaced throughout the year, replacing the sessions of the bodies whose work related to those particular subjects. The regional commissions should play a more active role in regional and interregional co-operation and intensify economic co-operation among developing countries. His Government supported preferential treatment by the United Nations system for the least developed countries, but considered that it should be extended to countries such as Colombia that occupied an intermediate position of the global development scale and were faced with particular problems.

43. With regard to external financial flows and the alleviation of the debt burden, the principle of universality should be respected; population and *per capita* figures were not the only or the best indicators of underdevelopment and other considerations should also be taken into account.

44. Colombia supported the holding of an international conference on new and renewable sources of energy. It had been carrying out a study on the application of science and technology to development in preparation for the Conference on that subject. The Andean countries had held a meeting to draft recommendations for inclusion in the regional document to be completed by ECLA, after the forthcoming meeting in Panama. Colombia would also attend the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which it viewed as complementary to the co-operation between them and the developed countries.

45. Mr. SZABÓ (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) said that in 1977 the member countries of CMEA had continued their efforts to promote planned development and improve the structure of their economies, to modernize production, and to extend their external trade relations and the process of international specialization and co-operation in production. The industrial sectors in which technical progress was most marked—heavy engineering, electronics, electric power, chemicals and petrochemicals—had developed faster than others, which had made it possible to raise the efficiency not only of industry but the economy as a whole. Good progress had been made in implementing the Comprehensive Programme for the Further Extension and Improvement of Co-operation and the Development of Socialist Economic Integration by the CMEA Member Countries. Improvements in the performance of the economies of each individual socialist State were proceeding *pari passu* with the development of closer links with the economies of fraternal countries and the progressive evening out of the differences between their levels of economic development. In carrying out the Comprehensive Programme, a number of scientific and technological problems relating to material production had been successfully overcome.

46. At its recent thirty-second session, CMEA had approved specific long-term programmes for co-operation up to 1990 in the fields of energy, fuel and raw materials, agriculture and food, and heavy engineering. The programmes were based on decisions by the Communist and workers' parties of member countries. The session had emphasized the importance of progressively attaining a uniform level of economic development among the members of CMEA and of speeding up the economic development of Cuba and Mongolia. The programmes were also directed towards the promotion of co-operation with all countries, irrespective of their social system, on a basis of equality and mutual advantage, including the carrying out of major projects of international importance in such fields as energy, industry, transport and the protection of the environment. The session had been attended by observers from Viet Nam, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Angola, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Ethiopia, and it had been decided to admit Viet Nam to membership of CMEA. Over the past year, economic, scientific and technical co-operation had also proceeded successfully between CMEA and Finland, Yugoslavia, Iraq and Mexico. The number of developing countries with which CMEA was engaged in economic and scientific co-operation had risen to 78, and agreements had been concluded with them relating to 3,560 industrial enterprises and projects, work on 2,685 of which had already been completed. Assistance in training and in the building and organization of vocational and technical teaching institutions was being provided on a substantial scale by CMEA to developing countries, and there were at present more than 41,000 students from more than 100 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America studying at universities and technical institutes in the member countries of CMEA. With CMEA assistance, 32 higher and secondary specialized educational institutions and over 120 educational centres and technical schools had been established in the developing countries, and more than 70 educational institutions of various kinds were at present under construction.

47. Trade co-operation with developed capitalist countries had continued to develop on a basis of mutual advantage, increasingly extensive use being made of long-term agreements on co-operation in the fields of industry, science and technology and in the financing and carrying out of large-scale projects. The full potential of such exchanges had not, however, been achieved in all cases, owing to the protectionist measures adopted by some capitalist countries and to other limitations placed upon exports to the West.

48. CMEA was making a substantial contribution to the activities of other international organizations in various fields and thus promoting international economic, scientific and technical co-operation in the spirit of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Co-operation with the United Nations was proceeding successfully; representatives of CMEA had participated in the adoption of nearly 30 United Nations decisions and had taken an active part in joint action on a number of other issues. CMEA bodies had also carried out work on measures to extend co-operation with international economic organizations in the spirit of the Final Act. CMEA advocated the convening of all-European congresses in the fields of the environment, transport and energy. It would continue

to make every effort to extend international co-operation, not only among its own members but also with other countries, irrespective of their social structure, in the various fields to which he had referred, seeking in that way to strengthen the cause of peace and security

in Europe and throughout the world, in the spirit of the basic provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

31st meeting

Friday, 14 July 1978, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.31

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*concluded*)

1. Mr. BENITO (Observer for Spain) said that, although there were still some differences of opinion with regard to specific tasks, the international community had agreed in principle on the necessity for advancing as rapidly and effectively as possible towards the attainment of a more just international economic order. What was now required was to establish the ways and means of reaching that goal.

2. As a country at an intermediate stage of development, Spain had suffered relatively severely from the consequences of the 1974 crisis. The present world economic situation continued to affect his country, which was experiencing inflation, balance-of-payments problems, decreased investment and growing unemployment, while undertaking the delicate task of political transformation. The Government and the various political parties had together formulated an economic plan which was helping to control inflation and improve the balance-of-payments position, although it had not yet been possible to relieve unemployment.

3. His Government, which was well aware of the magnitude of the effort to be made by the international community, had participated in all the international forums, demonstrating its political will to co-operate in the search for a just solution to world economic and social problems. As it was at an intermediate stage of development, it was particularly well placed to do so. The fallacy of dividing the countries of the world into two simple categories—the developed and the developing—was detrimental to effective co-operation, which was the more fruitful the better it was adapted to the relative levels of development of the different groups of countries. The world community should adopt a realistic and pragmatic approach to the problems facing it, refraining from excessive and difficult demands and narrow, short-term egoism, which could only be prejudicial to all concerned.

4. Among the aspects of international economic co-operation for which his delegation considered a realistic solution to be essential was, firstly, the general commitment to maintain a multilateral system of open and competitive economic relations which could be restructured as necessary to adjust to future changes. His Government had participated in the recent OECD

decisions and in the trade agreement designed to avoid protectionist trends.

5. The second aspect was progress in and the satisfactory conclusion of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations, in which his country was participating and in the context of which it was shortly to make a generous offer of tariff cuts, with favourable treatment for the developing countries.

6. The third aspect was that of progress in the UNCTAD negotiations for an Integrated Programme for Commodities and the establishment of a Common Fund under that Programme. Efforts to overcome the obstacles in that area would be among the greatest challenges for economic co-operation.

7. The fourth aspect was a substantial improvement in the transfer of resources to developing countries through the most efficient channels, including improved official development assistance and technical co-operation, increased investments and better loan terms. Another important problem was that of debt, in which it had recently been possible to establish some bases for progress. Action to fulfil those obligations had to be taken by developed and intermediate-stage countries in direct proportion to their degree of development and their economic situation and had to be accompanied by measures to ensure the necessary monetary stability. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the preparatory steps being taken in various bodies, which could have a world-wide impact.

8. Effective action should be taken in all those areas by the United Nations, and particularly by the Council, which was required to co-ordinate economic and social co-operation. The Council should be strengthened and adjusted to the new requirements.

9. Spain had supported the establishment of the Committee of the Whole under General Assembly resolution 32/174, which could help to provide the necessary impetus and seek new solutions. Its disappointing beginning could no doubt be attributed to difficulties in bringing the new machinery into operation and should not be a reason for any slackening of effort.

10. His country was particularly interested in co-operation within the United Nations system with the aim of obtaining economies in the use of energy, safeguarding existing supplies and seeking new substitute sources.

11. The new development strategy should be broader and more ambitious than the preceding one and should

take into account the different characteristics and levels of development of the various groups of countries. Opportunities for the broadest possible co-operation, including co-operation among developing countries, should be provided and special priority should be given to the least developed countries.

12. His delegation supported the inclusion of the "basic needs" concept, as defined and approved by the World Employment Conference. The explanation by the Director-General of the International Labour Office (27th meeting) to the effect that the intention was to add a social dimension to the process of development, while safeguarding the sovereignty of the peoples concerned, should dispel the anxiety which had been expressed.

13. His Government supported the steps being taken to restructure the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and welcomed the progress being made, mainly in the economic sector. Restructuring was essential for the efficient pursuit of the objectives to which he had referred, through the improved co-ordination of the work of the United Nations system based on a strengthening of the role of the Council.

14. The future of the strategy and of international economic and social development could benefit greatly from the results of two forthcoming international conferences. His country attached particular importance to the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. It hoped that the Conference would study the various possible forms of international co-operation, with a view to establishing machinery that would enable countries such as his to share with other countries their experience of development problems and their solution. His country's signature of co-operation agreements with over 30 developing countries during the past three years was proof of its desire to participate actively in seeking solutions to the problems of the developing world.

15. The other forthcoming conference which could offer great hopes for the future was the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. He welcomed the useful results obtained at the recent European regional preparatory meeting, at which a document setting forth the contribution of the European region to the draft programme of action for the Conference, and covering such important areas as scientific and technical infrastructures, education and vocational training, exchange of information and the transfer of technology, had been formulated. Effective work was also being carried out in many other fields by ECE. The regional commissions should be strengthened to enable them to play an increased role through adequate co-operation and co-ordination. In outlining the steps being taken to apply the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and to deal with the problems of the less economically developed countries of the region, the Executive Secretary of ECE had rightly described the region as a bridge to other groups of countries and regional commissions.

16. In order to solve the most serious problems affecting many countries, combined efforts to secure a greater compatibility among development policies were needed. All Governments should endeavour to harmonize their own allocation of resources, with a view to devoting them to productive economic and social ends, both nationally and for the international community.

17. Mr. EL FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation was eager to see the attainment of

substantive results reflecting the desire for speedy development and to hear an undertaking on the part of certain developed nations to restructure international economic relations in order to cope with the mounting problems of interdependence and the irreversible trends of change.

18. The most noticeable feature of the Council's discussion had been the gradual admission of the need for structural and global reforms in international economic relations. The interdependence of economic problems was finally being recognized as a major concern and a valid analytical and practical tool for global solutions. Action to manage the problems of interdependence was, however, a different matter from their recognition. The third world was impatiently awaiting the setting in motion of the process of restructuring the world economic order—a process that must bridge the gap between the rich and poor. It feared that some industrialized States might seek to revert to the status quo ante, in which the developing countries would still be required to sustain and subsidize the economies of the market-economy countries.

19. His delegation viewed interdependence as a means of stimulating a total change in values, outlook, scope and goals. Recognition of and adaptation to interdependence meant an equal partnership in planning the world economy for the benefit of mankind, and the levelling of differences and imbalances. The problems of one region should become the problems of all, and all should be called upon to devise ways and means of developing international economic relations as agreed upon by the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions.

20. The progress achieved by the Trade and Development Board on certain aspects of interdependence, such as indebtedness, was encouraging but, being in the realm of traditional arrangements it could not be considered to be fulfilling one of the objectives of the new international economic order.

21. The work of the Council at its present session was particularly urgent, in view of the economic and social crises which were threatening the lives of many developing countries. Although it was now more substantive, the Council's work appeared more difficult because of two conflicting trends: nostalgia for the old economic hegemony, and recognition of the urgent need for change in the light of increasing world interdependence. The session therefore embodied both dangers and hopes. While all countries were trying to draw conclusions from past experience, particularly the sad experience of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, a third development strategy based on the principles and provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order was being planned. Torn between past disappointments and future expectations, there was a danger of either over-pessimism or over-optimism. Action by the developed countries to fulfil their commitments under the International Development Strategy before 1980 and bring the negotiations on such problems as the Common Fund, the multi-lateral trade negotiations and the transfer of technology to a successful conclusion would help to relieve the situation. The Minister of State of India had rightly called for the establishment of quantitative targets and time-limits for achieving them.

22. All parties concerned were committed to continuing the North-South dialogue within the United Nations

system. His delegation welcomed the emphasis placed by the President of the Economic and Social Council (17th meeting) on the importance of such global discussions and negotiations. Despite recent setbacks and differing interpretations of its mandate, the Committee of the Whole should be given an enhanced role to enable it to fulfil the fourfold task assigned to it in General Assembly resolution 32/174. Its universal composition, high-level representation, intersessional character and flexible terms of reference made it the only body of the General Assembly in which negotiations between North and South could be carried on and their results embodied in the next international development strategy.

23. The current session of the Council was also of a special nature because of the task assigned to it in General Assembly resolution 32/197 with a view to enabling it to achieve greater specialization, better representation and rationalization and a subject-oriented approach. It was encouraging to his delegation to note that work on the restructuring of the Council had already begun. It was necessary at the present session to look squarely at the deteriorating world economic situation, which was rendering all future prospects uncertain.

24. The relation between the problems of the industrialized countries, such as unsatisfactory growth rates, unemployment, severe inflation and disorderly exchange markets, coupled with increasingly protectionist measures, and the problems of the developing countries, such as the drop in export earnings and the fall in commodity prices, demonstrated that no group of countries could ignore the consequences should that state of affairs persist.

25. A major objective of the new international economic order was the accelerated development of the poorer countries, accompanied by an interrupted growth of the developed countries, together with an equitable sharing of the benefits of growth, nationally and internationally. That objective should be attained within the framework of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States; it was also partly reflected in the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade. Unfortunately, the lack of political will on the part of certain developing countries was frustrating efforts to achieve that objective in areas where negotiations had already begun. The multilateral trade negotiations, initiated with the Tokyo Declaration of September 1973 and now nearing their end, were unlikely to produce the results hoped for by the developing countries. The new protectionism had seriously disrupted international trade, particularly between developing and developed countries.

26. Another matter for concern was the suspension of negotiations on the establishment of the Common Fund under the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD had reminded the Council (27th meeting) that a breakthrough on the question of the establishment of the Common Fund would in itself immensely improve the atmosphere for the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

27. The only negotiations giving grounds for optimism were those relating to the formulation of a code of conduct on the transfer of technology. He hoped that at the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology, to be

held in October 1978, it would be possible to approve the code, which would provide the basis for new and more equitable relations and pave the way for the success of the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. As the Swedish representative had said (19th meeting), the Conference illustrated the need for an interdisciplinary approach to economic and social development, and it provided an opportunity to deal in a comprehensive way with a crucial area of development where inequality of opportunity was most obvious.

28. The transfer of resources in real terms to developing countries was a matter of great concern to his delegation. It was inclined to believe the experts who argued that the international community had not yet evolved a system of international financial co-operation, owing to the fact that the targets set for the Second United Nations Development Decade did not form an integral part of policies affecting capital movements at the global level. In the absence of such a system, it was doubtful whether decisions relating to the rather heterogeneous components of the net flows to developing countries would ever constitute a financial strategy consistent with development objectives. The evolving of an effective framework within which development objectives would be integrated with the working of the financial system was probably one of the major tasks confronting the international community. The developing countries expected official development assistance and other forms of financial flows to be made more predictable and targets more binding. The massive transfer of financial resources from developed to developing countries should constitute a major element of the next strategy.

29. One of the most positive recent achievements was the effort of the developing countries to co-operate among themselves to promote their collective self-reliance in matters relating to such questions as production, trade and finance. That was not to say that economic co-operation among developing countries should be regarded as a substitute for co-operation between developing and developed countries within the framework of the new international economic order. The developing countries believed that co-operation among themselves would accelerate the establishment of the much desired new international economic order and they looked forward to the successful outcome of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

30. The peoples of the third world had never before been so aware of the injustices and inequalities inflicted upon them by a system which grossly violated their economic and social rights. With the bitter memories of the colonial era still vivid, they could not but associate their present situation with a more subtle form of domination in which the distribution of wealth and division of labour had been forced upon them. Despite efforts to manage their own economies, they could not but conclude that the more they toiled the less they obtained.

31. The management of economic matters was no longer the preserve of experts. Irrespective of national policies or differences in social and economic systems in the developing countries, the technological revolution in information and the media, and irrespective of values and attitudes, the ordinary man drew his own conclusions concerning his economic conditions and compared them with conditions in consumer developed market-economy countries. The toiling people had come to know too well that the present system of interna-

tional economic relations was primarily responsible for their plight. They had learned from history that injustices and inequalities, especially when institutionalized, threatened the system unless the system was replaced by another which corresponded to the aspirations and needs of the majority. They believed that confrontation was built into the present pattern of injustices.

32. In conclusion, he referred to the economic motivations behind *apartheid* and zionism, and the ominous part they played in hindering and even destroying the prospects for present and future development strategies and for the establishment of the new international economic order. The overwhelming majority of the international community had long since expressed its deep concern that parts of the developing world were still subjected to foreign aggression and occupation and to *apartheid*, and that colonial and neo-colonial domination were a major obstacle to the economic and social development of the developing countries. One of the main objectives of zionism, whether in Israel or outside it, was to extend colonial and neo-colonial domination over an area rich in natural resources and of vital strategic and geographical importance. As a result of aggression, Israel controlled lands and strategic routes essential to the survival of the people of the region, and vital for economic co-operation between developed and developing countries and among developing countries themselves. The situation in southern Africa, where investment in *apartheid* was a highly rewarding business, also constituted a threat to world peace and security.

33. Mr. JAZAIRY (Algeria) said that attention had been drawn to the uncertain situation now existing as a result of the failure of the principal developed countries to make mutual adjustments in their policies in the light of unemployment, inflation and the erratic fluctuation of commodity prices and exchange rates. The developed countries had, in general, directed their activities towards the co-ordination of demand, and the establishment or consolidation of protected areas which would be unaffected by the upheavals of the world economy.

34. The results of that approach had not been convincing. There was all the more reason, therefore, for appreciating the realistic remark by a representative of one developed country that the industrialized countries should not wait to solve their problems before dealing with those of third-world countries because, in the last resort, both lived within an economy in which they were interdependent. The *World Economic Survey, 1977* showed that there was a tendency to seek solutions leading to a contraction of world economic and trade activities, whereby the international economic crisis was perpetuated. That trend should be reversed by a return to a more symmetrical pattern in the balance-of-payments adjustments of the developed countries, and by a non-inflationary stimulation of demand. Moreover, credit should be given in the global equation to the third world, where increased demand from the developing countries, accompanied by a rapid increase in their external debt, had considerably reduced the effects of the crisis for the rich countries. Thought might be given, in that context, to the non-inflationary employment of unused capacity in the developed countries as part of an international programme for stimulating and maintaining demand from the developing countries. The developing countries could not be expected to continue, with their own

resources, to be the stimulants of growth and to contribute to the upswing in the world economy.

35. The position would remain precarious, however, if international action was confined to manipulating the economic situation and simply attempting to integrate the poorer countries in the world economy as it now existed. The machinery for transferring some of the prosperity of the developed countries to the third world in the period of post-war expansion had clearly not functioned with the same effectiveness as the machinery for transferring inflation.

36. The structure of the world economy was changing, and the internationalization of production was simply one example of that evolution. The problem was to try to anticipate and guide the changes in the direction demanded by mutual interests, instead of allowing them to be imposed, at a much higher cost to the international community. The changes must be tackled in terms of the stabilization of prices rather than of export earnings, of preserving the purchasing power of raw materials, facilitating access to the markets of developed countries and subordinating the international monetary system to the interests of the international community as a whole. In the transition to the new international economic order, the massive increase of financial flows advocated by a number of developed countries only made sense if used to facilitate those structural changes.

37. More energetic and objective action should be taken to reply to questions raised by public opinion in the developed countries, but it must be borne in mind that public opinion in the developing countries, too, was demanding more and more insistently the explanation of a situation which, although sometimes difficult for the industrialized countries, was always more tragic for the other countries. The purpose of such action would be to secure a greater awareness of the situation with regard to the interdependence of the North and the South. That interdependence should not be confused with the interdependence of the developed countries among themselves. In the latter case, the term had reference to the symmetrical relations existing between countries enjoying high incomes, with similar ways of life and constituting a homogeneous economic unit. The asymmetrical relations between developed and developing countries, to which the methods of co-operation successfully used in the relations between developed countries could not be applied indiscriminately, were an entirely different matter.

38. It must be made quite clear that the appeal to the concept of interdependence and shared responsibility was not being made simply to bring into line those developing countries opposed to the established order, but was evidence of a sincere acceptance of that concept and its implications. During the present session of the Council, there had been a striking statement by the representative of one of the principal industrialized countries that economic progress in the world during the rest of the century was linked not only to recovery in the developed countries but to recognition of the fact that the main potential for growth lay in the developing countries.

39. It followed that the North-South dialogue should no longer be simply a form of global bargaining in which the "concessions" made by developed countries were the counterpart of the special conditions they obtained from developing countries for their private investments and energy supplies. Mutual interest would remain the only real basis of future co-operation, but

the current debate would have shown the need for a broader view of that concept, which would have to be defined in the context of a new code of reciprocal relationships, implying an equitable distribution of costs and adjustments, as well as profits.

40. Unless present trends were reversed and structural changes made, there could be no optimism, however guarded, about the future state of the economies for most of the developing countries. An UNCTAD report dated 5 June 1978¹ drew attention to the fact that between 1974 and 1977 the average increase in the prices of commodities in nominal terms had been about 11 per cent, whereas the increase in the price of export manufactures had been about 23 per cent. Thus, for the developing countries, most of which were exporters of commodities, the terms of trade following the temporary improvement of 1973-1974 were again deteriorating. The report added that the prospects for the evolution of commodity prices for 1978-1979 were not encouraging. There was therefore no need to emphasize the urgent necessity of establishing the Common Fund, the corner-stone of the Integrated Programme for Commodities. Despite declarations of intent and agreements at a high political level on the principle of its establishment, the Fund continued to be opposed by a small group of countries.

41. He had noted the statements by representatives of industrialized countries reaffirming their will to participate in the Fund and hoped that they augured an early resumption of the negotiations which had been suspended at the end of 1977. Success in the negotiations would depend on pledges by all Governments to contribute to the Fund, or at least to accept its establishment, and on political decisions to ensure co-operation for the long-term benefit of all nations. His own country, which was one of the developing countries that would have to assume the largest shares of the cost of setting up the Fund, had already pledged its full support. Progress in the negotiations on individual commodities would also have a bearing on the success of the Fund.

42. With regard to the question of access to the developed countries' markets, the prices of the exports of those countries had been criticized as being too high or too low, according to whether they applied to primary commodities or manufactured goods. That merely illustrated the imbalance in international trade. Between 1974 and 1977, the developing countries had had an accumulated deficit on current transactions of more than \$125,000 million. By the end of 1977, their total medium-term and long-term debt had exceeded \$240,000 million and it was expected to reach \$320,000 million in 1979. Debt servicing would then be absorbing more than 25 per cent of export revenue. The results of the third part of the ninth special session of the Trade and Development Board held at ministerial level on that question had admittedly been encouraging, but if the present system was maintained many developing countries would be in the unacceptable position of perpetual debtors.

43. The developing countries were reluctant to take advantage of the funds available from IMF because of the conditions attached; despite high interest rates, they were obliged to turn to private sources for short-term and medium-term loans to help to meet their balance-of-payments deficits. He hoped that meas-

ures could be found to remedy the situation and make the necessary reforms in the international monetary system. He could not accept the assertion that the developing countries' difficulties with the IMF stabilization programme were not the fault of the programme but were due to their own improvidence. To take only one item, measures proposed by IMF in the form of general principles for uniform application were hardly suitable for specific situations in developing countries.

44. He welcomed the establishment of IFAD and other evidence of international interest in increasing agricultural and food production, although not all the targets set by the World Food Conference, held in November 1974, had yet been achieved.

45. In industrial co-operation, there had been little progress in carrying out the provisions of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation as was to be seen from the recent failure of the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency. There was little hope of rapid progress unless the developed countries agreed to play a more active role instead of putting up a facade of arguments about free enterprise.

46. In connexion with the new international economic order, he welcomed the work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the discussions on restrictive trade practices, the international code of conduct on the transfer of technology, and the campaign against corrupt practices, which were all part of the same problem and should be discussed as such.

47. The present decade had seen fundamental changes in international economic relations deriving from the new ideas that had emerged from the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly. The new outlook must permeate the strategy for the 1980s. The failure of the present strategy was not the fault of the strategy itself; it had failed because of a culpable lack of political will to put it into effect.

48. The new strategy should, wherever possible, maintain quantifiable objectives such as those adopted at Lima on industrialization in the third world, in order to allow of the continual evaluation of performance in relation to targets and the introduction of adjustments where necessary. Objectives should, however, be part of a total process of development. The strategy could comprise national and international aspects of development, but there was no certainty that the North-South disparity in economic power and means of pressure would make for genuine reciprocity in the structural adjustments that would be needed.

49. There had been talk of a return to essential human values in the developed countries, leading to a better quality of life, and of a policy of meeting basic needs in the developing countries. Those ideas must be approached simultaneously, otherwise the developing countries could scarcely be expected to believe in the sincerity of appeals to them to attend to basic needs from countries whose way of life was based on superabundance and on the wastage of scarce and non-renewable resources. The developing countries were suspicious of that appeal in the face of attempts to impose a prefabricated plan of priorities on them, without regard to differences in national resources and policies, and of the fact that that plan was regarded by some as a substitute for the new international economic order. He welcomed the explanations given by

¹ Note by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "World economic outlook 1978-1979" (TD/B/AC.25/R.1).

the Director-General of the International Labour Office and the representative of one developed market-economy country on the subject. The question had been the subject of serious concern at the first meeting of the Committee of the Whole, where it had been recognized that the idea should not be used in violation of national sovereignty. The satisfaction of basic needs should be determined in relation to national priorities and could be ensured by the most appropriate means in each country.

50. The task of preparing the next development strategy would be easier if there could be similar explanations of what the Committee for Development Planning called "strategies specific to different groups of countries" (E/1978/46 and Corr.1, chap. I, sect. B.3). Despite the diversity of its members, the third world embodied the power of the disadvantaged countries; to split them up into different categories would be, politically speaking, to deprive them of that power. The new development strategy was not a new international development policy; it should be based on the principles embodied in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and should point the way to its implementation.

51. He had noted the progress made in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and welcomed particularly the establishment of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. Of other measures taken or suggested, he was in favour of decentralization to the regional commissions, provided it was accompanied by the provision of adequate human and financial resources.

52. One of the important political questions arising out of restructuring concerned the decision-making process. General Assembly resolution 32/197 merely confirmed the existing situation in that respect, but there was clearly a feeling that the situation was not satisfactory and should be reviewed. The failure of the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of UNIDO as a Specialized Agency was largely due to the refusal of the developed countries to accept a decision-making procedure for adopting the budget which was that actually in effect in the General Assembly itself.

53. The general debate was evidence that the Council was responding to the request made to it in General Assembly resolution 32/174 to contribute effectively to the work of the Committee of the Whole. There appeared to be a considerable convergence of views about the responsibilities of that Committee. The developed countries seemed to view it merely as a preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1980, whereas the third-world countries considered that it should promote the implementation of the new international economic order. There was also a divergence of opinion on whether the Committee was empowered to take decisions or whether its conclusions should be submitted in the form of reports by the Chairman. The first part of the Committee's session had in fact been disappointing. The resumed session in September 1978 would be of vital importance not only in ensuring progress on the urgent question of the transfer of resources but also in respect of the future of the Committee. It would be useful if the Council at its present session could prepare some suggestions for solving the problems still

facing the Committee. As the body in which the North-South dialogue should be pursued, the Committee of the Whole held a central place in the United Nations system and its decisions should have the same legal status as those of other intergovernmental bodies in the system. His country attached great importance to the dialogue as a means of promoting genuine international co-operation. It sincerely hoped that the Committee of the Whole would succeed in its task.

54. Mr. OLZVOY (Observer for Mongolia) said that the Council's session was taking place almost immediately after the General Assembly's special session on disarmament, which had again drawn the international community's attention to the close links between disarmament and development. The Soviet Union had proposed a reduction in the allocation for arms in national budgets, particularly by the permanent members of the Security Council, and the application for development purposes of the resources thereby released — a timely proposal in view of the present adverse effect on international co-operation of the arms race and of the deteriorating economic situation in the capitalist countries. The Council's authority and prestige as a principal United Nations organ depended to a large extent on the settlement of the main questions relating to disarmament and the strengthening of world peace.

55. The current slump in the capitalist economies was adversely affecting the developing countries' social and economic positions, as could be seen from the documentation before the Council at the present session. As the Second United Nations Development Decade neared its end, it was clear that the expectations raised at the start of the Decade had not been fulfilled. It was necessary, therefore, to promote the struggle of the developing countries for sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activity and to curb the nefarious activities of transnational capitalist monopolies.

56. The conditions of workers in the socialist countries were constantly improving because of the constant growth in those countries' economic standards and co-operation. The national income of the CMEA member countries had risen in 1977 by 12 per cent compared with 1975, industrial output having risen by 12.4 per cent and the over-all international trade turnover by 24 per cent. In Mongolia, national production was being expanded as part of the current five-year plan; in the period 1976-1977, average GNP had risen by 22.7 per cent, national income by 22.5 per cent and productivity by 14.1 per cent, compared to the corresponding period for the previous plan. The CMEA countries' economic progress was in sharp contrast to the crisis prevailing in the capitalist economies.

57. Although the developing countries had made considerable strides towards economic independence and equitable economic relations, they were still beset by many difficulties, arising particularly from the efforts of the imperialist Powers to keep the developing countries within their orbit and to exploit those countries' resources through transnational monopolies. In the circumstances, it was clear that the international economic order could not be transformed equitably by means of partial or short-term measures, but only by giving full effect to the principles of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. It was necessary for all progressive nations to work together for that purpose. CMEA, at its thirty-second session, had declared the determination

of its member countries to promote equitable and mutually advantageous relations with the developing countries and measures aimed at promoting the developing countries' social, economic and cultural development, their position in the world economy, their release from the yoke of imperialist monopoly and the elimination of all forms of colonialism. Those who hindered the establishment of equitable economic ties, or connived at such hindrances, sought only to block the developing countries' progress and the establishment of democratic international economic relations.

58. In order to enable the developing countries to bring about the necessary transformation of their internal economies, national planning was required for the establishment of the State and co-operative sectors of the economy, curbs on foreign capital and improved labour relations. The value of any development strategy was shown by the progress in internal socio-economic measures; one reason for the disappointing progress in an international development strategy for the 1970s was the lack of such thoroughgoing reforms within the developing countries. His delegation therefore hoped that the strategy for the 1980s would aim at overcoming that problem. As was stated in the annual report of ESCAP (E/1978/48 and Add.1), the concept of basic needs should not be used as a means of preserving archaic forms of production relations or as an obstacle to economic independence.

59. The growing role of the State sector was an important feature of the developing countries' strides towards true economic independence and was rightly being given increasing attention by the United Nations system. Following the Council's recommendation contained in its decision 274 (LXIII), the General Assembly had adopted resolution 32/179, thus giving a further impulse to the study of the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries, since it regarded that topic as one of the questions for constant review and an important matter for consideration in formulating the new international development strategy.

60. His delegation welcomed the adoption by ESCAP of resolution 181 (XXXIV) on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries (see E/1978/48, chap. IV), recognizing the importance of regional contributions to the study of that topic and of taking relevant

United Nations studies into account in the ESCAP secretariat's programmes. The Council and the other regional commissions should support the ESCAP initiative. Similarly, resolution 48 (XII) adopted by the Industrial Development Board on the role of the public sector in the industrialization of the developing countries² recalled the great interest shown by States in the study of that role. The Board had noted that the development of the State sector was of great importance, since only that sector was capable of developing a country's basic industry and infrastructure and of setting suitable targets, private industry, owing to its subordination to profit motives and vulnerability to trade fluctuations, being unsuitable for such tasks.³ His delegation noted with regret, however, that the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries (E/1978/76) was simply a list of proposals to appear in the following report and it hoped that the Council would ask the Secretary-General to prepare a full and detailed report on that role, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/179.

61. His delegation hoped that the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would stimulate scientific and technological progress in the developing countries and foster collaboration in that field among States, regardless of their levels of development or their social and economic systems.

62. With regard to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, his delegation supported the speakers who had advocated the strengthening of the positive side of the various United Nations bodies based on a strict regard for the provisions of the Charter, an increasingly effective role for the Council and the avoiding of any needless proliferation of bodies and duplication of work.

63. His delegation was convinced that the Council, at its present session, would further support the struggle for peace, social progress and the transformation of world economic relations on the principles of equality, mutual advantage, independence and respect of sovereignty.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

² ID/B/212, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, para. 27.

32nd meeting

Friday, 21 July 1978, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.32

AGENDA ITEM 35

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1978/75, E/1978/L.33)

1. The PRESIDENT announced that the Dominican Republic, Greece and Venezuela had asked to be included among the sponsors of draft resolution E/1978/L.33, entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

2. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, said that it was the outcome of consultations with delegations, primarily, but not exclusively, delegations of countries that were members both of the Council and of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. Close contact had also been maintained with the High Commissioner.

3. The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme had been established pursuant to

General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII), which provided that the membership of the Committee, initially between 20 and 25, could subsequently be increased. For the past 10 years, it had been 31. Refugee problems in the world had, however, developed in such a way that a number of countries immediately concerned were not at present members of the Executive Committee, particularly developing countries in areas where the problem was now most acute.

4. The Executive Committee had, of course, always performed its functions very satisfactorily; that was attributable to its constant desire to solve the problems of refugees and also to the continuity of its membership. The sponsors of the draft resolution felt, therefore, that in meeting the increasingly expressed need for adaptation, the structure of the Committee should be maintained and the current members should continue in office. The only solution was thus to increase the membership of the Committee. It would be advisable for the Council to express that view at the current session, so that its opinion could be examined by the General Assembly with a view to a final decision.

5. The number of additional members of the Executive Committee should be fixed in such a way that it did not impair the efficiency of the Committee's proceedings. The sponsors of the draft resolution had not indicated a precise number of additional members but only a maximum, thus following the flexible formula already used in General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII).

6. The text was presented in the form of a draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption. The sponsors hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.33 was adopted [resolution 1978/36].

7. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) welcomed the fact that draft resolution E/1978/L.33 had been adopted by consensus. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had pointed out in his report to the Council (E/1978/75) that the problem of refugees or displaced persons was more serious than ever, since it involved 10 million persons. It was primarily a political problem, whether in southern Africa, South-East Asia, the Middle East or Latin America. It was, therefore, only by eliminating political oppression and economic and social injustice that it could be finally solved. In the meantime, it was necessary to continue helping refugees, whose very lives were in jeopardy, and, to that end, to grant them financial aid through appropriate channels and to improve their international protection by facilitating the granting of asylum and opportunities for resettlement. His Government, which whole-heartedly supported the work done by the High Commissioner in that field, had considerably increased its contributions in the past few years and had pledged an annual contribution of 25 million Swedish krona to UNHCR for the period 1978-1980; it had also stated that it was willing to consider additional appeals, as it had already done in the recent past. His delegation was convinced that long-term pledges (covering several years) would facilitate planning and increase the efficiency of the work of UNHCR; it was equally important to achieve a fairer sharing of the financing operations, almost 90 per cent of which had, according to the report of the High Commissioner, been provided by fewer than 10 donors in 1977.

8. Work on international standards relating to the status of refugees and the right to asylum had been started several decades previously. Yet very many countries belonging to the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme had not yet acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. Sweden supported the efforts of the High Commissioner to promote new accessions to those legal instruments and to secure their implementation. Even more disturbing was the fact that many refugees did not succeed in getting protection for their right to territorial asylum, and it was a matter for regret that the results of the United Nations Conference on Territorial Asylum, held at Geneva in 1977, had been so disappointing. At future sessions of the Conference, the point of departure should be not the right of States to grant asylum but the right of individuals to claim it and the corresponding duty of States to grant it.

9. Following a Belgian proposal in 1975, the Executive Committee had set up the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection. That new arrangement was but a small step in the right direction. It would be well to try to determine what organizational changes would be likely to improve the quality of the debate on international protection. The High Commissioner and his staff, particularly the field staff, had done excellent work. Without the co-operation and support of Governments, however, their talent and devotion might be of no avail.

10. Mr. TERREFE (Observer for Ethiopia), said that his country had heard with satisfaction the appeal made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 11 April 1978 for humanitarian assistance amounting to \$12,150,000 for the three countries in the Horn of Africa. He expressed the hope that the Council would support the activities of UNHCR and called upon Governments, international organizations and voluntary organizations to continue and to increase their activities on behalf of the peoples of south and south-east Ethiopia, who were victims not only of a prolonged drought but also of armed conflict. In that war-stricken region, more than a million and a half persons were in urgent need of assistance.

11. His delegation intended to submit a draft resolution on the revised item 6 of the agenda in the course of the session.

12. Mr. METAXAS (Greece) said that the multiplication of the problems of refugees and displaced persons in the world added to and complicated the task of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. UNHCR assistance activities had been considerably expanded in 1977-1978 to cope with new problems and to meet the needs of increasing flows of refugees, particularly in Africa and Asia. His delegation hoped, therefore, that Governments would renew and strengthen their commitment to UNHCR. His Government, for its part, intended to do so, not only because it was a long-standing member of the Executive Committee but also because it considered that UNHCR, an eminently humanitarian organization, should be given all the means it needed to discharge its responsibility.

13. He noted with satisfaction the favourable development in the situation of displaced persons in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola, as a result of which UNHCR had been able to reduce its activities in those countries. Elsewhere, on the other hand, serious new

problems had arisen, particularly in southern Africa and, more recently, in the Ogaden. In Asia, the main subject of concern was the continuing arrival, by sea, of Indo-Chinese refugees in Thailand and other countries of the region; in Lebanon, the UNHCR programme of assistance covered displaced persons within the country itself. Cyprus was another area in which the High Commissioner continued to co-ordinate United Nations humanitarian assistance to the displaced population of the island. His delegation extended particular thanks to the High Commissioner for the work he had done, which should be continued as long as it was needed. Unfortunately, there was no means of saying when the situation would end, despite numerous United Nations resolutions recommending the immediate return of displaced persons in Cyprus to their homes.

14. The best possible protection for the fundamental rights of refugees would be an automatic and impartial procedure guaranteeing the grant of asylum and preventing *refoulement*. Such a procedure was in force in Greece and was operating satisfactorily.

15. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution.

16. Mr. YAHAYA UDDIN (Malaysia) said that, as the representative of Sweden had said, the problems of refugees and displaced persons were the consequence of conflicts and political tension. The international community should have all that suffering—which proved that it had not been capable of controlling its political environment—on its conscience and should at least strive to alleviate it. It was clear from the High Commissioner's report that mass population movements had assumed tragic proportions in Africa and Asia. No sooner was one problem settled than a new situation arose, turning entire populations into refugees, so that UNHCR always needed more funds to meet at least the material needs of those refugees. That was so particularly in South-East Asia, where the Governments of States members of ASEAN had to cope with influxes of Indo-Chinese refugees. The burden was all the greater since the countries of reception were developing countries, with all the limitations that that implied. Malaysia welcomed what UNHCR had done for the permanent settlement of those refugees, but it had to be noted that the problem was growing, simply because refugees were coming faster than they could be resettled. It was, therefore, for those Governments with greater means to do more. The problem of Indo-Chinese refugees was a subject of growing concern for Malaysia and for other members of ASEAN, which had issued a joint communique on the subject at their eleventh ministerial meeting in June 1978.

17. Malaysia welcomed the adoption of the resolution on the increase in the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. The increase was justified for two reasons: first, the membership of the United Nations had increased, but, more important still, the bulk of the work concerning refugees now rested on the third world, particularly Africa and Asia. The participation of countries of those regions would strengthen the ability of the Executive Committee to deal with the problems of refugees.

18. Mr. MACRIS (Observer for Cyprus) noted that the number of refugees had increased during the period covered by the report and that the financial situation of UNHCR remained serious. Considerable efforts would

have to be made, therefore, to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its part. The world refugee problem could be solved if the international community accepted its responsibilities by refusing to tolerate political régimes and countries which deliberately chose to degrade human beings, to deny man his humanity and compel him to become a refugee. A better world could be built if Governments assumed their obligations under the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments on human rights, such as the Geneva Conventions and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

19. Since becoming independent, his country had remained faithful to the noble ideals contained in those instruments and had faithfully abided by the provisions of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. The importance which it attached to the humanitarian mission of UNHCR was made clear by its response during the period under review to appeals launched by UNHCR, even though there was a refugee problem in Cyprus itself. His Government firmly believed that the vital role of UNHCR should be maintained and intensified in the interests of the uprooted all over the world.

20. Turning to chapter VI, section B, of the High Commissioner's report, dealing with United Nations humanitarian assistance to Cyprus, he said that he would have liked to announce the return of Cypriot refugees and displaced persons to their homes, which had been called for every year by the General Assembly and the Security Council, but for the fourth year in succession the country remained artificially divided. The main economic problems were still there, although in a less acute form. No final solution could be found to the problem of refugees and displaced persons when they made up 40 per cent of the total population, nor was it possible to replace the fixed capital and productive and natural resources under the control of the occupation forces. His Government had therefore no alternative but to appeal to the United Nations to continue humanitarian assistance to Cyprus in the future.

21. His delegation would submit a breakdown of the requirements for 1979 to the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme at its twenty-ninth session. His Government shouldered the greater part of the expenses incurred to help the refugees. But humanitarian assistance to Cyprus only meant a temporary alleviation of the situation of the refugees and displaced persons, whose inalienable right it was to return to their homes in safety. The real solution to the problem lay in implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

22. He expressed his Government's gratitude to UNHCR, donor Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies for their generosity and the efforts which they had made to alleviate the suffering of Cypriot refugees. He also welcomed the adoption by consensus of the resolution seeking an increase in the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme.

23. Mr. IYER (India) warmly welcomed the adoption of the resolution which his delegation had supported in the hope that the participation in the work of the Executive Committee of a larger number of States, in particular developing countries, would increase its efficiency. His delegation hoped that the Economic and

Social Council would take at its next session in 1979 the action referred to in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly.

24. Mr. MOHAMUD MALINGUR (Somalia) said that his country, which had seen the work of UNHCR for refugees at first hand, had examined the report under consideration with particular interest. In his appeal for funds, the High Commissioner brought out clearly the extent of the problem in the region of the Horn of Africa, which was due both to the number of refugees and to the diversity of their needs. The presence of more than 500,000 displaced persons in Somalia placed a heavy burden on its limited resources. His Government was duly grateful to UNHCR for the allocation of \$500,000 made available for urgent relief and for drawing up a programme with a target of over \$4 million. His delegation appealed to the international community to contribute generously to that programme and expressed its gratitude to the countries and United Nations organizations which had already done so.

25. Mr. MARTINEZ (Argentina) was pleased to see from the report of UNHCR that politics had been kept out of the refugee problem. Co-operation between the Argentine Government, UNHCR and oecumenical and philanthropic bodies in Argentina had made it possible to alleviate the situation of thousands of displaced persons and maintain in Argentina a situation favourable to European refugees who were in receipt of assistance from UNHCR. In 1977, there had been for the first time an appreciable fall in the number of persons of Latin American origin enjoying UNHCR protection in Argentina. That was the result of the efforts made by UNHCR to relocate those persons in third countries and by the Argentine Government, which had authorized a larger number to settle in Argentina; those efforts had been facilitated by the improvement in the economic and social situation in Argentina and by the adoption of social welfare measures in favour of refugees.

26. He hoped that countries providing final asylum would continue their policy of welcome for refugees, so as to solve the problems of persons who had been living for years on a provisional basis, which was bad for them both physically and psychologically.

27. He welcomed the adoption of the resolution introduced by the Netherlands delegation.

28. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he wished to ask the High Commissioner once again whether assistance was being provided to persons displaced as the result of the incidents between Somalia and Ethiopia, and if so, in what form.

29. Mr. HARTLING (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that he had launched an appeal on 12 April 1978 for \$12 million to finance programmes of assistance to refugees and displaced persons affected by the conflict in the Ogaden, of whom there were about a million. Those humanitarian programmes, formulated after the visit of fact-finding missions to the region undertaken in consultation with the Governments concerned, were designed to bring emergency aid to more than 300,000 of the most needy refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti, Somalia and Ethiopia. Contributions amounting to \$10 million had been received to date. Work on the programmes was proceeding, in full consultation with the Governments concerned. As the needs were considerable, other

United Nations agencies, in particular FAO, WFP, UNICEF and WHO, were also assisting. UNDR0 too was involved in alleviating the consequences of the drought in the area.

30. He welcomed the adoption of the resolution seeking an increase in the membership of the Executive Committee. The spirit of co-operation which had led to the adoption of that resolution would help to meet a real need, since enlarging the Executive Committee would permit a closer association with the Programme of a larger number of Governments which were anxious to see the refugee problem resolved.

31. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) said that her delegation had not opposed the general agreement on the resolution just adopted, since it was in favour of increasing the membership of the Executive Committee. It was to be hoped, however, in regard to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly, providing for up to nine members to be added to the Executive Committee, that that figure would not be reached and that the number of additional members would not exceed five. In connexion with operative paragraph 2, her delegation thought it preferable that only those countries which had acceded to the United Nations instruments relating to refugee status, and at least to the 1951 Convention, should submit themselves as candidates for the Executive Committee.

32. The PRESIDENT, supported by Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), proposed that the Council should not close the debate on agenda item 35 and that it should defer a decision on transmitting the UNHCR report and the comments made on it during the discussion to the General Assembly until it took up agenda item 6, since the two questions were closely linked.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights (E/1978/57, E/1978/108, E/1978/NGO/11)

33. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) said that in his letter to the Secretary-General dated 16 May 1978 (E/1978/108), the Acting Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations had informed the Secretary-General that the United States Government did not object to having the Economic and Social Council consider whether the complaint alleging infringement of trade union rights in Puerto Rico was suitable for transmittal to the ILO Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association, in accordance with the procedure established by the Council in its resolution 277 (X).

34. Since the Office of the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations had informed the United States delegation that certain persons had been arrested and were to be tried in connexion with the matter, he considered it preferable not to go into the question further.

DRAFT DECISION: ALLEGATIONS REGARDING INFRINGEMENTS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS

35. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should adopt the following draft decision:

“The Council, noting that the consent of the Government of the United States of America had been

obtained, as required by paragraph 1(c)(i) of Council resolution 277 (X) of 17 February 1950, decided, in conformity with paragraph 1(c)(ii) of that resolution, to transmit the allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in Puerto Rico of the World Federation of Trade Unions of 18 November 1977 (E/1978/57), to the Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organisation, through the Governing Body of that Organisation”.

36. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq), supported by Mr. LOPEZ PAZ (Cuba), considered that a phrase should be added indicating that the findings of the Commission would be reported to the Council at its next session.

37. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that the Council had the right to be informed of the results of the ILO inquiry.

38. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) said that the Council's role was merely to decide whether or not there were grounds for transmitting the allegations to the International Labour Office. It was not for the Council to decide whether the International Labour Office should report back to it.

39. Mr. VON POTOBSKI (International Labour Organisation) said that in its resolution 277 (X) the Council had invited the ILO to take the necessary steps to enable the Commission to transmit to the Council reports concerning States which were not members of the ILO.

40. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) said that his country was of course ready to comply with Council resolution 277 (X). He simply wished to point out that that procedure presupposed the consent of the country concerned.

41. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Council) read out paragraph 1(c)(i) of Council resolution 277 (X).

42. Mr. EL FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) agreed with the proposal of the representative of Iraq. He wished to know whether, at the time of the infringements of trade union rights in question, the United States of America had still been a member of the ILO.

43. Mr. VON POTOBSKI (International Labour Organisation), stated that on the day of the events in question, 11 October 1977, the United States had still been a member of the ILO.

44. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq) said that, if it adopted his proposal, the Council would be doing no more than take the steps envisaged in its resolution.

45. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) saw no need to add anything to the Chairman's draft decision, since the United States had given the necessary agreement.

46. The PRESIDENT proposed that the sentence “The Commission shall transmit its findings to the Council” should be added at the end of the draft decision which he had read out.

47. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq) considered that a time-limit should be fixed for the transmittal of the Commission's findings and proposed that the last sentence should be reworded as follows: “The Commission will transmit its findings to the Council at its second regular session of 1979”.

48. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) said that it was not for the Council to set a time-limit for

the Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association, which would take as long as it thought necessary. Moreover, it was not known when a court decision would be reached in the case. His delegation therefore preferred to keep to the wording proposed by the President.

49. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. KOCH (Federal Republic of Germany), thought that it was not advisable to set a time-limit for the transmittal of the Commission's findings. He also questioned how far the Council could give directives to an independent body.

50. Mr. EL FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the situation was further complicated by the fact that the United States of America was no longer a member of the ILO. Like Iraq, his country considered it essential to set a time-limit for the transmittal of the Commission's findings.

51. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) said that he could accept a text worded thus: “The Commission shall transmit its findings to the Council as soon as possible, according to established procedure”.

52. The PRESIDENT proposed, as a way out of the difficulty, the following wording: “In accordance with the procedure outlined in Council resolution 277 (X), the Commission's findings shall be transmitted to the Council as soon as possible, in keeping with the Commission's established practice”.

The draft decision, as amended, was adopted [decision 1978/41].

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)*

53. Mr. CHARRY SAMPER (Colombia) recalled that at the 17th meeting he had asked that the Council should take a decision later on agenda item 6, after consultations between the interested parties.

54. Mr. Said MAHGOUB (Sudan) confirmed that the countries of the African Group wished to place a separate item on the agenda, entitled “Humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Horn of Africa”. His delegation would shortly submit a draft resolution on the subject.

55. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to include an item thus worded in its agenda.

It was so decided.

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1978/116)

Draft decision: Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations

56. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decision contained in section II of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1978/116).

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/42].

Calendar of conferences and meetings (E/1978/L.32 and Add.1)

57. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the note by the Secretariat on the calendar of conferences and meetings (E/1978/L.32) and the statement

* Resumed from the 17th meeting.

of programme budget implications of changes in the calendar of conferences and meetings (E/1978/L.32/Add.1). He proposed that the Council should only take a decision on the recommendation of the Commission on Transnational Corporations that its Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations should hold three sessions before the fifth session of the Commission, contained in paragraph 1 (a) of the note by the Secretariat, and should postpone its decision on the other modifications proposed in the note, particularly on the postponement of the fifth session of the Commission from March to May 1979.

58. Mr. KOCH (Federal Republic of Germany) did not think it advisable to convene the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct at the beginning of August 1978, since the delegations of some members of the Council might find it difficult to be in New York in time for the start of the Group's work. From the previous day's informal discussions on the calendar of conferences, he had gained the impression that in general delegations did not want meetings in August.

59. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the dates of the sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group had been established by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its fourth session, in May 1978, and that no one had objected at the time. He therefore saw no reason to change the dates now.

60. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) said that in arranging those dates the Commission had complied with the request made by its Intergovernmental Working Group, which had wished to meet before the thirty-third session of the General Assembly. It had decided upon the two weeks from 7 to 18 August as the only possible period, because the facilities available at an earlier date would have been insufficient, and the Chairman of the Group had started his preparations on the basis of the dates thus arranged.

61. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that he appreciated the difficulties which the Intergovernmental Working Group and its Chairman had had in reconciling the need for the Group to make progress in its work with the practicalities of conference organization. Nevertheless, it had to be realized that the Council's freedom of decision was very limited, in view of the number of other bodies whose meetings had to be accommodated as the available resources permitted. His delegation, in any case, was willing to attend the sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the dates indicated.

62. The PRESIDENT suggested that the decision concerning a possible session of the Intergovernmental Working Group in August should be postponed until the week of 24-28 July.

It was so agreed.

63. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) expressed surprise that the calendar contained no provision for a fifth meeting of the Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme on Public Administration and Finance. Since his delegation was particularly anxious that that Group's work should be completed in 1979, he requested that all the necessary arrangements should be made to hold a fifth meeting of the Group, including the preparation of a statement of its financial implications.

Reports of the sessional committees

64. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council, in considering the reports of its sessional committees, should follow the established practice of first voting on all the recommendations before it and then hearing explanations of votes on the resolutions or decisions adopted.

It was so agreed

AGENDA ITEM 25

Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region

REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1978/119)

Draft resolution: Implementation of the medium-term and long-term rehabilitation and development programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region and implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the region

65. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of the report of the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee (E/1978/119).

66. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) inquired why, in the report, account had not been taken of the comments which his delegation had made in the Committee with regard to the reference to decision 6/11 of the Governing Council of UNEP in the third preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 1 of section II of the draft resolution. His delegation had pointed out the need to make it clear that only part B of the UNEP decision was relevant.

67. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda), Chairman of the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee, replied that the draft resolution had been adopted in the Committee by general agreement. The representative of the Upper Volta, which was a sponsor of the draft resolution, had made an explanatory statement in reply to the USSR delegation's comments, with the result that it had not been considered necessary to amend the text.

68. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that in the circumstances the Council should amend the draft resolution so as to refer, in the third preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 1 of section II, to part B of decision 6/11 of the Governing Council of UNEP.

69. Mr. BOUBACAR (Upper Volta), on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, accepted the USSR representative's amendment.

70. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the words "such as the Club du Sahel" in operative paragraph 3 of section I should be transferred to the end of operative paragraph 4.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted [resolution 1978/37].

71. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 25.

AGENDA ITEM 28**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations**

REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1978/117 (parts I and II))

Draft resolution: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

72. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 7 of its report on the item (E/1978/117 (part I)).

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/38].

73. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq) said that his delegation, which had supported the draft resolution in the Third Committee, wished to reiterate its disappointment at the indifference shown by certain organizations which had not adequately discharged their obligations under the mandate conferred upon them by the Council in its resolutions 2026 (LXI) and 2100 (LXIII). He urged those organizations to make good that shortcoming and to report, in 1979, on the action they had taken to implement the resolutions.

74. Mr. SAMHAN (United Arab Emirates), Mr. EL IBRASHI (Observer for Egypt), Mr. GHELLALI (Observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. OULD SIDI AHMED VALL (Mauritania), Mr. AISSA (Algeria), Mr. MOHAMUD MALINGUR (Somalia) and Mr. LOPEZ PAZ (Cuba) associated themselves with the Iraqi representative's statement.

Draft decision: Assistance to the Palestinian people

75. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee for adoption in paragraph 2 of its report on the item (E/1978/117 (part II)).

76. Mr. EL FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Third Committee had adopted the draft decision under the agenda item under consideration because assistance to the Palestinian people was tightly associated with the struggle for independence. Referring to the statement just made by the representative of Iraq, he said that he would not criticize the organizations which had failed to take action to implement the Council's resolutions, since they had been subjected to pressure by a great Power, which had threatened them with the withdrawal of its financial support. Nevertheless, it was to be hoped that in 1979 the Council would have before it substantive reports from the organizations concerned.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/43].

77. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 28.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

33rd meeting

Friday, 28 July 1978, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.33

AGENDA ITEM 5

Assistance to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia (A/33/112 and Add.1, A/33/166, A/33/173, E/1978/114)

AGENDA ITEM 7

Assistance in emergency situations (A/33/120, A/33/139, A/33/170, E/1978/46 and Corr.1)

AGENDA ITEM 8

Assistance to South African student refugees (A/33/163 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. GOUNDREY (Joint Co-ordinator, Special Economic Assistance Programmes, Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Special Political Questions) said that the programmes for which the Security Council and the General Assembly had recommended international support could be divided into two categories. The first, which was covered by agenda item 5, was for countries which were encountering severe economic problems as a result of the political situation in southern Africa, notably Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia. The second category of programmes,

which was covered by agenda item 7, was for countries which had recently achieved independence and had found themselves with weak economies and inadequate infrastructures. They included Cape Verde, the Comoros, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles. Botswana and Lesotho also shared some of the characteristics of that group.

2. The report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Zambia (E/1978/114) showed that the country was facing a serious economic and financial crisis and required at least \$850 million in rapid assistance before the end of 1979, in addition to loans and assistance already arranged. In addition to the heavy burden of applying sanctions against Southern Rhodesia, which were estimated to have cost over \$800 million, Zambia faced a number of other major problems. The transport of imports and exports had become increasingly difficult because of the reorientation of supply routes and the closure of the Benguela railway in 1975. Further problems were posed by a balance-of-payments deficit resulting from the low price of copper, a continual worsening of Zambia's terms of trade and an increase in the number of refugees seeking asylum in the country. The report showed that, in spite of the Government's efforts and the assistance provided by the inter-

national community, it had not proved possible for Zambia to pursue a normal development programme as envisaged in the original Security Council resolution (329 (1973) of 10 March 1973). The Government had been forced to adopt policies more for survival than for development; acts of aggression by the régime in Southern Rhodesia had caused heavy losses and necessitated major expenditure on defence.

3. In order to overcome the current crisis and implement a stabilization programme, Zambia needed programme assistance, balance-of-payments support and help in eliminating transport bottlenecks. It also required assistance with long-term development programmes which would help it to restructure its economy and reduce its dependence on copper. A Consultative Group for Zambia, set up under the auspices of the World Bank, had met in Paris in June 1978 to assess the country's needs and consider measures for meeting them, and a second meeting of the Group was planned for late 1978 or early 1979.

4. Mozambique too was facing a serious economic and financial situation as a result of its decision to comply fully with the sanctions against Southern Rhodesia. The budget deficit for 1978 was expected to be at least \$60 million and the balance-of-payments deficit \$225 million. There was urgent need for some \$35 million of assistance to be furnished quickly to forestall a foreign-exchange crisis. Unfortunately, there had to date been only three responses to the appeal made by the Security Council in its resolution 411 (1977) for assistance in overcoming the severe economic losses brought about by acts of aggression committed by the régime in Southern Rhodesia, and only \$20 million had been pledged or provided since February 1977. Mozambique was a food-deficit country and would need 192,000 tons of major food items in 1978 and twice that amount in 1979. \$6.3 million was also needed to provide aid for refugees. Mozambique had suffered considerably from flood damage during 1978, and assistance was urgently needed to make good that damage, notably in the form of seed for replanting destroyed crops and food for the flood victims.

5. Botswana had also suffered economic problems as a result of having been obliged to increase its expenditure on defence following acts of aggression by the Southern Rhodesian régime and as a result of the influx of refugees from southern Africa. The response of the international community to appeals for assistance had been encouraging, a sum of nearly \$47 million having been pledged by June 1978. It was essential that the flow of contributions should be maintained to enable Botswana to deal with the emergency situation it was now facing. An estimated \$40-45 million was needed in order to complete projects previously identified or to undertake new ones, and in addition there was an urgent need to develop an efficient network of road, rail and air communications.

6. The first report on assistance to Lesotho (A/33/112) included an assessment of the impact of the new restrictions being imposed on travel between Lesotho and South Africa. The consequences had been severe, and the report recommended a number of projects which would give improved access to the areas affected and assist in their development. The total cost of the projects, excluding food and technical assistance, was estimated at \$7 million. Their object was to improve roads, communications and services in the affected areas and to help to provide employment.

7. The second report (A/33/112/Add.1) contained the findings of a mission which had visited Lesotho in June 1978 to review progress made in meeting the country's economic needs. While the response to appeals for assistance had been encouraging, in that over \$99 million had been pledged by June 1978, the emergency situation continued, and additional help was needed if Lesotho was to overcome the difficulties due to restrictions on travel resulting from the deteriorating border situation. Measures adopted to enable Lesotho to carry out its economic development programme would lessen its dependence on South Africa. About \$44 million in additional assistance was needed in order to carry out Lesotho's emergency programme, and between \$35 and \$40 million to complete development projects.

8. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Comoros (A/33/170), he reminded the Council that the General Assembly, in resolution 32/92, had requested the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize financial, technical and material assistance and to arrange for a review of the economic situation in the Comoros in time for the matter to be considered by the Council at its current session. It had not been possible to send a mission to the country in June 1978 as planned, but a delegation from the Comoros had come to New York to report on the response by donors to the appeals and on the progress made in implementing projects. The budget situation of the country was still precarious, with an over-all budget deficit including capital expenditure of nearly \$11 million in 1977 and further deficits expected in 1978. It was hoped that reforms in accounting procedures and in the fiscal system would allow for some contributions under the current budget to the capital programme. The projects for which the Government required support were given in the annex to the report on assistance to the Comoros, together with an indication of the assistance being provided.

9. The General Assembly in its resolution 32/96, had requested the Secretary-General to send a mission to Sao Tome and Principe to consult the Government on urgent needs and identify the economic problems facing the country. The findings of that mission were given in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Sao Tome and Principe (A/33/120). The report gave an account of the problems caused by lack of education and technical training, by inadequate transport and communications facilities, and by lack of maintenance of industrial equipment. The financial assistance needed, in addition to that already pledged, totalled over \$21 million, which would be used for increasing food production, improving the maintenance of equipment and developing small industries. Assistance would also go to transport, including the provision of vessels and the creation of an appropriate infrastructure, and to educational and health projects.

10. Missions had also been sent to Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau to determine the assistance they needed. In the case of Cape Verde, the country's economy had been virtually destroyed by ten years of drought, which had had serious effects on food supplies, employment and the balance of trade. International assistance over a considerable period was essential if the country was to survive, and a sum of \$100 million was being called for, of which \$60 million was for immediate projects and the balance of \$40 million for development pro-

jects. Substantial amounts of technical assistance and training were also needed.

11. In the case of Guinea-Bissau, there was an acute shortage of trained manpower at all levels, major deficiencies in infrastructure and serious financial problems, both with the government budget and with the balance of payments. The assistance required totalled \$38 million, \$25 million of which was for projects for immediate implementation and \$13 million for some of the longer-term development projects. The programme recommended took into account the assistance which Guinea-Bissau was already receiving in various fields, notably that of health.

12. Following General Assembly resolution 32/93, which had requested the Secretary-General to mobilize assistance from the international community to meet Djibouti's development needs, a mission had been sent to the country and had found that it suffered from an unbalanced economy and a serious lack of economic and social infrastructure. The cost of new services which the Government had had to introduce following independence was about \$6 million greater than had been provided for in the budget. Further problems were caused by the severing of road and rail connexions with Ethiopia, by a prolonged drought and by a major influx of refugees. The mission had recommended a programme which included \$30 million for urgent projects and some \$83 million for longer-term ones. Assistance was urgently needed for rebuilding and improving the low-lying parts of the city, which suffered from recurrent flooding. The Government had put forward a list of high-priority projects which it considered necessary to provide a basis for long-term development. Those projects could be divided into three categories: urgent projects for early implementation, the cost of which was estimated at \$31.5 million; less urgent projects or projects requiring further study, estimated at about \$83.2 million; and other proposed projects, the cost of which would be some \$15.5 million.

13. The report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Seychelles (A/33/139) gave details of projects and programmes to assist the Government in promoting the development of both the outer and inner islands of the archipelago and in meeting the special problems of the island of Mahe, which suffered from overcrowding and a serious housing shortage, with attendant sanitation and health problems. The cost of the most urgent projects was estimated at approximately \$6.7 million, and the cost of those which it was considered should be carried out soon at \$6.9 million. The report pointed out that unless steps were taken to implement some of the more urgent projects, Seychelles would soon be faced by even more serious problems requiring drastic and expensive solutions.

14. A number of the countries he had mentioned had expressed concern at the fact that they were not classed among the least developed countries. They felt that the statistics used were not relevant, since they dated from the colonial era, when the population had included large numbers of expatriates or military personnel of the colonial Powers. Such statistics did not reflect the true position of those countries.

15. The Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Special Political Questions would be glad to provide Governments or international organizations with any additional information they might require on projects and programmes. All the countries to which he had

referred would welcome assistance, either bilaterally or multilaterally, from Member States. A United Nations Trust Fund for Special Economic Assistance Programmes had been created, in order to facilitate the provision of assistance, with subsidiary accounts for each of the countries concerned. He hoped that the international community would respond generously, in view of their very urgent needs.

16. Mr. CISS (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), referring to agenda item 8, said that, since the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been designated as co-ordinator within the United Nations system for the programme of assistance to South African student refugees, he had worked in close collaboration with the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Special Political Questions. UNHCR had also participated in the United Nations missions which had visited Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia to review the situation there. An *ad hoc* interagency meeting had been organized by UNHCR in December 1977 to study the question of assistance to student refugees in southern Africa, to ensure closer co-ordination of activities and to promote the exchange of information in that field. As a result of that meeting, each of the agencies concerned had designated an official to be responsible for programmes, projects and related requests. The High Commissioner had also undertaken to publish a three-monthly report on the assistance provided to South African student refugees by the agencies of the United Nations system.

17. The host countries, the High Commissioner and the refugees themselves had been encouraged by the international community's response to the Secretary-General's appeal for assistance. A great deal remained to be done, however, for the flow of student and other refugees from South Africa was growing and the resources available to UNHCR were no longer adequate to meet their requirements.

18. The total involvement of UNHCR in general and special programmes of assistance to South African student refugees would probably be about \$7.9 million for Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia, and more than \$3.4 million for Mozambique. Those figures, which showed an increase over previous years, did not include the bilateral contributions in cash or kind made directly by Governments. They bore witness to the magnitude of refugee requirements in the region, and it was his hope that the international community would continue to contribute generously to the assistance programmes.

19. Turning to agenda item 5, he said that the Secretary-General's report on assistance to Zambia bore witness to the fact that, despite its particularly unfavourable economic and social situation, Zambia was applying a liberal policy of asylum and lending unfailing support to refugees. Within the limits of available resources, UNHCR continued to provide material assistance to the increasing number of refugees in that country. In particular, it had recently made \$100,000 available to the Government for emergency assistance to refugees from Zaire, of whom some 3,000-4,000 had sought asylum in Zambia following recent events in their country.

20. The figures in the Secretary-General's report would need to be modified in the light of additional measures taken or about to be taken by UNHCR, and a revised version would no doubt be issued by the

Secretariat in due course. For its part, UNHCR would continue to make every effort to provide refugees in Zambia with assistance that was commensurate with their needs.

21. Mr. DHITAL (World Food Programme), referring to agenda item 5, said that WFP was particularly concerned with the food component of programmes of assistance to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia. Although the Programme's limited resources did not permit it to embark on very ambitious projects, those four countries all enjoyed high priority in its activities.

22. To date, WFP had provided almost \$13 million in food to Botswana under seven projects which had now been completed, and had also supplied food worth \$3.2 million to the country in three emergencies. A \$24.9 million project for feeding primary-school children and vulnerable groups had been in operation since 1966. In addition, WFP might supply 6,000 tons of food grain at a cost of over \$1 million under the strategic grain reserve project mentioned in paragraph 47 of the Secretary-General's report on assistance to Botswana (A/33/166). Total food aid to Botswana therefore amounted to \$42 million. Since January 1977, WFP had also provided food aid worth \$400,000 for Zimbabwean refugees in Botswana; the average number involved had increased from 2,500 persons per month to well over 4,000 at the present time.

23. The Programme had been providing food to Lesotho for more than a decade. Eight food-aid projects worth about \$7.7 million had been completed, and six other projects, the total cost of which would be \$49.3 million, were at various stages of execution. A \$4 million project for food assistance to post-primary educational and training institutions and to hospitals was under consideration. During two emergencies, WFP had provided food worth over \$1 million. The Programme's total commitment to operational projects, including the one under consideration, therefore amounted to over \$53 million.

24. In Mozambique, the country's lack of administrative and physical infrastructure placed severe limitations on programmes. Nevertheless, WFP was providing food aid both under various development projects and on an emergency basis. All the projects in question were concerned either with school meals or with food-for-work connected with the resettlement of refugees or displaced persons. Three emergency operations had been completed, and two were at present under way. The total WFP contribution amounted to nearly \$42.5 million, of which nearly half went to Zimbabwean refugees and displaced Mozambique nationals. Most of the refugees in Mozambique were Zimbabweans, who were likely to be in the country for quite some time. Accordingly, WFP was considering earmarking over \$15 million of the total he had just mentioned to meet the food needs of refugees settled in various camps for a period of two years, in order to enable them to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. WFP aid was closely co-ordinated with the activities of UNHCR, which was providing substantial assistance to those refugees.

25. Zambia was surrounded by areas in which activities connected with liberation or other movements were being conducted. Consequently, the influx of refugees was increasing steadily, and it was beyond the country's capacity to support all the newcomers or integrate them into society. WFP was making every effort

to help the country meet its acute food needs and had already provided \$2 million of assistance under seven food-for-work or development projects. Four projects were at present under way and three others were in the process of being approved. In addition, food worth about \$1 million had been provided under three emergency operations. Total WFP assistance therefore amounted to about \$15.5 million, the bulk of which was devoted to the feeding of refugees from Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zaire and Zimbabwe. The Zimbabweans formed the largest group of refugees; their number would soon reach 40,000, including 37,000 from ZAPU and 3,000 from ZANU. The Namibians appeared to be the next largest group; they were being provided with food under the auspices of SWAPO and with the approval of the host Government and OAU. Their number had originally been estimated at over 2,000, including 200 students attending the United Nations Institute for Namibia at Lusaka. Since some time would no doubt elapse before they returned to their homeland, a food-for-work programme was being devised. WFP was also providing emergency food aid to 30,000 refugees from Namibia in Angola, again under the auspices of SWAPO, at an estimated cost of \$1.4 million.

26. To sum up, WFP involvement in the four countries under consideration, including assistance to Namibian refugees in Angola, amounted to not less than \$163 million in terms of food supplies.

27. Turning to agenda item 8, he said that the food assistance provided to Namibian refugees, including the students attending the United Nations Institute for Namibia at Lusaka, was likely to be extended for a further period of two years. Furthermore, a large number of South African refugees were children of school age, and WFP was assisting various school-meal projects in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, where South African students were receiving WFP rations along with others. Precise data on the number of South African student refugees were, however, not available.

28. Seven countries, including Cape Verde, had been mentioned in connexion with agenda item 7. They were all food-priority countries and, with the exception of Seychelles and Tonga, they were all receiving food aid. The Programme's total commitment to those five countries was over \$27 million. It was possible that food-for-work programmes might be developed in Seychelles and Tonga too, in due course.

29. A multi-donor mission sent to Cape Verde on the initiative of FAO had estimated that country's food requirements to be at least 42,400 tons, but more recent estimates set the figure at 57,000 tons, of which over 44,000 tons had already been pledged, including 6,000 tons from WFP itself. At the outset, government policy had prevented WFP emergency food assistance from being distributed free of charge in Cape Verde, but discussions with the authorities had enabled ways and means to be found of overcoming that difficulty.

30. For the purposes of WFP emergency projects, emergencies were defined as urgent situations in which there was clear evidence that an event had occurred which caused human suffering or loss of livestock, which the Government concerned did not have the means to remedy and which produced dislocation to the life of a community on an exceptional scale. That definition covered sudden calamities such as earthquakes, floods and plagues of locusts, man-made emergencies such as an influx of refugees, and food scarci-

ties arising from drought, crop failures, pests and diseases. Even in the case of a food shortage such as that in the Sahelian region, WFP attempted to identify affected locations or groups of people and provide them with food aid rather than supplying food as general support to the Governments concerned. Whenever human suffering was involved and the formulation of a development programme designed to increase food production was likely to take time, food aid was provided under emergency operations approved by the Director-General of FAO on the recommendation of the Executive Director of WFP. At present, the funds available on an annual basis for such emergencies amounted to \$45 million.

31. Mr. MOLAPO (Lesotho) thanked the Council for having adopted resolution 2096 (LXIII) as an expression of solidarity with his country. He wished to give some up-to-date information about the harassments to which Lesotho was being subjected by the racist minority régime in Pretoria, and which affected its security and economic well-being.

32. In February 1978, access to South Africa from the south-eastern part of Lesotho, already previously restricted to two entry points, had been rendered virtually impossible by the demand on the part of the bantustan administration of the Transkei province of the Republic of South Africa that Lesotho citizens crossing its territory in transit should produce international passports with transit visas obtainable from the Transkei capital of Umtata. Such a demand was a violation of the international agreement governing travel between Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa, under which only local travel documents were required, and it meant that citizens in the inaccessible south-eastern region now had to leave for South Africa by way of the north-western part of the country. The development had been reported to the Security Council and the findings and recommendations of the mission sent to investigate the situation appeared in the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Lesotho (A/33/112).

33. In addition, incidents involving the theft of livestock by Transkeian raiders continued to occur along Lesotho's south-eastern border. Some raiders were currently facing trial in Lesotho for murder and attempted theft. The Lesotho Government had reacted with restraint to such incidents, which were deliberately calculated to provoke armed conflict. However, it was under increasing pressure from aggrieved citizens to allow them to engage in hot pursuit of the raiders. The authorities in Pretoria merely told it to negotiate direct with the Transkeian administration.

34. The South African Government had officially denied that, as reported in the news media in May 1977; it had issued a directive to all commercial and industrial undertakings, except in the gold-mining industry, to phase out the recruitment of foreign migrant labour. However, Lesotho's migrant labour statistics had shown a reduction in recruitment since the beginning of 1977, and evidence of such a development had been provided at the end of June 1978, when the Natal Coal Owners Labour Agency had officially informed the Lesotho Government that it was closing down three of its eight recruiting offices in the country, which served an area with some 300,000 inhabitants. The Government viewed such moves by South Africa with anxiety, because it could not yet provide enough jobs for returning migrants. It had embarked upon a rapid adoption of labour-intensive techniques

in its investment programmes, which would have to be complemented by a faster programme of industrialization. His Government was concerned to observe that some transnational corporations, such as the Holiday Inns Group, were investing in the bantustans rather than in Lesotho, contrary to General Assembly resolution 31/6 A. He appealed to Member States to induce transnational corporations to comply with that resolution.

35. South Africa was using other forms of pressure in its endeavours to wear down Lesotho. For example, when the United Nations Information Office had started broadcasting over Radio Lesotho, South African manufacturers and businesses had withdrawn their advertising on the grounds that they could not tolerate their advertisements being broadcast alongside anti-apartheid propaganda hostile to the South African Government.

36. The strain on Lesotho's meagre resources was further aggravated by the humanitarian need to receive refugees from the apartheid system. Since the start of the current year, student refugees from such areas as Soweto had been joined by an increasing number of opponents of the Transkei bantustan régime, who told horrifying stories of torture and murder by the Transkeian police. They were being given political asylum in Lesotho, and he hoped that Member States would continue to respond to the appeal on behalf of South African refugees which had been made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

37. His Government wished to express its appreciation of the tangible signs of solidarity it had received from Member States and the specialized agencies. Whereas contributions and pledges had stood at under \$45 million at the time of the Secretary-General's progress report to the General Assembly in November 1977,¹ they had now reached \$99.3 million. The generous donors were listed in tables 1 and 2 in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Lesotho (A/33/112/Add.1). However, from table 3 in that annex, Member States would see that, if Lesotho's priority needs were to be satisfied, a considerable additional sum was still required. In view of the continuing deterioration in Lesotho's relationship with the Republic of South Africa, it had become urgent for it to cease being totally dependent on that country for its electricity supplies. Owing to the fact that a promise of assistance with feasibility and engineering design studies for a hydroelectric station had not materialized, it was estimated that hydroelectric power would not be available before 1985. Lesotho was seeking alternative sources of finance for studies in connexion with the hydroelectric scheme, but an interim emergency supply by two diesel generators, at an estimated cost of \$18 million, had become essential. His Government would appreciate contributions towards the outstanding amount required to finance Lesotho's emergency and development programmes and hoped that Member States and international organizations, particularly those which had not already done so, would come to its assistance.

38. Mr. MTONGA (Observer for Zambia) said his country was grateful for the efforts of the Secretary-General and the international community to ensure continued assistance to Zambia. He hoped that Council

¹ See *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-second Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1977, document S/12438, annex I.*

members would take due note of the facts given in the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Zambia (E/1978/114), which had been prepared in close collaboration with the Zambian Government. As a result of Zambia's application of mandatory sanctions against the illegal racist régime in Salisbury, it had suffered tremendously in all sectors of the economy. It would require \$800 million up to the end of 1979, and although there had been a positive response from the international community, it still fell far short of Zambia's requirements. He wished to reiterate the urgent appeal for assistance, especially in grant form, which his Government had already voiced at the World Bank meeting in Paris in June 1978.

39. Owing to Zambia's geographical position, refugees constituted a serious and growing problem. Since the unilateral declaration of independence by the Salisbury Government, the number of refugees from Zimbabwe had steadily increased, and it was necessary both to accommodate them and to ensure their personal safety, not only along the border but inside Zambia. Accordingly, land had been allocated on which they might settle and become partly self-supporting, and the national defence system had been expanded. Such programmes required the allocation of financial and human resources by the Zambian Government. In addition to refugees from southern Africa, there were also numbers from independent African countries, such as Angola, and, more recently, Zaire, who were unlikely to be repatriated in the near future. He therefore hoped that the international community would consider the refugee problem in conjunction with Zambia's economic problems.

40. In spite of its difficulties, Zambia was determined to diversify out of copper and in its Third National Development Plan, due to begin in January 1979, the emphasis had been placed on rural development and small-scale industrial projects, for which external as well as domestic financing would be required.

41. Finally, Zambia suffered from acute transport problems. As a result of the disruption of other routes, it had, in the recent past, been obliged to rely on road and rail links eastwards through the United Republic of Tanzania, which, like the terminal port of Dar-es-Salaam, were seriously over-stretched. The problem had been aggravated by Zambia's inability to pay port charges and clearing agents owing to lack of foreign exchange. That was another illustration of the critical nature of Zambia's balance-of-payments difficulties.

42. With regard to the current political situation, the Zambian Government did not recognize the recent internal settlement in Southern Rhodesia because it considered that any arrangement which excluded the Patriotic Front could not reflect the aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe as a whole. In its view, the situation in Southern Rhodesia was likely to get worse before it got better.

43. Mr. SINON (Observer for Seychelles) said he was grateful for the international community's expression of solidarity and for the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Seychelles (A/33/139), which provided details concerning the economic situation in Seychelles. The report contained, on page 14, a list of emergency and development programmes with which his country would greatly appreciate assistance.

44. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that there had been a considerable deterioration in the tense situation which had arisen in a

number of regions in Africa as a result of attempts by certain circles to weaken the unity of the African peoples in their struggle to free themselves from colonialism and neo-colonialism and eliminate the last bastions of racism and *apartheid*. It was shameful that the countries of Africa should continue to the present day to be pillaged by the imperialist Powers and their transnational corporations. Soviet experts had calculated that over the period 1969-1975 the profits extracted from independent African countries had amounted to \$12 billion on foreign private investments of \$6.6 billion, i.e. a profit of almost \$2 for every dollar invested. According to official figures, the indebtedness of 45 of those countries had reached \$31.6 billion by the end of 1975, payments on which had totalled \$4.1 billion, which was the equivalent of 12 per cent of African annual export earnings. Such figures indicated the main cause of the difficult situation in which the African peoples found themselves.

45. No one should be misled by speeches by the Western Powers about their programmes of aid to the African countries, when it was obvious that the profits they were extracting from them far exceeded in value any crumbs of comfort they might provide. It was, therefore, particularly disgraceful that some delegations had sought to criticize the socialist countries for the assistance they were giving to the peoples of Africa. The Soviet Union was giving moral, political and material support to those peoples in their legitimate struggle for full political and economic freedom, not only through State channels but also through the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa and other bodies.

46. Under the 1976 agreement on economic, technical and cultural co-operation and the 1977 friendship and co-operation pact, the Soviet Union was providing Mozambique with long-term credit amounting to 10 million roubles and assisting in the building of vocational and technical schools and the carrying out of geological surveys; machinery and equipment were also being supplied, and plans were under preparation for major hydraulic projects. Soviet specialists were working in Mozambique in various branches of the economy, and a number of citizens of the country were receiving training in Soviet educational institutions. Aid was also being provided without charge in the form of transport and medical and food supplies to overcome the difficulties resulting from natural disasters.

47. With Soviet aid and the participation of Soviet specialists, a number of power stations and other major installations had been constructed in Zambia. Material assistance was being given to the University of Zambia and a large number of Zambian students were studying in institutions of higher education in the Soviet Union. Aid was being given to Botswana in the training of skilled workers, and several dozen Botswana citizens were studying in the Soviet Union.

48. It was obvious that the efforts of the international community were not in themselves sufficient to enable the African countries to overcome their present serious difficulties, exacerbated as they were by the criminal activities of the strongholds of colonialism and racism in southern Africa, which imperialist circles were endeavouring to preserve by giving direct or indirect support to the Salisbury and Pretoria régimes in violation of United Nations decisions. The Council should adopt the important resolution recommended to it by the Commission on Transnational Corporations (see E/1978/52, para. 1) on measures to put an end to

collaboration between the corporations and the illegal racist régimes in southern Africa, which provided the material basis for colonialism and *apartheid* in their most flagrant and repulsive manifestations. The matter was of particular importance because direct violations of General Assembly and Security Council decisions were involved. The Council must also declare its unequivocal support for the national liberation movements and the progressive forces struggling to eliminate the vestiges of colonialism and eradicate *apartheid* and other forms of racial discrimination. It was important that world public opinion should know who were the true friends of the African peoples and who were their exploiters and oppressors.

49. The reports submitted under agenda item 5 indicated the scale of the economic difficulties faced by Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia as a result of continuing aggression and other illegal activities by the racists in southern Africa and of the economic sanctions against the Republic of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia applied by a number of countries in response to United Nations recommendations. In his delegation's view, it was incumbent upon all Member States and appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to assist the African countries and to implement the important decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies which had dealt with those matters.

50. As far as the question of assistance for South African student refugees was concerned, the Soviet Union was already providing such assistance both through State channels and through social organizations, in particular by giving them training in vocational and technical schools and institutions of higher education. It was prepared to provide scholarships for them through OAU and ECA.

51. Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland), speaking also on behalf of the Swedish delegation and the observer delegations of Denmark and Norway, said that the Nordic countries had long supported mandatory international action against the white racist régimes in southern

Africa and had readily complied with Security Council resolutions on the subject. Their Foreign Ministers had also agreed in March 1978 on a joint Nordic programme of action against the Republic of South Africa. In addition to giving their moral support, the Governments of the Nordic countries were major contributors to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. In order to lighten the economic burden borne by the independent African countries bordering on the Republic of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia as a result of the collective action by the international community, the Nordic countries had contributed to the United Nations programmes for that purpose and had also substantially expanded their bilateral assistance to help those African countries to develop their economic infrastructures and strengthen their economic independence.

52. The cost of compliance with the sanctions imposed by the Security Council and of receiving refugees had compelled the four African countries dealt with in the Secretary-General's reports to divert resources from their own development plans in consequence of the continuing shortfall of international assistance. After an encouraging initial response by the international community, the assistance pledged since February 1977 amounted to only \$20 million, and less than \$7 million had so far been pledged in response to Security Council resolution 411 (1977). Both individually and jointly, the Nordic countries had also pledged assistance to Mozambique, in response to Security Council resolution 386 (1976), totalling some \$40 million in the latest budget year. They had also started a joint four-year agricultural project, to which they would contribute \$50 million over the period 1977-1980. In pursuing those policies, the Governments of the Nordic countries recognized the front-line role of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia and pledged their continuing support for measures by the international community to assist those countries in their struggle against institutional racism.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

34th meeting

Tuesday, 1 August 1978, at 12 noon

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.34

In the absence of the President, Mr. Martynenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Assistance to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia (*continued*) (A/33/112 and Add.1, A/33/166, A/33/173, E/1978/114, E/1978/L.34-L.37, E/1978/L.47)

AGENDA ITEM 7

Assistance in emergency situations (*continued*) (A/33/120, A/33/139, A/33/170, E/1978/46 and Corr.1, E/1978/L.38-L.43, E/1978/L.46)

AGENDA ITEM 8

Assistance to South African student refugees (*continued*) (A/33/163 and Corr.1, E/1978/L.44)

1. Mr. MODISI (Observer for Botswana) said that, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 403 (1977) and 406 (1977) and General Assembly resolution 32/97 on assistance to Botswana, the Secretary-General had sent a review mission to that country; the mission's report (A/33/166, annex) was remarkable for its lucidity and objectivity. While recent developments in Namibia showed hopeful prospects for an acceptable political settlement and a consequent relaxation of tension in that country, the situation in Southern Rho-

desia had worsened, and the neighbouring independent countries—Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia—had been subjected to aggression and armed invasions by air and land.

2. South Africa had not abandoned its treacherous tactics. While pretending to negotiate with SWAPO through intermediaries in New York, it had launched an attack on Angola on 4 May 1978, killing or wounding more than a thousand Namibian refugees. The minority racist Governments in southern Africa were largely continuing their oppressive and inhuman treatment of the majority of their population. In Southern Rhodesia, the agreement of 3 March 1978, under which three black leaders had been co-opted into the Smith Government, and which, it was claimed, was to lead to majority rule and a cease-fire, had produced the opposite results. The rebel régime was more intransigent than ever and the number of deaths in Zimbabwe was constantly growing.

3. The situation in Southern Rhodesia had had grave effects for Botswana. As the United Nations mission had noted, that country's territorial integrity had frequently been violated. The attacks by Southern Rhodesia were designed to intimidate his country into withholding the help and refuge needed by the oppressed people of Zimbabwe. Nothing, however, would make Botswana abandon its international duty; the freedom of Zimbabwe was of paramount importance to it. It therefore required the international community to provide it with the necessary assistance to maintain its economic development, defend its territorial integrity and independence and assist the thousands of people who were daily fleeing from the oppression to which they were subjected in their own countries.

4. His delegation endorsed the conclusions contained in the report of the United Nations review mission to Botswana. Since the mission's departure, however, the number of refugees had increased. Some 4,200 refugees a month were entering Botswana from Zimbabwe. They were concentrated in the northern urban centres of the country and the facilities available to them were unfortunately inadequate. There were 11,000 refugees in camps designed to accommodate only 3,000. Apart from the congestion problem in the camps, the influx of refugees created administrative and social problems. To alleviate those problems, Botswana had already spent \$300,000 on air-lifts of refugees to other countries and had committed an additional \$700,000 for the same purpose. There were a number of projects for the settlement of refugees, including the construction of primary schools. Sufficient capital would have to be found for the purpose.

5. The problem of refugees in southern Africa was a permanent one which required a permanent solution. His Government therefore welcomed the decision taken at the thirty-first regular session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, which recognized the nature of the problem and had agreed to take part in organizing a conference on refugees, together with the United Nations and the All-Africa Council of Churches.

6. The United Nations mission to Botswana had also emphasized the seriousness of an economic setback which had affected that country since November 1977. The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease had led to the suspension of beef exports to major markets. The outbreak had been contained and preventive measures were being taken for the future, but Botswana's markets would have to be renegotiated.

7. Rhodesia Railways, which operated the railway line in Botswana, had increased its tariffs; that increase, together with the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, would severely affect Botswana's balance-of-payments position at the end of the year. That demonstrated the urgency of projects connected with Botswana's railway, airport, trunk roads and veterinary services. The cost of goods and services was constantly rising and the cost of some of the projects had risen. Additional funds therefore had to be found. In certain cases, where international funding was not forthcoming, or had come only in part, his Government had gone ahead with the projects with the use of scarce domestic funds, which meant that the execution of other development projects had to be delayed.

8. The response of the international community to Botswana's appeal had greatly encouraged his country's people and Government. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the draft resolution before the Council on assistance to Botswana (E/1978/L.47) supported the appeals for increased assistance to that country and requested the Secretary-General to keep the situation there under constant review. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the draft resolution and requested the Council to adopt it.

9. Lastly, he drew the Council's attention to the serious situation of Mozambique, which was a victim of frequent military attacks by the rebel régime of Southern Rhodesia. The thousands of refugees from Zimbabwe were no doubt a heavy burden on that country's already precarious economy. With regard to assistance to Mozambique, the Council had before it the report of the review mission sent to that country (A/33/173, annex). His delegation fully supported the granting of increased assistance to Mozambique to enable it to overcome some of the problems resulting from its proximity to Southern Rhodesia.

10. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the African group of countries, introduced, under agenda item 5, draft resolutions E/1978/L.34 on assistance to Zambia, E/1978/L.35 on assistance to Mozambique, E/1978/L.37 on assistance to Lesotho and E/1978/L.47 on assistance to Botswana, which were all based on resolutions previously adopted by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. They recommended an increase in assistance to the countries of southern Africa, which were the victims of constant aggression and suffered serious economic difficulties as a result of their situation.

11. Again on behalf of the African group of countries, he introduced, under agenda item 7, draft resolutions E/1978/L.38 on assistance to the Comoros, E/1978/L.39 on assistance to Sao Tome and Principe, E/1978/L.40 on assistance to Cape Verde, E/1978/L.41 on assistance to Guinea-Bissau, E/1978/L.42 on assistance to Djibouti, E/1978/L.43 on assistance to Seychelles and E/1978/L.46 on migratory labour in southern Africa, all of which, with the exception of draft resolution E/1978/L.46, were based on resolutions on assistance to newly independent countries adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions. They appealed to the international community to increase its assistance to those countries. Portugal had asked for its name to be added to the sponsors of the draft resolutions on assistance to Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau, which were all Portuguese-speaking countries.

12. Draft resolution E/1978/L.46 on migratory labour in southern Africa was based on resolutions adopted by the Conference on Migratory Labour in Southern Africa held in April 1978 at Lusaka, Zambia, and organized by ECA and the ILO, in co-operation with the Government of Zambia and the liberation movements of southern Africa recognized by OAU. At its eighteenth session, the ECA Executive Committee had adopted a similar resolution to the draft resolution before the Council (see E/1978/50/Add.1, chap. II, resolution ECA (XVIII)/Res. 5).

13. Also on behalf of the African group of countries, he introduced, under agenda item 8, draft resolution E/1978/L.44 on assistance to South African student refugees, whose needs and whose numbers were growing.

14. He hoped that the Council would adopt the draft resolutions by consensus.

15. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had noted the emphasis placed in the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Zambia (E/1978/114) on the extreme gravity of Zambia's economic needs as a result of developments since 1974. It appreciated the measures taken by the Zambian Government to cope with the serious economic situation by further restricting imports, reducing government expenditure and endeavouring to diversify the economy by promoting rural development and greater self-sufficiency, especially in basic foodstuffs. His delegation hoped that those measures would be strengthened by the Third Five-Year Plan shortly to be published.

16. In response to Zambia's needs, the United Kingdom, in addition to its normal aid to Zambia of about £10 million a year, its special aid of £5 million in 1976 for essential imports and its support for special European Economic Community aid in 1976 and 1977, had given concessional assistance totalling almost £30 million for essential imports required for Zambia's agricultural, manufacturing and transport sectors. It had also indicated its willingness to send a mission to the country to discuss possible project aid once the Third Plan had been published.

17. The United Kingdom had also accepted the views of recent IMF and World Bank missions, those expressed in reports of those organizations, and also those of the Zambian Government itself, to the effect that, apart from the very important contribution which nearly 1,000 British staff in Zambia were making under the United Kingdom's technical co-operation programme, Zambia's top priority at present was the rapid disbursement of non-project aid for essential imports to help it to bridge its very large balance-of-payments gap over the next few years. During the next two years, United Kingdom expenditure on aid to Zambia under existing commitments and through the latest loans would total about £52 million.

18. His delegation hoped that the organizations of the United Nations system and other donor countries would respond commensurately with the gravity of the situation by giving Zambia all possible assistance not merely for the key development programmes covered by the Third Plan, but more immediately to alleviate its balance-of-payments problems and overcome its serious transport difficulties.

19. In addition to its normal development assistance, the United Kingdom had provided in 1977 an additional £3 million for Botswana and £2 million for Lesotho under the special economic assistance pro-

gramme recommended in the Secretary-General's reports. In Botswana, the assistance would be used to draw up contingency plans for rail operations and to contribute to an intensified vaccination campaign to control the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which had severely affected Botswana's important beef exports. The allocation to Lesotho had been fully committed to projects for food processing, livestock development and the improvement of internal communications.

20. The United Kingdom had recently decided to increase substantially its capital aid to Botswana and Lesotho over the three-year period 1979-1982. In both countries, the aid would be directed primarily to the development of the rural sector, while in Lesotho, in particular, the importance of self-sufficiency was reflected in projects designed to improve internal road communications and create employment opportunities.

21. The report of the review mission to Mozambique (A/33/173, annex) confirmed the serious economic situation resulting from the recent disastrous floods in the Zambesi valley. Following the floods, the United Kingdom had responded by chartering an aircraft to fly blankets, drugs and inflatable boats to the area and donating £20,000 for the local purchase of essential relief supplies. In addition, pledges of programme assistance totalling £22.5 million had been made to date, excluding food aid of 27,400 tonnes in 1978 and technical co-operation directed primarily to the transport sector.

22. Finally, in response to an appeal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 1977, the United Kingdom had agreed to contribute \$1.75 million for assistance to refugees in countries of southern Africa, part of which had been specifically earmarked for assistance to refugees in Botswana and Mozambique.

23. Mrs. WACUP (Federal Republic of Germany) said that her Government's policy was directed towards the independence of Namibia and Zimbabwe under democratic rule and the eradication of all forms of racial discrimination in southern Africa. Furthermore, her delegation considered that rapid economic and social development in southern Africa could contribute to its political stability. The recent visit of Chancellor Schmidt and the frequent visits of members of his Government to independent countries of southern Africa demonstrated the desire of the Federal Republic of Germany to establish economic and political co-operation with them on the basis of mutual respect and understanding.

24. The Federal Republic of Germany had considerably increased its bilateral and multilateral aid to the independent countries of southern Africa and was a major contributor to the international financial institutions which were providing substantial development aid to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia. It was also sending substantial credits to the area through the European Development Fund and was contributing to the food aid provided by the European Economic Community to southern Africa. Pursuant to the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, her Government had decided, in 1977, to increase substantially its development assistance to the countries of southern Africa to help them to strengthen their economies and to overcome the problems arising from political circumstances beyond their control.

25. She proposed to refer in more detail to her country's bilateral development assistance. In Botswana, its

total commitments of bilateral assistance up to 1977 had amounted to 59 million marks, and an additional sum of 31 million marks had been committed in April 1978. The development assistance thus provided was mainly concentrated on the industrialization of the country and on the improvement of its infrastructure.

26. Her country's commitments to Lesotho up to 1978 had amounted to 59 million marks, and the aid had been concentrated on technical assistance in agriculture, medicine, housing and telecommunications, as also on the construction of roads and water supply facilities.

27. For Zambia, her country's development aid commitments up to 1978 had amounted to 215 million marks; during the last two years, there had been a substantial increase, which was amply justified, since it was the duty of the international community to make good the losses suffered by Zambia as a result of its implementation of the sanctions against Southern Rhodesia decided upon by the General Assembly and as a result of the transport constraints resulting from developments in Angola.

28. Since Mozambique had acceded to independence only in 1975, the Federal Republic of Germany had so far allocated only 10 million marks to it, in 1977. It hoped, however, that it would soon be able to conclude a bilateral agreement with that country and thus contribute to its economic and social development.

29. Turning to agenda item 8, she pointed out that there were student refugees not only from South Africa but also from other countries of southern Africa. Aware of the burden which their increasing numbers represented for the African host countries, her Government was preparing a special educational assistance programme providing for long-term scholarships for vocational and technical training in the Federal Republic of Germany for 300 student refugees in 1978 and 200 in 1979. Furthermore, her Government would help to finance the construction of housing for student refugees in Lesotho and Swaziland. It hoped that its assistance would help to alleviate the problems in southern Africa and that it would contribute to the maintenance of world peace. In conclusion, she stressed that her Government would continue to co-operate with its African partners in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect.

30. Mr. DIRAR (Organization of African Unity) associated himself with previous speakers in stressing the particular difficulties facing the countries being considered under agenda items 5 and 7. He did not intend to retrace the origins of the special situation in which the countries to which agenda item 5 referred found themselves as a result of their desire to fulfil their international obligations with regard to the illegal racist régimes in southern Africa, or to mention the reasons which had led to the elaboration of special programmes for the newly independent countries; he wished, however, to point out that the situation was tending to grow worse in most of those countries and that the appeals made by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council had had very little effect, particularly in the case of Mozambique, a courageous country which deserved the full support of the international community. OAU was also concerned about the deterioration of the economic situation in Zambia and hoped that the Consultative Group for Zambia, established by the World Bank, would be able to provide that country with valuable assistance. He appealed to the countries participating in that Group to

contribute generously to the assistance programme for Zambia.

31. The efforts made by the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Special Political Questions in providing information, drawing up programmes and co-ordinating assistance to the countries of southern Africa were praiseworthy, but much remained to be done to rationalize, co-ordinate and monitor assistance to those countries, whose problems were, on the whole, very similar, despite the special features of each one of them. The main difficulties, as the reports under consideration showed, were in transport and communications, refugee and employment problems and food shortages, which could provide the basis for an exchange of experience and a more co-ordinated approach. He drew attention to the lack of structures or of clearly defined procedures by which requests for aid addressed to the developed countries and to the organizations of the United Nations system could be channelled and monitored by the Council and all interested countries. A more satisfactory method than that adopted so far was required, in order to enable the Council to review the efforts of the whole international community and of the United Nations system in particular. The office of the Co-ordinator, Special Economic Assistance Programmes, acting in close co-operation with UNDP, should be the focal point for co-ordinating assistance. OAU appealed to all countries to keep the office of the Co-ordinator informed of the activities which they had undertaken under special assistance programmes. In order to prevent any duplication, donor countries and the United Nations system should make an effort to improve the co-ordination of their activities and of their assistance programmes. On the basis of the Secretary-General's reports before the Council and of the detailed UNDP country programmes, consortia for the countries of southern Africa could be established under the auspices of the United Nations or the World Bank. In view of the central role which the Council played in the economic and social field, it should insist on the need for the co-ordination of efforts and the adoption of a unified reporting system for all its subsidiary organs, in order to ensure that the implementation of its resolutions and decisions was properly monitored. He hoped that in future the Secretary-General's reports on assistance to the countries of southern Africa would reflect a more co-ordinated approach involving the whole United Nations system. It must be borne in mind that it was becoming increasingly difficult to establish a clear distinction between medium-term and long-term emergency aid, on the one hand, and general development assistance, on the other; hence the need for more co-ordination.

32. The circumstances of the countries which had recently attained independence were especially critical because of the disruption of their economies as a result of the wars of national liberation and because of their shortage of trained technical and administrative personnel. The reports of the missions sent by the Secretary-General to those countries represented an initial attempt towards a programmed approach to their economic development. In the first place, up-to-date information and statistics must be collected, since the figures currently available, particularly those on *per capita* GDP, were misleading because they related to the colonial period and included substantial sums assigned, *inter alia*, to the maintenance of armed forces to fight against the liberation movements. A concerted effort by the whole system was necessary in order to establish

new statistics on the basis of which the aid to be supplied to those countries by the United Nations system could be planned and programmed. OAU was fully aware of the concern which the Committee for Development Planning had expressed in the report on its fourteenth session (E/1978/46 and Corr.1) and regretted that the Committee had not had before it the excellent reports prepared by the Secretary-General on those countries when it had considered the question of their inclusion in the list of the least developed countries (*ibid.*, chap. IV); the Committee had, however, recommended that they should be provided with special assistance. A more thorough examination should be made of the situation in the newly independent countries. Bearing in mind their lack of personnel and the inadequacy of their administrative structures, it might be advisable to establish an interagency task force or a group of experts well informed of their special problems, in order to assist the office of the Co-ordinator, Special Economic Assistance Programmes. Exchanges of information and experience between the countries concerned and the team thus established would make it possible to rationalize and co-ordinate aid programmes, and in consequence to ensure that they were more effective, by reducing to a minimum the administrative formalities to be completed for the preparation and financing of projects. At the moment, a number of those countries were not in a position to derive full benefit from the assistance provided by the United Nations system, because they did not fully understand how it operated and how best to make use of it for their development purposes. Seminars or training programmes for representatives of those countries could perhaps be organized. The reports drawn up by the special missions sent to those countries could serve as a good basis but were insufficient if they were not accompanied by a concerted effort by the international community and a group approach to the problems of the countries concerned.

33. OAU welcomed the establishment of a special fund for assistance in emergency situations, with a separate account for each country, which injected an element of flexibility and speed into assistance activities. It was grateful to the donor countries and to the United Nations organs, especially UNHCR and WFP, for the assistance which they had provided to the countries of southern Africa and to the newly independent countries, and it hoped that such assistance could be further intensified in the future. OAU fully supported the draft resolutions submitted by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the African group of States and hoped that they would be adopted unanimously.

34. Mr. METELITS (United States of America) said that his Government sympathized with the four African nations, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia, whose economies were suffering from the effects of the

decisions they had taken to apply the sanctions approved by the United Nations against Southern Rhodesia and to resist pressure exerted upon them. That sympathy had been demonstrated in concrete fashion by bilateral assistance programmes, and the United States of America was glad to know of the efforts made by other Governments and international organizations to help those sorely tried countries. In the case of Botswana, in addition to the \$9 million grant of June 1978, the United States was planning a \$25 million programme for the 1979 financial year. His delegation applauded the economic stabilization measures undertaken by Zambia in co-operation with IMF and had provided that country with a total of \$39 million for the 1978 financial year. With regard to Lesotho, the United States had provided \$4.8 million in supporting assistance and \$26 million for the construction of a road network in the south of the country. The United States Government intended to continue its assistance to those countries, subject to certain restraints imposed by Congress in one case, which it was hoped would be temporary.

35. Turning to the group of countries covered by agenda item 7, he said that those countries deserved special attention from international organizations and Member States. His delegation noted that the Committee for Development Planning had considered, at its fourteenth session, that those countries did not fulfil the criteria for inclusion in the list of least developed countries. His delegation supported the reasons on which that decision was based.

36. With regard to agenda item 8, concerning South African student refugees, he said that the United States had always responded to the humanitarian and developmental assistance needs of refugees, whatever their political or other affiliations. It recognized the heavy burden imposed on the countries of the region by the exodus of students as a result of the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa and the practice of *apartheid* in southern Africa. For that reason, the United States would continue to provide humanitarian assistance for those refugees, on the clear understanding, however, that the problems could only be solved properly by the improvement of the conditions which were the cause of the exodus; the United States, together with other countries, was working to achieve universally acceptable negotiated solutions in Namibia and Southern Rhodesia. Until such solutions were achieved, and in order to further the efforts to mitigate the hardships suffered by student refugees and the countries receiving them, the United States was prepared to examine any proposals which the Secretary-General might wish to submit in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 32/119.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

35th meeting

Tuesday, 1 August 1978, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.35

In the absence of the President, Mr. Martynenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Assistance to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia (continued) (A/33/112 and Add.1, A/33/166, A/33/173, E/1978/114, E/1978/L.34-L.37, E/1978/L.47)

AGENDA ITEM 7

Assistance in emergency situations (continued) (A/33/120, A/33/139, A/33/170, E/1978/46 and Corr.1, E/1978/L.38-L.43, E/1978/L.46)

AGENDA ITEM 8

Assistance to South African student refugees (continued) (A/33/163 and Corr.1, E/1978/L.44)

1. Mr. GILLIES (Observer for Canada) said that the four African countries most affected economically by the persistence of the objectionable conditions in southern Africa needed the urgent attention of the international community. As a member of the Consultative Group on Assistance to Zambia, established by the World Bank, Canada was keenly aware of the economic crisis facing Zambia. It expected to increase its assistance to Zambia during the current year, mainly in the rural and transport sectors. Canada considered that more aid should be provided by the international community for the transport network of Zambia and it hoped that its transport project in the United Republic of Tanzania would be of benefit to Zambia.

2. During the period 1978-1983, Canada would provide Botswana with assistance valued at \$22 million, designed to strengthen the country's key economic sectors, including mining, transport, education and agriculture. Canada had provided Mozambique with \$2 million of food aid in the past year and would provide assistance amounting to \$30 million to Lesotho for the period 1978-1983, to be spent partly on the construction of a road through the southern part of the country. It was also assisting Lesotho to develop its mining, agricultural and industrial sectors.

3. With regard to assistance to South African student refugees, Canada had furnished \$250,000 in 1977 to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

4. The draft resolutions before the Council reflected the concern of the international community and he hoped they would be adopted by consensus.

5. Mr. DORUM (Observer for Norway), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, said that those countries were greatly concerned about the plight of South African student refugees. Following the tragic events at Soweto in June 1976, which had come as a result of mounting resentment against South Africa's educational policies towards

the African population and as a reaction against racial policies in general, there had been a marked increase in the number of refugees of student age entering various African countries. In order to escape repression, African students had left South Africa and sought refuge in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia. Their needs had imposed great strains on the limited resources of those developing countries, which were to be highly commended for the considerable efforts they had made to cater for the refugees.

6. The financial response to appeals from the international community to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for contributions towards assistance programmes for the refugees had been encouraging, and he was glad to learn that progress had been made in improving living conditions for the refugee students and in planning the construction of additional facilities for their accommodation and education. Several African countries, in particular Nigeria and Ghana, had responded to appeals from UNHCR to accept student refugees in their educational institutions. UNHCR, in co-operation with a number of other organizations in the United Nations system, was taking effective action to provide emergency relief to meet the needs of the refugees and to prepare special education programmes. Valuable assistance had also been provided by liberation movements in the countries concerned.

7. The Nordic countries paid a tribute to all the organizations and bodies involved in that humanitarian task. They had contributed substantially to many of those bodies and some had also given bilateral assistance to the countries concerned to finance the construction of schools in which a substantial number of places were earmarked for South African refugee students.

8. It was clear, however, that the volume of assistance rendered so far by the international community fell short of the needs. In order to make the assistance provided more effective, a few areas might be given special attention. Several organizations were engaged in the work for South African refugee students, with the UNHCR as co-ordinator of the assistance within the United Nations system. The Nordic countries wished to stress the importance of further improvement in the implementation and co-ordination of assistance projects so that the maximum benefit might be derived from them.

9. In addition, counselling, welfare and social services should be further strengthened to help the refugees to overcome their problems. Many refugees were becoming frustrated through inactivity and lack of educational opportunities and, in view of their youth, adequate counselling services should be developed in order to avoid severe social problems.

10. As oppressive measures in South Africa continued and even increased, the neighbouring countries would probably experience an increased influx of refugees. The international community should redouble its efforts

to ensure that the student refugees were able to continue their education in adequate living conditions, and preferably in Africa. The Nordic countries fully supported the views expressed in draft resolution E/1978/L.44.

11. Mr. ZEGERS (International Monetary Fund) said that the Zambian Government was to be commended for its courage in undertaking a major financial stabilization programme as part of its attempt to cope with present difficulties. At the end of 1977, however, Zambia's gross foreign reserves had been equivalent to less than one month's imports; consequently, IMF had approved a stand-by arrangement of SDRs 250 million, equivalent to approximately \$312 million, and a compensatory financing facility of SDRs 48.75 million, or approximately \$61 million, the total assistance amounting to approximately \$373 million. Part of that amount had been made available immediately and the rest was being disbursed over a two-year period.

12. The main objectives of the financial stabilization programme, in support of which the present stand-by arrangement had been approved, were to restore overall balance-of-payments equilibrium by 1980, reduce the current rate of inflation of 20 per cent per annum to a more tolerable level and provide the basis for a resumption of economic growth. Of major importance in achieving the programme's objectives were a reduction in the over-all budget deficit, the restoration of financial viability of the mining companies and the implementation of a prices and incomes policy. In addition, the programme included various external policy measures, including a 10 per cent depreciation of the kwacha in terms of the SDR, which had taken effect on 17 March 1978 and was designed to improve the competitiveness and profitability of the export sector. Another important objective was the orderly reduction and eventual elimination of external payments arrears by 1980.

13. That was not to suggest that all that Zambia needed was IMF assistance, which could only help Zambia to cope with the immediate difficulties impeding development. More assistance was required if the Zambian economy was to be given further opportunities for sustained growth, *inter alia* through the diversification of its economic base. The IMF hoped that its cooperation with Zambia would encourage the required additional assistance to be made available.

14. Mr. IYER (India) said that Mozambique and Zambia had struggled heroically to apply sanctions against the illegal racist Smith régime, in compliance with United Nations resolutions. Botswana and Lesotho, surrounded by territory under the control of the two racist régimes, had unwaveringly adhered to their duties under the Charter. All four deserved support for their contribution to the cause of liberation in southern Africa.

15. Transport and communications in those countries required particular attention. While colonial patterns were being modified in other parts of Africa through the joint efforts of the African nations, the racist régimes were attempting to hold the free nations of southern Africa to ransom through their control of communications, especially those of the land-locked countries. He hoped that international assistance would be forthcoming in those fields, for a new transport pattern could considerably alleviate adverse trade conditions.

16. India had already responded to the Council's 1977 request and had also been providing all possible

assistance to the liberation movements and to students coming from areas controlled by the racist régimes. Positive action by the Council would strengthen the resolve of the free nations of southern Africa.

17. Mr. FARNON (New Zealand) said that his Government, conscious of the serious nature of the problem, had responded to the appeal by UNHCR for emergency assistance to student refugees from South Africa. It had also assisted in a practical way by offering a number of awards under its bilateral training programme to students from southern Africa in a wide range of educational and vocational training fields. The granting of those awards to student refugees from southern Africa was part of a programme originally intended for students from areas closer to New Zealand and was an indication of his Government's desire to assist in solving the problems of southern Africa.

18. Mr. AN Chih-yuan (China) said that the liberation movements and the armed struggle of the peoples of southern Africa were developing with increased vigour. At the recent fifteenth ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of OAU a series of resolutions designed to increase support for southern Africa against the Smith and Vorster régimes had been adopted. While claiming to be achieving so-called peaceful settlements, those régimes had intensified oppression within their countries and had repeatedly carried out armed attacks against neighbouring States. Meanwhile, the two super-Powers were engaged in a struggle for hegemony in southern Africa, condoning or directly supporting the racist régimes, or endeavouring to provoke discord between African countries and the liberation movements. The super-Power which claimed to be the natural ally of the African people was committing aggression in Africa through its mercenaries. The resolute opposition of African Governments to super-Power aggression and interference had been clearly manifested at the recent OAU Conference.

19. The Chinese Government gave full support to the Governments and peoples of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia in their heroic struggle against the aggressive policies of the Smith and Vorster racist régimes. By implementing United Nations resolutions on sanctions, those countries had suffered economically and were faced with unusual difficulties. Several United Nations bodies had made worthy efforts to assist but the help given fell far short of the needs. His delegation hoped that the organizations within the United Nations system would mobilize their resources and increase their programmes of assistance to the people of those countries.

20. Mr. TINCA (Romania) said that the peculiar infrastructural links between the countries of southern Africa meant that the implementation by Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia of the United Nations resolutions on sanctions had resulted in significant material sacrifices by those countries. The acts of aggression committed by Southern Rhodesia, and the policy of racial discrimination pursued by South Africa, were a constant menace to the security of neighbouring countries, which were compelled to divert an important part of their resources to defence purposes. In addition, they were confronted with serious problems arising from the ever-increasing number of refugees seeking asylum to escape from racial oppression in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. To make matters worse, natural disasters had stricken the already weak economies of those countries.

21. Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia were developing countries, and some of them were numbered among the least developed countries. Consequently, the losses they incurred were higher than those which larger and much richer countries would suffer if they complied in full with United Nations resolutions on sanctions. Any action by the Council to extend assistance to those countries would be no more than a simple act of equity on the part of the international community.

22. His delegation fully supported the proposed action to increase assistance. In the same spirit, it expressed its solidarity with the countries which had recently achieved independence and endorsed proposals for United Nations assistance to them.

23. Mr. OCOKOLJIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the situation in the "front-line" States was deteriorating. There were reports of fresh attacks by the Southern Rhodesian forces against Mozambique, where the primary targets were refugee camps. Such action was bound to aggravate the already fragile economic and financial situation of that country and place additional strains on scanty resources necessarily diverted to defence purposes. Assistance by the international community thus assumed additional importance. His delegation supported the assistance measures proposed for Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho and Zambia. The problems experienced by those countries made it essential that the assistance of the international community should be substantially increased, particularly that of the developed countries and the international financial institutions.

24. The other category of countries, which were in a difficult situation resulting from unfavourable climatic conditions and from the inherited structure of their economies, would need development assistance for a long time to come. Institutions such as UNDP, WFP, the World Bank and the regional development banks should continue to play an important role in that context. As was well known, the Yugoslav Government had extended various kinds of assistance to the "front-line" States and to those suffering primarily from unfavourable climatic conditions. The needs of such countries were enormous. The United Nations was performing an important task by informing all countries, and public opinion at large, of the plight in which those countries found themselves.

25. Mr. MAJCHER (Poland) said that his Government supported the programmes of assistance by the United Nations system to Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, the Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Djibouti and Seychelles. His country was developing bilateral economic relations with some of those countries and was carrying out technical co-operation programmes for training national experts and providing experts needed for development and relief programmes. He supported the assistance which had been described (33rd meeting) in detail by the Joint Co-ordinator of the United Nations Special Economic Assistance Programmes, but pointed out that most of the countries in the two categories referred to had been under colonial rule until recently and the former conquerors had the primary responsibility for rectifying the deterioration they had undergone under colonial domination.

26. His country had great sympathy for the countries which were suffering serious economic and other difficulties as a result of *apartheid* and other policies of

oppression practised by the racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. The problem of the Zimbabwe refugees, including thousands of children, who were in neighbouring countries as a result of the continuation of the colonial régime, was particularly acute. The only remedy was to eliminate the colonial situation that had brought about that state of affairs.

27. His country greatly appreciated the efforts being made by the agencies of the United Nations system and by individual countries to provide assistance. Those efforts had the added advantage of establishing a basis for constructive co-operation.

28. Ms. BETTON (Jamaica) said that agenda items 5, 7 and 8 dealt essentially with programmes of international assistance for two categories of country: those which were suffering grave economic problems as a result of the political situation in southern Africa, and the newly independent countries of the Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Djibouti and Seychelles, which urgently needed assistance. Her delegation entirely supported the programmes of assistance to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia—the "front-line" States—and hoped that the relevant draft resolutions would be adopted. Those countries were suffering economic hardship because they had had the courage to try to help others to achieve individual liberty, freedom and self-determination—the first principles of human existence. Their struggle against the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia deserved full recognition and support. Her Government's position was well known; the international community would be shirking its moral responsibility if it did not give urgent attention to measures to put a speedy end to violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity and the existence of *apartheid* and racism. She appealed to all nations to carry out the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and put an end to collaboration with the illegal régimes so that the oppressed peoples of southern Africa could be freed.

29. With regard to the newly independent countries, her delegation noted that the Committee for Development Planning had considered the possibility of including them in the list of the least developed countries but had decided that they did not satisfy the existing criteria valid for the Second United Nations Development Decade. It had, however, recognized the need for special measures to assist those countries (see E/1978/46, chap. IV). She regretted that it had interpreted the criteria so rigidly, particularly because conditions in those countries had changed since the time when the criteria had been established. More realistic criteria were needed and a more flexible approach, to include countries other than those at the lowest stage economically. She welcomed the adoption by consensus in the First (Economic) Committee of draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.10, in which attention was drawn to the opinion of the Committee for Development Planning that the special difficulties of those countries called for special measures of assistance, and in which all States were urged to take that view into account in forming their assistance programmes and policies. Her delegation endorsed that request and appealed for urgent assistance for the countries in question.

30. Mr. DE OLIVEIRA NUNES (Portugal) said that his delegation fully supported the programmes of international assistance recommended by the Security Council and the General Assembly. Such programmes

must be intensified for the newly independent States, which were faced with urgent economic and social problems, and for those which were faced with serious economic difficulties as a result of the political situation in southern Africa. The reports of the Secretary-General showed the gravity of the situation and the vital need to increase financial, technical and material assistance to those countries, with due regard to the particular needs of each country as assessed by the country itself. Such aid should help to strengthen economic and social structures and improve the well-being of the inhabitants.

31. His country had close links with Africa and naturally took particular interest in the programmes of assistance for the newly independent Portuguese-speaking countries. Continued efforts were needed to mobilize resources, not only to overcome immediate economic difficulties, but also for long-term economic development projects.

32. His country had its own difficulties but was nevertheless doing its best to contribute to the common effort. Bilateral co-operative programmes of assistance were being carried out in a number of fields, such as those of health, telecommunications, shipping and aviation, education, vocational and technical training and science.

33. Mr. ZIEGLER (Austria) said that, as his Government's attitude to all the questions concerning southern Africa had been stated on many occasions, he would restrict his remarks to the question of assistance to the countries suffering the severe effects of the political situation in southern Africa.

34. His country had provided machinery and technical assistance to Lesotho for building the Trans-Lesotho Highway. It had also sent a number of experts there and was providing scholarships for students from that country. It was at present considering a project for assistance in developing a network of mobile clinics to serve the people of the more remote areas of Botswana. A second credit agreement was being concluded with Zambia, on the lines of the first agreement in 1975, to help to finance the extension of the coal mines in Maamba. In response to a request from the Zambian Government, Austrian doctors and other medical personnel had been made available and a number of scholarships had been awarded to Zambian nationals. His country had also responded to the United Nations appeal to assist Mozambique and to help students from Zimbabwe and was studying the possibility of an assistance programme for the United Nations Institute for Namibia at Lusaka.

35. Those activities were only a small contribution towards easing the severe political and economic pressures facing those countries, but they demonstrated his Government's support for the countries and its determination to continue its policy of good will and solidarity. His Government viewed with equal sympathy the problems of newly independent countries such as Seychelles, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Tonga and the Comoros and hoped that the international community would take steps to meet their particular needs.

36. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan), referring to agenda item 5, said that his Government's attitude to the problems of southern Africa was well known. His Government was strongly supporting the efforts of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia by providing assistance in response to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

In the current year, it had provided aid worth 100 million yen for Lesotho, in response to Security Council resolution 402 (1976). His Government appreciated the efforts of Zambia and Mozambique to comply with Security Council resolutions 232 (1966) and 253 (1968) at great financial sacrifice. Assistance to Zambia, which dated back to 1973, included a concessional loan of 6.7 billion yen for 1977 alone. In accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, a total of \$1.25 million in emergency aid had been channelled to Mozambique through UNHCR and \$1 million worth of rice had been provided as food aid to that country. As far as multilateral assistance was concerned, his delegation had supported the decision at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UNDP to give special assistance to Botswana, the Comoros, Lesotho, and Mozambique.¹ His Government would continue to support the efforts of those countries and to provide economic assistance as appropriate.

37. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that his delegation's sponsorship of the relevant draft resolutions spoke for itself. He welcomed the assistance given to the countries in question and appealed for further assistance to be provided.

38. With regard to the report of the Committee for Development Planning, he recognized that the Committee had used objective criteria, which his country had supported, for inclusion in the list of the least developed countries, but he hoped that the Committee would take into account the comments that had been made when reviewing the case of the countries now under consideration.

Mr. Mills (Jamaica) took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Horn of Africa (E/1978/L.45)

39. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan), introducing draft resolution E/1978/L.45 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the text was the result of intensive consultations in the African Group and had been approved by all parties concerned. Its purpose was to mobilize international humanitarian relief and assistance for the refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa and to heighten international awareness of their plight so that assistance could be provided as a matter of priority. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

40. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) said that the draft resolution was the result of prolonged consultations under the able guidance of the representative of Sudan. The final text had been unanimously endorsed by the African Group.

41. He wished to place on record his own delegation's co-operation throughout the consultations, for it was a reflection of Somalia's deep concern for the refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa.

42. As representative of a country which had first-hand experience of the humanitarian work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff, he wished to commend the High Commissioner for his efficient handling of a difficult task. The

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 3A (E/6013/Rev.1)*, para. 270.

arrival of more than half a million refugees and displaced persons within a short space of time had placed an enormous burden on his country's limited financial and manpower resources and the Government could not unaided cope with the urgent basic needs. It was already engaged in the difficult task of rehabilitating over 250,000 of its nomad population, whose way of life had been disrupted by the drought of a few years earlier. Public support had been mobilized for the displaced people and they had been received sympathetically, but it might be some time before they felt secure enough to return home.

43. His Government was extremely grateful to UNHCR for contributing \$500,000 from its emergency fund and for establishing a relief programme with a target of \$4,875,000. He appealed for contributions to the relief programme and thanked those countries and United Nations agencies that had already contributed.

44. Mr. TERREFE (Observer for Ethiopia) expressed his appreciation of the tireless efforts that had gone to produce the draft resolution, especially on the part of the delegation of Sudan. His own country's problem was as important as any in the Horn of Africa, with hundreds of thousands of people living in temporary shelter, having lost everything they had possessed. The situation had been fully reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He hoped that the Council would support the draft resolution and would implement it in the spirit in which it had been formulated—in the context of existing conventions and agreements concluded by the United Nations and by OAU.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.45 was adopted [resolution 1978/39].

45. The PRESIDENT expressed his personal appreciation to the Chairman and members of the African Group and to all who had contributed to the successful outcome of negotiations concerning the item. In particular, he thanked the two delegations concerned for their co-operation.

AGENDA ITEM 35

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (*concluded*) * (E/1978/75)

46. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1978/75) and to transmit it, together with the comments made thereon at the current session, to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

It was so decided [decision 1978/44]

AGENDA ITEM 24

International Year of the Child

REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1978/121)

Draft resolution: International Year of the Child

47. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1978/

121). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/40].

48. Mr. KHOURY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had associated itself with the consensus on the adoption of the draft resolution, on the understanding that the other interested bodies referred to in operative paragraph 5 would include national liberation movements recognized by the United Nations and OAU.

49. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 24.

AGENDA ITEM 26

United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1978/124)

Draft decision: Technical co-operation among developing countries

50. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee for adoption in paragraph 3 of its report (E/1978/124). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft decision without a vote.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/45].

51. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 26.

AGENDA ITEM 29

Disaster relief co-ordination

REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1978/120)

Draft resolution: Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

52. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolution contained in paragraph 9 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1978/120). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/41].

53. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled the reservations expressed by his delegation in the Third Committee (see E/1978/C.3/SR.4) concerning the reference, in the first preambular paragraph of the resolution, to General Assembly resolution 32/56.

54. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 29.

AGENDA ITEM 22

International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system

REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1978/122)

55. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to consider the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 22. In paragraph 34 of that report, the

* Resumed from the 32nd meeting.

Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of four draft resolutions and six draft decisions. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted all four draft resolutions and six draft decisions without a vote.

Draft resolution I: Consumer protection

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/42].

Draft resolution II: Application of computer science and technology to development

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/43].

Draft resolution III: World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/44].

Draft resolution IV: World Climate Programme

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/45].

Draft decision I: The promotion of tourism and membership of the World Tourism Organization

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/46].

Draft decision II: International years and anniversaries

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/47].

Draft decision III: World Communications Year

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/48].

Draft decision IV: Progress report on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/49].

Draft decision V: The application of computer science and technology to development

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/50].

Draft decision VI: Study of the relationship between population, resources, environment and development

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/51].

56. Mr. BRESLIN (World Meteorological Organization) said that the adoption by the Council of the resolution on the World Climate Programme was an event of great significance, reflecting the importance attached by the foremost international forum for economic and social matters to the effects of climate on many aspects of world economy. The adoption of the resolution not only reassured WMO that it was on the right course; it would also have a great impact within WMO, especially at the forthcoming WMO Congress, at which representatives of member countries would meet to approve the programme and budget for the next four years. By adopting such resolutions, the Council, and in some cases the General Assembly, could give valuable guidance to WMO and could influence the priorities and guidelines for its efforts to promote economic and social progress.

57. The PRESIDENT said that agenda item 22 would, as agreed by the Council at the beginning of the present session, remain open until its resumed second regular session, 1978, so that the Third Committee could submit all the relevant reports.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (continued)*

Calendar of conferences and meetings (continued)* (E/1978/L.32 and Add.1)

58. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) announced a proposal by the Group of 77 that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be postponed from September 1978 to January 1979. The purpose was chiefly to allow adequate time for preparation; at the second session, the amount of preparatory time required had left little opportunity for the general discussions. Postponement would also avoid conflict with the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the second session of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174.

59. Since the date 7 August 1978, scheduled for the start of the next meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations, was inconveniently early for many Governments, which were still awaiting a relevant decision from the Council, those meetings could perhaps be postponed until the period 18 to 29 September 1978, which would become available if the third session of the Preparatory Committee was postponed until January 1979.

60. Mr. OLDAEUS (Sweden) said that his delegation saw no difficulty in the postponement of the Preparatory Committee's third session to January 1979. If the Council so decided, it should indicate that the postponed third session would be held in New York.

61. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that it had been made clear to the Council that the decision to hold the Preparatory Committee's third session at Headquarters during the period from 18 to 29 September 1978 had been on the understanding that the Preparatory Committee would avail itself of the conference facilities provided for the Second Committee of the General Assembly but would not overlap that Committee's meetings. Consequently, the postponement of the Preparatory Committee's third session would not leave available the full amount of conference facilities that the Intergovernmental Working Group was going to need.

62. The Preparatory Committee could possibly hold its third session from 29 January to 9 February 1979, and its fourth session from 7 to 18 May 1979, which meant forfeiting one week of the Council's own meeting time—a feasible arrangement, to judge from the experience of 1978. A session in June 1979 was possible, but the difficulties that would arise from the resultant closeness to the fourth session and the technical problems of documentation and other matters would far outweigh the difficulties of rearranging some of the Council's own work in May 1979.

63. The meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct could be rescheduled for 29 September to 6 October 1978 at Geneva, which would have financial implications, although that would violate some of the General Assembly's calendar guidelines. Alternatively, the Working Group's January

* Resumed from the 32nd meeting.

meeting could begin a few days earlier; the Working Group could thus meet from 3 to 17 January 1979 and again from 12 to 22 March 1979, as originally envisaged.

64. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said that, although the Group of 77 had thought that the postponement of the Preparatory Committee's meetings would thereby free some conference facilities for other use, its proposal was not meant to imply that the period from 18 to 29 September 1978 was the only one available for the Intergovernmental Working Group. The latter could possibly begin its meetings shortly before that period, so as not to be restricted to the number of days available if the meetings began on 18 September. The Council, it was hoped, would at least agree that the Intergovernmental Working Group should not meet on 7 August 1978, and the Group of 77 stood by its proposal that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be postponed until January 1979.

65. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) suggested that the Council should take an immediate decision to the effect that the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations could not take place in August.

66. He asked whether the suggestion for convening the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development from 29 January to 9 February 1979 took account of the draft decision before the First (Economic) Committee (E/1978/C.1/L.27) that the organizational session of the Council should begin on the first Tuesday in February of each year. The Council had to decide whether such an overlap was acceptable.

67. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that it was impossible to schedule some 80 weeks of meetings in a 52-week period without overlapping. The Committee of the Whole and the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea had to be convened before 18 September 1978. He had received instructions from Headquarters to the effect that the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations could not be convened in September 1978, since it could not overlap the thirty-third session of the General Assembly. An exception had been made in the case of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development because that body was a committee of the whole of the General Assembly. The Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct could be held at Geneva from 25 September to 6 October 1978, but that would have financial implications. The possibility of convening the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development so that it would not overlap the organizational session of the Council might be investigated, but it would then inevitably overlap meetings of some other body.

68. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) asked whether the proposal for scheduling the session of the Committee of the Whole for 18 September 1978 instead of 5 September, thus leaving the period from 5 to 15 September available for the meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct, still stood. His delegation could accept that suggestion if other delegations so wished.

69. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the facilities available to the Committee of the Whole for the period from 18 September were those he had already indicated. As a committee of the whole of the General Assembly, it would not be subject to the same restrictions as the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct, but it had strongly emphasized that it required to hold four meetings a day and it might find it difficult to operate with a total of only 14 meetings in two weeks.

70. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that he had had the impression that the Council was about to take the inevitable decision that the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct could not meet in August 1978. To leave open the possibility of postponing the Committee of the Whole to the dates suggested would leave the members of the Intergovernmental Working Group in suspense. Since it was impossible for that body to meet in August, arrangements should be made for it to meet in September. It was not clear when the Council would have to take the consequential decisions, but informal discussions on such issues had proved useful in the past. The decision not to hold any meetings during the first two weeks of January would preclude the convening of the Intergovernmental Working Group during that period.

71. It should not be impossible for the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development to meet concurrently with the organizational session of the Council. The Council might consider shortening its first regular session of 1979. It should be borne in mind that the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was scheduled to begin on 7 May 1979. He suggested that the Council should take an immediate decision to postpone the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group until September and should give further thought to the precise arrangements to be made for convening the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development. If it was decided to postpone the September session of the Preparatory Committee, the Council would have to give careful consideration to the text of draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.18.

72. Mr. KINSMAN (Observer for Canada) said that he was somewhat baffled by the explanations which had been given on the facilities available for meetings. There had clearly been some over-scheduling, but, as an active delegation in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, his delegation would have expected that body to be able to hold more meetings than the number indicated as being available. He wished to know the reasons for the instructions received from Headquarters to the effect that the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations could not meet concurrently with the General Assembly. His delegation would reluctantly acquiesce in a rescheduling of the session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development, provided the Council urged the General Assembly to give serious consideration to certain aspects of the Preparatory Committee's work programme. He endorsed the idea of convening an additional session in the spring of 1979. In the light of the informal paper presented by the President at the morning meeting, and in view of some of the time constraints, consideration might be

given to convening the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development itself a few weeks earlier than planned.

73. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) asked whether the Assistant Secretary-General had any information on the facilities that would be available to the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct during the early part of September. The sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be held in New York rather than at Geneva.

74. The Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct had indicated that it would require another three sessions to complete its work, and that view had been endorsed by the Commission on Transnational Corporations. The three sessions were necessary not only in themselves, but also to enable inter-sessional work to be carried out. Two sessions would therefore be insufficient, even if one of them was extended. The Intergovernmental Working Group had also emphasized the need for holding a session before the thirty-third session of the General Assembly. Consultations among delegations in the Commission on Transnational Corporations had indicated that it would have been impossible at the time to schedule a meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group for September, and it had been reluctantly agreed that the session would have to take place in August. Any possibility of meeting the concern of delegations for urgent dis-

cussions without forcing an August session on them should be made use of.

75. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) suggested that, at the present stage, the Council should simply take a decision to the effect that the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct should not be held the following week.

76. Mr. OLDAEUS (Sweden) said that the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Working Group was anxious that the session should take place preferably before the General Assembly, and not later than early autumn, in accordance with the views expressed by the Intergovernmental Working Group and endorsed by the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

77. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should decide that the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group should not take place the following week, that the Council should give further consideration at a later stage to the matters it had just discussed and that the Secretariat should be requested to prepare a short paper to assist it in its consideration.

It was so decided.

78. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that he hoped the paper to be provided by the Secretariat would explore every possibility of convening the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group in September.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

36th meeting

Wednesday, 2 August 1978, at 3.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.36

AGENDA ITEM 5

Assistance to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia (*continued*) (E/1978/L.34-L.37, E/1978/L.47)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution E/1978/L.34 on assistance to Zambia.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.34 was adopted [resolution 1978/46].

2. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution just adopted, on the understanding that the General Assembly would examine the cost estimates provided by the Secretariat in its statement of programme budget implications (E/1978/L.36).

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolution E/1978/L.35 on assistance to Mozambique.

4. Mrs. WACUP (Federal Republic of Germany) suggested that the words "and United Nations agencies" in operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution E/1978/L.35 should be deleted and that the words "to grant", before the words "to Mozambique", in the same paragraph should be replaced by the words "to consider granting".

5. In reply to a question by Mr. LOPEZ PAZ (Cuba), she explained that she had proposed that the words "and United Nations agencies" should be deleted because her delegation considered that the agencies should grant the special treatment enjoyed by the least developed countries only to those included in the list of such countries.

6. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) said that, although the sponsors of the draft resolution might, in a spirit of compromise, agree to the replacement of the words "to grant" by the words "to consider granting", they would have difficulty in accepting the deletion of the words "and United Nations agencies".

7. Mrs. WACUP (Federal Republic of Germany) and Mr. KOMURUYANYE GASASIRA (Uganda) suggested that further consideration of draft resolution E/1978/L.35 should be deferred pending negotiations.

It was so agreed.

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolutions E/1978/L.37 on assistance to Lesotho and E/1978/L.47 on assistance to Botswana.

Draft resolutions E/1978/L.37 and E/1978/L.47 were adopted [resolutions 1978/47 and 1978/48].

9. Mr. MTONGA (Observer for Zambia) said that he had been most impressed by the goodwill shown by most delegations and by their appeal to the international community for urgent technical and financial

support for the front-line countries in southern Africa. He hoped that that goodwill would be translated into practical assistance; unless there was economic stability in the front-line States, the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa could easily be thwarted by the racist minority régimes, who, with the support of international imperialist and colonialist forces, were daily waging wars of military and economic terror against the front-line States. His country required international economic and technical assistance to offset the hardships it was incurring in fulfilling the international obligation to ensure freedom and justice for all peoples in southern Africa, regardless of race, creed or religion.

10. His country had executed two development plans since its attainment of independence in 1964, and it was to begin a third in 1979. But for the measures it had had to take as a result of Southern Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence and the consequent border closure by the racist régime in 1973, his country's first two development plans would have been even more effective than they had been. Representatives of any country or organization of goodwill would be free to visit Zambia and discuss with the Government any aspect of the third national development plan for which they might wish to provide assistance. The plan was to be directed largely to agricultural development as a means of reducing dependence on copper.

11. Mr. MODISI (Observer for Botswana) welcomed the resolutions which had just been adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Assistance in emergency situations (*continued*) (E/1978/L.38-L.43)

12. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolutions E/1978/L.38-L.43.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.38 on assistance to the Comoros was adopted [resolution 1978/49].

Draft resolution E/1978/L.39 on assistance to Sao Tome and Principe was adopted [resolution 1978/50].

Draft resolution E/1978/L.40 on assistance to Cape Verde was adopted [resolution 1978/51].

Draft resolution E/1978/L.41 on assistance to Guinea-Bissau was adopted [resolution 1978/52].

Draft resolution E/1978/L.42 on assistance to Djibouti was adopted [resolution 1978/53].

Draft resolution E/1978/L.43 on assistance to Seychelles was adopted [resolution 1978/54].

13. Ms. NSUBUGA (Observer for Seychelles) welcomed the adoption of the resolution on assistance to Seychelles, which she hoped would be implemented by the international community.

14. Mr. BRANCO (Observer for Sao Tome and Principe) welcomed the adoption of the resolution on assistance to Sao Tome and Principe and hoped that the international community would respond to the appeals made by the General Assembly. He regretted that his country was not classified among the least developed countries. His delegation hoped that the report presented by the mission which had visited his country, and the conclusions of the Committee for Development Planning, would find understanding among States and appropriate international bodies. Assistance from the international community would be

of vital importance for his country's development efforts during its first years of independence.

15. Mr. FERNANDES (Observer for Guinea-Bissau) said that his delegation was grateful for the adoption of the resolution on assistance to Guinea-Bissau, to which it hoped there would be a suitable response. His country regretted that it was not included in the list of least developed countries, the criteria for which were now outdated. Some countries not included in the list were in a less favourable position than many who had been included for the past 10 years. To have to wait until the beginning of the next development decade before new criteria were adopted would mean losing some three or four years' aid. The GNP figures on which the present criteria were based failed to give a true picture of the situation. Those for Guinea-Bissau had taken into account the presence of Portuguese troops, while those for Djibouti still took account of the presence of French troops. He hoped that more attention would be paid to the actual situation in the countries concerned in the future.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Assistance to South African student refugees (*concluded*) (E/1978/L.44)

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution E/1978/L.44 on assistance to South African student refugees.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.44 was adopted [resolution 1978/55].

17. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 8.

AGENDA ITEM 23

Comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development

REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1978/123)

18. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the two draft resolutions and the three draft decisions contained in paragraph 16 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1978/123).

Draft resolution I: United Nations Children's Fund

Draft resolution I was adopted [resolution 1978/56].

Draft resolution II: United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries

19. The PRESIDENT put to the vote draft resolution II, which had been adopted by the Third Committee by 32 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 25 votes to none, with 9 abstentions [resolution 1978/57].

20. Mr. FILIMONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the comments made by his delegation after the adoption of draft resolutions I and II in the Third Committee (see E/1978/C.3/SR.20) still applied.

Draft decision I: Administrative expenses of the United Nations Capital Development Fund

Draft decision I was adopted [decision 1978/52].

21. Mr. OCOKOLJIĆ (Yugoslavia), supported by Mr. BERTELING (Netherlands), said that he wished to reserve his delegation's position on the decision

which had just been adopted. His delegation had always considered that the resources of the United Nations Capital Development Fund were intended for assistance to the least developed countries. Since those resources were limited and insufficient, the administrative expenses of the Fund should continue to be met from UNDP resources.

Draft decision II: United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

Draft decision II was adopted [decision 1978/53].

Draft decision III: Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its twenty-fifth session

Draft decision III was adopted [decision 1978/54].

22. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 23.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

37th meeting

Thursday, 3 August 1978, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.37

AGENDA ITEM 16

United Nations Special Fund

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE
(E/1978/125)

Draft decision: United Nations Special Fund

1. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft decision contained in paragraph 3 of the report of the First Committee on agenda item 16 (E/1978/125). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft decision without a vote.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/55].

2. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 16.

Draft decision: Development and international economic co-operation

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/56].

4. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the resolution on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, reaffirmed the views expressed by his delegation when the First Committee had adopted that text (see E/1978/C.1/SR.31).

5. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 11.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Development and international economic co-operation

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE
(E/1978/135)

3. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the three draft resolutions and the draft decision recommended to the Council by the First Committee for adoption and contained in paragraph 11 of its report on agenda item 11 (E/1978/135). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the three draft resolutions and the draft decision without a vote.

Draft resolution I: Report of the Committee for Developing Planning

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/58].

Draft resolution II: United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/59].

Draft resolution III: Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/60].

AGENDA ITEM 20

Natural resources

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE
(E/1978/127)

6. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution and the draft decision recommended to the Council for adoption by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report on agenda item 20 (E/1978/127). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft resolution and the draft decision without a vote.

Draft resolution: United Nations conference on new and renewable sources of energy

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/61].

Draft decision: Reports of the Secretary-General on coal and on research in non-conventional sources of energy

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/57].

Draft decision: Report of the Secretary-General requested by the Council in its resolution 2121 (LXIII) entitled "Report of the United Nations Water Conference"

7. The PRESIDENT said that in paragraph 14 of resolution 2121 (LXIII) entitled "Report of the United Nations Water Conference" the Council had requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Council, on the result of the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources. In view of the Council's decision at its first regular session of 1978 to hold in January

1979 the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources devoted to the question of water (decision 1978/38, para. 1 (k)), he proposed to the Council the adoption of a draft decision worded as follows:

"Recalling its decision 1978/38, in paragraph 1 (k) of which it decided to convene at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 24 January 1979 the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources devoted to the question of water, the Council decides to request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, through the Council, the report requested in paragraph 14 of Council resolution 2121 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977".

3. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft decision without a vote.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/58].

9. Mr. MAKURIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the report of the First Committee (E/1978/127) failed to mention the reservations which his delegation had expressed in the Committee (see E/1978/C.1/SR.11) and which it maintained.

10. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 20.

AGENDA ITEM 14

International co-operation on the environment

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE
(E/1978/126)

*Draft resolution: International co-operation on
the environment*

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of the report of the First Committee on agenda item 14 (E/1978/126). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/62].

12. Mr. MAKURIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the Committee's report failed to mention the reservations which the Soviet delegation had expressed in the Committee (see E/1978/C.1/SR.10) and which it maintained.

13. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 14.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)*

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS
(*continued*)* (E/1978/L.32 and Add.1-3)

14. Mr. OLDAEUS (Sweden) said that, according to paragraph 3 of document E/1978/L.32/Add.2, the next session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations could be held in September 1978 at Geneva. He reiterated his delegation's preference, expressed at the Council's 36th meeting, for New York as the venue for that session. Despite certain possible technical difficulties, some facilities would be available in New York, since the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations

Conference on Science and Technology for Development was no longer to meet there at that time; moreover, the Secretariat and most of the interested delegations would be there.

15. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that discussion on the proposed calendar changes would become hopelessly confused unless the Council decided to begin with one specific alteration, and to adjust the dates and places of other sessions on the basis of that change. He suggested that the Council should be given some guidance on which proposed change of dates should take precedence.

16. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that he could add nothing to the document he had prepared at the Council's request (E/1978/L.32/Add.2), which gave exhaustive details of the proposals and of the respective advantages and drawbacks.

17. In his view, the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should take precedence. With reference to the Swedish representative's observations, the conference facilities available for the original dates in September in New York might in any case have been further restricted on account of delays which had occurred in the schedule of building alterations at Headquarters.

18. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that he agreed with the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany that the Council needed a starting point for the discussions. The Assistant Secretary-General's remarks were cogent, however, and the United Kingdom delegation thought that paragraph 2 of document E/1978/L.32/Add.2 must be borne in mind by the Council in its decisions. In view of the Secretariat's doubts whether even the original schedule of meetings in September 1978 for the Preparatory Committee could have been adhered to, the Council must be careful before proposing any other meetings for that period.

19. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that events had vindicated his delegation's opposition to the original proposal to change the dates for the meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct. His delegation not only opposed any delay in the Working Group's activities but also regretted the inevitable consequent disturbance of other items in the calendar of conferences.

20. The information provided by the Secretariat in document E/1978/L.32/Add.2 was objective and realistic. His delegation proposed that, in accordance with paragraph 3 of that document, the next session of the Intergovernmental Working Group should be held in September 1978 at Geneva.

21. The PRESIDENT said that, with regard to the meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group, the Council had before it two alternatives. The first was for the Group to meet at Geneva from 25 September to 6 October 1978, at Headquarters on 8 and 9 January 1979, and again at Headquarters from 12 to 23 March 1979. The second was an extended session from 3 to 19 January 1979, and another from 12 to 23 March 1979, both at Headquarters.

22. Mr. OLDAEUS (Sweden) asked how many meetings would in fact be possible at Headquarters during September 1978.

* Resumed from the 35th meeting.

23. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) drew attention, first of all, to the General Assembly's specific instruction that no other meetings should be held while the Assembly was in session.

24. On the basis of the possible allocation of meetings to the General Assembly's Second Committee, and taking into account the state of the rebuilding work, he thought that not more than 10 meetings could be held in the two-week period available, even if the Second Committee itself did not meet at all during that period.

25. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that, in order to determine his own delegation's position and to clarify matters to the Netherlands authorities, he would like to know for certain what, among the possibilities and problems mentioned, was the overriding constraint on the use of the two weeks in September 1978 at Headquarters for the meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group.

26. ~~If it proved impossible for that Group to meet at Headquarters at that time, his delegation would prefer meetings at Headquarters in January 1979 rather than at Geneva in September 1978.~~

27. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that his delegation shared the preference expressed by the Netherlands representative. Uganda, like many other developing countries, had scant resources available and its delegation would have difficulty in attending a session at Geneva in September 1978.

28. Mr. AYENI (Nigeria), supported by Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia), said that, for the same reason, he would prefer the Intergovernmental Working Group to meet at Headquarters in January 1979.

29. Mr. OLDAEUS (Sweden) said that two priorities were apparent: first, the Intergovernmental Working Group clearly needed at least three sets of meetings, in New York, which was the venue preferred by most speakers; secondly, Governments would need time for reflection and decisions between those sessions. In view of the fact that only 10 meetings would be possible at Headquarters during September 1978, perhaps, as a compromise solution, a short session of 10 meetings could be held in New York in September 1978, followed by a slightly longer session in New York in January 1979.

30. Mrs. DERRÉ (France) said that, if all the sessions could be held during 1979, they could all be held in New York. If, however, meetings were to be held in September 1978, Geneva should be the venue chosen, in order not to disrupt the Second Committee's work, which was always arduous.

31. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had no strong views about the choice of New York or Geneva. The suggestion that an extended session might be held from 3 to 19 January 1979, however, was unrealistic. In the aftermath of the General Assembly, delegations would be too occupied to begin serious work so early in January; and, as the Swedish representative had said, Governments must be allowed time, between sessions, for reflection and decisions. The most satisfactory course would be to seek a way to hold all three sessions in 1979, in which case all could be held at Headquarters.

32. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that his delegation would prefer an extended session in January 1979 followed by further meetings in the spring of that

year. In view of the time spent in debating the matter, he suggested that the President should now sum up the general view apparent in the discussion so far.

33. The PRESIDENT said that the majority of speakers seemed to prefer the second of the two options outlined. He invited the Assistant Secretary-General to comment on the ideas expressed by the Swedish representative and the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

34. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters), referring to the question raised by the Swedish representative, pointed out that a conference room could be allocated for only one meeting per day, so that a two-week period would be required in any case for a nominal week of meetings.

35. The Secretariat would have to consult Headquarters before it could reply to the matter raised by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. It should be borne in mind that, in addition to the schedule of meetings on economic and social matters, as presented in paragraph 5 of document E/1978/L.32/Add.2, Headquarters also had a full programme of meetings on political topics.

36. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said that many delegations would find it difficult to attend meetings at Geneva in September, when they were making intensive preparations to participate in the General Assembly. He accordingly supported the compromise suggestion that the Intergovernmental Working Group should hold a restricted session in New York at that time. The suggestion that there should be an extended session in January 1979 might be discussed further.

37. Mr. IYER (India) said that it would be advisable to have three sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group before the next session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations in the summer of 1979. He would regret any decision to postpone any of the Group's meetings in 1979. In document E/1978/L.32/Add.2, no mention was made of the original suggestion of the Group of 77 that there should be a session in New York in the second half of September. His delegation appreciated the difficulties faced by the Secretariat in scheduling conferences, and also the efforts it had made to accommodate the wishes of delegations, but certain points still required clarification. He understood that the main difficulties concerned, firstly, the availability of rooms and, secondly, the availability of conference staff. It had originally been thought that, with the exception of the Trusteeship Council Chamber, the rooms which were being extended would be ready by 15 September, not 5 October as indicated in paragraph 2 of document E/1978/L.32/Add.2.

38. He asked how many meetings of the main committees were anticipated for the second half of September, how many had already been scheduled for subsidiary bodies over which the Council had no control and how many would remain available for the Intergovernmental Working Group. There might be changes which would rest in more facilities becoming available at the time. Would it be possible for the Working Group to be accommodated in one of the smaller conference rooms during the second half of September, provided the necessary staff and services were available? He would be glad to have more precise information from the Secretariat than that given in document E/1978/L.32/Add.

39. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the document in question had been prepared on the basis of intensive consultations. It would not facilitate the Council's discussion to go into the kind of detail requested by the Indian representative. There was no problem with regard to conference staff, since the General Assembly had at its disposal the largest number of such staff available to any conference in the world. The Intergovernmental Working Group comprised 48 members and could therefore not be accommodated in one of the smaller conference rooms, while not all the larger rooms were available. The General Assembly had seven main committees and only six large rooms at its disposal. The Secretariat had adopted a practice of "over-booking" meetings by 20 per cent, on the assumption, derived from past experience, that a number of meetings would be cancelled. If the Secretariat had been requested to organize any other meetings concurrently with those of the Council, it could not have done so. The Indian representative had rightly said that more facilities might become available at the time, but he could not at present say that the Group would be able to have more than 10 meetings. The present discussion was taking place on the assumption that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would not be meeting at the time.

40. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) said that the idea of having a restricted series of at least 10 meetings in September appeared to be the best way out of the difficulty. He had been glad to note that it might later be possible to accommodate one or two additional meetings. The loss of any of the meetings of a group to whose work the United Nations had attached so high a priority would be unfortunate, while the loss of a session would create even greater difficulty, in view of the importance of inter-sessional work. The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Working Group had indicated that two sessions would be insufficient. His delegation therefore hoped that a speedy decision would be taken on the suggestion that the Group should hold at least 10 meetings during the early part of the General Assembly.

41. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) agreed that the best course would be to plan for 10 meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group in September, on the understanding that any further available facilities would be allocated to the Group. He assumed that the conference rooms to be used would be rooms 2 and 4 and the Council Chamber.

42. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that he could see a strong case for endeavouring to accommodate a session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the limited basis proposed. He drew attention, however, to paragraph 2 of document E/1978/L.32/Add.2, which gave the dearest possible warning about the limited facilities that would be available in New York at that time. In view of the further warning in paragraph 5 of the note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors (E/1978/L.49) to the effect that the list of items to be dealt with by the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly was longer than ever before, any encroachment on the time available to the General Assembly should be avoided.

43. His second hesitation was based on the fact that the present discussion is proceeding on the assump-

tion that the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development originally planned for 18 to 29 September 1978, would be postponed. The implications of such a postponement should be discussed before any decision was taken to convene the Intergovernmental Group in September.

44. The PRESIDENT said that there appeared to be a strong feeling in favour of convening three sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group, one of them being held in New York in September 1978. He appreciated that a session in the early part of January would violate the principle that no meetings should be held at that time. There might be no other course, however, than to agree to the holding of a restricted session between 18 and 29 September 1978, a further session from 8 to 19 January 1979 and another from 12 to 23 March 1979. Before coming to a decision, the Council should discuss the dates for the convening of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The Secretariat had suggested that the third session of the Preparatory Committee might be held from 22 January to 2 February 1979 instead of in September 1978, and that the fourth session might take place from 7 to 16 May 1979, on the understanding that some of the services allocated to the Council during the week 7 to 11 May would be made available to the Preparatory Committee (E/1978/L.32/Add.2, para. 4).

45. Mr. DE OLIVEIRA NUNES (Portugal) suggested that, in view of the importance of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the need to give sufficient time for adequate preparation, consideration might be given to convening a one-week session of the Preparatory Committee in September 1978, extending the May session by one week, and cancelling the January session.

46. Mrs. DERRÉ (France) said that her delegation shared the concern expressed by the Portuguese representative on the need for adequate preparation. The Secretary-General of the Conference had made it clear that to delay the third session of the Preparatory Committee until January would have unfavourable consequences for the Conference itself. If it was impossible to hold a session in New York in September 1978, consideration might be given to convening one at Geneva.

47. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation would originally have preferred the third session of the Preparatory Committee to be convened in September 1978, but it had been pointed out that it would be difficult to schedule the session for that time, in view of the fact that two regional commissions had yet to make their contributions. September was becoming an overcrowded month. A number of delegations would be attending the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries at Buenos Aires, while others would be occupied with the Committee of the Whole and with the General Assembly itself. In his consultations with the Group of 77, the Secretary-General of the Conference had suggested that he might submit an outline of the programme of action for consideration by the Second Committee of the General Assembly in September 1978. The programme would be based mainly on national papers, over 80 of which had already been

submitted. He (the Yugoslav representative) appreciated the views of the Portuguese and French representatives, but in view of the difficulties many delegations would have in participating even in a short September session, it would be inappropriate to convene such a session.

48. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said that, in the light of the earlier discussions on the subject, he had not expected the Council to revert to the question of holding a session of the Preparatory Committee, of whatever length, in September 1978. The suggestion made in document E/1978/L.32/Add.2 seemed acceptable, provided that the earlier suggestion of holding a short additional session in June 1979 was not ruled out. No session should be convened simply for the sake of holding it. He hoped that nothing would be done to pre-empt the consultations taking place in the context of the draft resolution on science and technology (E/1978/C.1/L.18) approved by the First (Economic) Committee.

49. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) said that it was important to maintain a certain momentum in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development; that momentum might be lost if the Preparatory Committee did not hold a session in September. Moreover, the Second Committee of the General Assembly might not be able to deal with the matter satisfactorily.

50. Mr. CHRISTIANS (Venezuela) said that it did not seem right to press developing countries to attend a session of the Preparatory Committee in September if they indicated that they were unable to do so because they needed more time for preparation. He agreed, however, with the United States representative's view on the need to maintain momentum.

51. Mr. ZIEGLER (Austria) said that he would prefer there to be a session of the Preparatory Committee in September, even if it were only a short one. Nevertheless, he understood the difficulties of some delegations and therefore proposed that discussions should be held during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly in order that further instructions might be given to the Secretary-General of the Conference. The draft resolution approved by the First Committee could be amended accordingly.

52. Mrs. DERRÉ (France) said that she had noticed, when attending meetings of the Preparatory Committee, that many developing countries were represented by specialists and not the non-specialists who normally attended sessions of the General Assembly and similar meetings. For that reason, she did not think the Second Committee would be a satisfactory substitute for the Preparatory Committee.

53. Mr. EVSTRATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the best course would be to accept the view of many delegations, including those of a large number of developing countries, that there should be no session of the Preparatory Committee in September.

54. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the Council should now take a decision on the sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct, bearing in mind that there was a case for compensating in some measure for losing the possibility of a session of the Preparatory Committee in September.

55. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) said that he endorsed the United Kingdom representative's view.

56. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica), supported by Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany), said that, as there no longer seemed to be any pressure to hold a session of the Preparatory Committee in September, a decision could be taken forthwith.

57. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council adopted a draft decision specifying:

(a) That three additional sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations should be convened at United Nations Headquarters, the first from 18 to 29 September 1978, with limited conference facilities, the second from 8 to 19 January 1979 and the third from 12 to 23 March 1979;

(b) That the fifth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations should be convened at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 25 May 1979 (instead of from 12 to 23 March 1979);

(c) That the second session of the Commission on Human Settlements should be convened at Nairobi from 26 March to 6 April 1979;

(d) That the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas should be convened at Mexico City from 3 to 14 September 1979 (instead of during February 1979);

(e) That the next meeting of the Drafting Committee of the Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries should be held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 26 January 1979.

The President also took it that the Council noted that the meeting of the Working Committee for International Oceanographic Data Exchange would take place at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 January 1979 (instead of from 21 to 25 August 1978).

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/60, paras. 1 and 2].

Organization of the work of the resumed second regular session of 1978 (E/1978/L.48)

58. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) introduced the note by the Secretariat (E/1978/L.48) and pointed out that, in view of the decision just taken, item 21 (Science and technology) should be deleted from paragraph 3.

59. In paragraph 1, attention was drawn to the Council's decision to take steps to discontinue the resumed session. However, the number of items that the Council was required to consider at the resumed session had been increasing and in the present year there were several items which would have to be considered in detail, in particular items 10, 22 and 27—the two latter in connexion with the reorganization of the work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

60. In view of the circumstances, it was proposed that the Council should agree that some of the reports due for consideration at its resumed session should be transmitted direct to the General Assembly, on the understanding that if a member of the Council wished to comment on a particular point, it would be possible for that matter to be raised in the Council. The items for which such action was suggested were set forth

in paragraph 6 of the note. He drew attention to the action suggested in paragraph 8.

61. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) pointed out that items 10 and 26, which were listed in paragraph 3, had not been included in either paragraph 6 or paragraph 7 listing the items to be considered at the resumed session.

62. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the two items should be included in paragraph 7.

63. Mr. FARNON (New Zealand) said that the proposals in the note by the Secretariat, as corrected, seemed logical and reasonable and his delegation could support them. It would be necessary, however, to take into account the question of an International Year for Science and Technology which, as indicated in the second paragraph on page 25 of the annotated agenda (E/1978/100), was suggested for consideration at the resumed session under agenda item 22, in the light of decisions to be taken at the General Conference of UNESCO. The view had been expressed in the First (Economic) Committee, under agenda item 21, that if the proposal for an International Year for Science and Technology were to be pursued at all, it should be fully integrated in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. Since the Preparatory Committee for that Conference had not yet dealt with the programme of action and the follow-up to the Conference, and in view of the postponement of that Committee's next session, he assumed that the Council would take the opportunity at its resumed session to transmit to the Preparatory Committee whatever decision might be taken by the UNESCO General Conference.

64. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that some thought should be given to the implications for delegations of the proposals in the note by the Secretariat (E/1978/L.48), particularly as far as the substantive discussion of items 27 and 22 was concerned. Perhaps the matter could be considered in connexion with document E/1978/L.49, which dealt with the relationship between the work of the Council and the work of the General Assembly. With that proviso, he would support the proposals in the note by the Secretariat.

65. Mr. DIENE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), referring to the comment by the New Zealand representative, said that arrangements had been made to prepare a report, in pursuance of Council resolution 2108 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, for transmission to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session. He asked whether the New Zealand representative's proposal would affect the Council's decision in resolution 2108 (LXIII).

66. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) explained that the Secretariat had not wanted to anticipate any decision by bringing up the matter at the present juncture. The report would of course be brought to the Council's attention.

67. Mr. OHTAKA (Japan) supported the Secretariat's proposals but asked whether the transmission of some of the reports direct to the General Assembly would mean that the relevant items would not be discussed by the Council at its resumed session.

68. The PRESIDENT confirmed that that would be the case, unless there should be a particular matter that any delegation wished to discuss.

69. He invited the Council to take action on the draft decision contained in paragraph 8 of the note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the resumed second regular session of 1978 (E/1978/L.48).

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/61].

Organization of the work of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors (E/1978/L.49)

70. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretariat (E/1978/L.49).

71. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that, as indicated in paragraph 1 of the note, the General Assembly in its resolution 32/197 had asked the Council for assistance in the preparation of its work in the economic, social and related fields, "so that the Assembly may give timely and effective attention to the substantive issues requiring consideration". The Secretariat was now submitting information to enable the Council to discuss those matters. Pages 2 to 6 inclusive of the note consisted of a list of the items on the General Assembly agenda which would presumably be allocated to the Second and Third Committees if the previous pattern of allocation was followed. It was assumed that items 12 and 58 to 71 would go to the Second Committee and items 72 to 92 to the Third Committee.

72. As indicated in paragraph 3 of the note, the General Assembly wished to organize its agenda and allocate items so as to achieve a balanced and efficient distribution in the Second and Third Committees, with due regard to the need to consider questions of economic and social development in a co-ordinated manner. The Council might have some views on the subject. Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 described the difficulties encountered. One of the main problems, particularly in the case of the Second Committee, was the large number of items which were debated separately, and for the current year the Secretariat was trying to combine items, as in the case of items 58 and 62, each of which grouped a number of subjects. Otherwise, the agenda had been prepared along traditional lines. As indicated in paragraph 9, however, it had now been suggested that the Second Committee should hold a general debate at the beginning of the session on all the items before it and then set a deadline for the submission of proposals on the various items and establish a schedule for considering those proposals. The dates given in paragraph 9 might have to be altered slightly, in view of the decision concerning the sessions of the International Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations, which would mean a later start for the Second Committee.

73. The Second Committee was in effect a major conference on questions of development and international economic co-operation and delegations might wish to adopt the same pattern for organizing its work as the pattern adopted for special conferences. The General Assembly's injunction regarding the organization of the Committee's work had been taken into account in the proposal that the Committee should set deadlines for proposals and then organize a schedule of work in which various questions would be grouped

together. That would enable the General Assembly's specific directive that discussions should focus on specific issues and specific proposals to be put into effect. The present system provided for a series of debates which normally ended very late in the session, with no time to discuss specific proposals; those were generally discussed informally, a process which excluded a number of delegations. Successive Chairmen of the Committee had stressed the need for a more balanced distribution between formal and informal discussions of proposals.

74. The question of documentation, which was the most serious problem facing both the Second and the Third Committees, was discussed in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the note. It was too late for action on the volume of documentation for the forthcoming session, because documents were prepared in accordance with a strict time-table and were now in an advanced state of preparation. The Council might, however, be able to introduce some streamlining if the question of General Assembly documentation could be discussed concurrently with the Council's own documentation. Great restraint would have to be exercised in requests for additional reports. It was hoped to put an end to the practice, referred to in paragraph 12, whereby documents requested by the Assembly for submission to intergovernmental bodies for consideration were subsequently transmitted to the Assembly by those bodies, which in many cases had not studied them.

75. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had no objection to the proposed allocation of agenda items to the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly or to the combining of a number of subjects under one item—although any further amalgamation would be counter-productive. His delegation was strongly opposed, however, to any system which would prevent delegations from expressing their views on individual items; views could not be expressed adequately in the discussion of draft resolutions. The Assistant Secretary-General had rightly stated that the Second Committee was the most important body for economic matters and delegations should be free to comment on those matters. It was not merely a "ritual", as suggested in paragraph 6. It was important that items should be introduced by responsible persons who followed the whole discussion.

76. He agreed on the need to improve the quality of documents and reduce their volume. The Secretariat should not be overburdened by constant requests for new documents.

77. His delegation was categorically opposed to any suppression of the debate on individual agenda items by limiting debate to a general discussion.

78. Mr. OLZVOY (Observer for Mongolia), referring to the list of items suggested for the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, asked whether all the relevant General Assembly resolutions were mentioned under the items and whether the reports requested by the General Assembly would be submitted at the thirty-third session. It seemed to him that the list was not quite complete.

79. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the document merely reproduced the General Assembly provisional agenda, which had been distributed to Governments in document A/33/150. In accordance with long-standing practice estab-

lished by the General Assembly, the only resolutions indicated under each item were those which determined the inclusion of the item in the provisional agenda. There was not necessarily a reference to all the reports submitted to the Second or Third Committees. A list of the documents coming before those Committees would be issued at the beginning of the session, with an indication of the relevant legislative authority.

80. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was grateful for the note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors (E/1978/L.49) and wished to make the following comments and suggestions. At the forthcoming session, the General Assembly should be asked to consider the Council's report as a whole; its attention should be drawn to the importance of the Council's resumed session, particularly in relation to the time to be devoted to items 22 and 27 of its agenda; the General Assembly's attention should also be drawn to the Council's work on restructuring; the intolerable pressure on the calendar should be eased and the General Assembly should be requested to refrain from adding to the burden; the Council should hold an organizational session in February rather than in January, since the work of that session was largely concerned with following up what had been decided by the General Assembly; finally, many of the Council's problems relating to documentation arose from General Assembly resolutions, which imposed a great burden on the system in the year following the General Assembly session.

81. He thought that it would be helpful if the President could hold informal discussions with the Chairmen of the Second and Third Committees and with the Chairman of the General Committee (the President of the General Assembly), as appropriate, in order to explain the Council's problems.

82. The PRESIDENT said that he had been thinking along the same lines, and hoped to arrange informal discussions between the Bureau of the Council and the appropriate officials of the General Assembly, in order to convey the Council's views.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Assistance to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia (*concluded*) (E/1978/L.35)

83. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution on assistance to Mozambique (E/1978/L.35), said that they had agreed on the following amendments: in operative paragraph 8, the words "and United Nations agencies" to be deleted; the word "grant" in the same paragraph to be replaced by the words "consider granting"; and the word "assist" in paragraph 9 to be replaced by the words "grant special additional assistance to".

Draft resolution E/1978/L.35, as amended, was adopted [resolution 1978/63].

84. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) said that his Government viewed with sympathy the special economic problems faced by Mozambique as a result of its applying United Nations sanctions against Southern Rhodesia and had provided substantial assistance in fulfilment of its pledges. In view, however, of certain legislative restraints—which it was hoped were temporary—his delegation could not now consider the provisions of the resolution addressed to States as representing a commitment on the part of its Government.

85. His delegation welcomed the improvement in the drafting of paragraph 8, since his Government considered that the findings of the Committee for Development Planning concerning the list of the least developed countries should be respected and that special attention could be given to Mozambique's present problems, irrespective of its non-inclusion in that list.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Assistance in emergency situations (concluded) (E/1978/L.46)

86. The PRESIDENT drew attention to draft resolution E/1978/L.46 on migratory labour in southern Africa.

87. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, while he was in sympathy with the ideas underlying the draft resolution, it appeared to have certain political, economic and perhaps legal implica-

tions which needed careful study. He doubted whether there was sufficient time left even for informal discussions. He therefore proposed that the Council should take note of the draft resolution and transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-third session.

88. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) said that the draft resolution was of the highest political importance to the African Group and to OAU. He realized, however, that there was not enough time to discuss so important a question and he therefore supported the proposal of the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

89. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of draft resolution E/1978/L.46 and transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-third session.

It was so decided [decision 1978/59].

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

38th meeting

Friday, 4 August 1978, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.38

AGENDA ITEM 13

Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE
(E/1978/132)

*Draft resolution: Charter of Economic Rights and
Duties of States*

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 6 of the report before the Council (E/1978/132), which the First Committee had adopted by 41 votes to 1, with 6 abstentions. He invited the Council to take a decision on the draft resolution and announced that a roll-call vote had been requested.

A vote was taken by roll-call on the draft resolution in paragraph 6 of the report of the First (Economic) Committee (E/1978/132).

Netherlands, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: France, Germany, Federal Republic of Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The draft resolution was adopted by 36 votes to 1, with 6 abstentions [resolution 1978/64].

2. Mr. ZIEGLER (Austria) said that, although his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, the position it had taken on certain articles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly remained unchanged.

3. Mr. KORONGO (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution but maintained that the text had been watered down and that no progress had been made towards the establishment of a new international economic order. He was gravely concerned by the attitude of countries that claimed to be democratic and to respect human rights; the right to a decent life and economic rights were basic elements of human rights, and those countries denied it. Consequently, the struggle must go on to establish economic relations based on equity, sovereign equality, mutual interest and co-operation.

4. Mr. RODRIGUES VALLE (Brazil) reaffirmed the statement made by his delegation in the First Committee on the draft resolution (see E/1978/C.1/SR.33).

5. Mr. SHASHANK (India) reminded the Council of the statement made by his delegation in the First Committee on the draft resolution (*ibid.*).

AGENDA ITEM 15

Industrial development co-operation

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE
(E/1978/128)

6. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution and the draft decision in paragraph 9 of the report of the First Committee (E/1978/128).

7. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution and the draft decision without a vote.

Draft resolution: Industrial development co-operation

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/65].

Draft decision: Report of the Industrial Development Board

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/62].

8. Mr. SHASHANK (India) reminded the Council that he had taken part, on behalf of the Group of 77, in the consultations on the draft resolution which had just been adopted. During the consultations, he had stated that, with regard to operative paragraph 2, it was the clear understanding of the Group of 77 that the promotion of investments in developing countries was to be understood in the sense of the provisions of paragraph 3 of section IV of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII).

AGENDA ITEM 19

Human settlements

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1978/131)

Draft resolution: International co-operation in human settlements

9. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution which appeared in paragraph 8 of the report of the First Committee (E/1978/131).

10. If there were no objections, he would consider that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/66].

AGENDA ITEM 12

Regional co-operation and development

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1978/129)

11. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the three draft resolutions and six draft decisions in paragraph 23 of the report of the First Committee (E/1978/129). If there were no objections, he would consider that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolutions and draft decisions without a vote.

Draft resolution I: Activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the Pacific area

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/67].

Draft resolution II: Annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/68].

Draft resolution III: Regional co-operation and development

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/74].

Draft decision I: Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/63].

Draft decision II: Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/64].

Draft decision III: Introduction of Arabic as the third working language of the Economic Commission for Africa

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/65].

Draft decision IV: Report of the Economic Commission for Europe

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/66].

Draft decision V: Interim report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/67].

Draft decision VI: Report of the Secretary-General on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/68].

12. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reaffirmed the comments and reservations made by his delegation during the consideration of the item in the First Committee, and in particular at the time of the adoption of the draft resolutions and draft decisions (see E/1978/C.1/SR.12, 20, 33, and 34).

13. Mr. SHASHANK (India) reaffirmed the statements made by his delegation in the First Committee on draft resolution III, entitled "Regional co-operation and development" (see E/1978/C.1/SR.33).

14. Mr. KOSSAR (Iran) repeated the reservation made by his delegation in the First Committee on the annual report of ESCAP (E/1978/48), in particular with regard to the summary (E/1978/69) of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1977* (see E/1978/C.1/SR.14).

15. Mr. REIMER (United States of America) said that he had understood that delegations would not need to repeat the statements they had made in the First Committee.

16. The PRESIDENT confirmed that the statements and reservations made in the First Committee would be automatically included in the report of the Council. Members were, of course, free to repeat their statements if they thought it necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 17

Food problems

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1978/130)

17. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 9 of the report of the First Committee (E/1978/130), and to the draft decision in the same paragraph.

18. If there were no objections, he would consider that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution and the draft decision without a vote.

Draft resolution: Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/69].

Draft decision: Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/69].

19. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reiterated the comments and reservations made by his delegation during the First Committee's consideration of agenda item 17, and in particular at the time of the adoption of the draft resolution (see E/1978/C.1/SR.34).

AGENDA ITEM 10

Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1978/136)

20. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to draft decisions I, II and III in paragraph 7 of the report of the First Committee (E/1978/136).

21. If there were no objections, he would consider that the Council wished to adopt the draft decisions without a vote.

Draft decision I: Implementation of the recommendations contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system"

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/70].

Draft decision II: Recommendations addressed to the Economic and Social Council contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system"

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/71].

Draft decision III: Date of convening of the organizational sessions of the Council

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/72].

22. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system required a more thorough study on the part of delegations. Some aspects were still obscure and gave rise to difficulties, as had been shown by the number of questions raised during the discussion. The fact that his delegation had joined in the consensus did not mean that it endorsed all the decisions taken. It reserved the right to revert to the question, if necessary, in the General Assembly.

23. He wished to emphasize forthwith, however, that restructuring should enable the United Nations Secretariat to make better use of the resources at its disposal and should not serve as a pretext for an increase in Secretariat strength. Moreover, his delegation attached great political importance to the principle of strict respect for equitable geographical distribution in the restructuring operations. The principle was not respected at present, to the detriment of the socialist countries. Such discrimination was unacceptable. His delegation therefore reserved the right to revert to the question at a later stage and to give it the correct political interpretation. All other questions relating to restructuring depended on respect for that principle in the upper levels of the United Nations Secretariat.

24. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) reminded the Council of the statement he had made on behalf of the Group

of 77 at the 31st meeting of the First Committee, and of the agreement reached on the subject of draft decision II (see E/1978/C.1/SR.34).

25. The PRESIDENT said that it followed from the action just taken by the Council on draft decision III that the Council's organizational session for 1979 would be held from 6 to 9 February 1979.

It was so agreed [decision 1978/60, para 3 (a)].

AGENDA ITEM 21

Science and technology

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1978/134) AND DOCUMENT E/1978/L.50

26. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 7 of the report of the First Committee (E/1978/134) and to the Austrian amendments to that draft resolution (E/1978/L.50). He also noted the draft decision in the same paragraph of the Committee's report.

Draft resolution: Science and technology

27. Mr. ZIEGLER (Austria) explained that the amendments submitted by his delegation following informal consultations with a number of delegations were designed to facilitate the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

The Austrian amendments (E/1978/L.50) were adopted.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted [resolution 1978/70].

Draft decision: The "brain drain" problem

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/74].

28. The PRESIDENT observed that, with the decisions it had just taken, the Council had settled its difficulties with regard to the calendar of conferences. The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would be convened from 22 January to 2 February 1979 and its fourth session from 7 to 18 May 1979.

It was so agreed [decision 1978/60, para 3(b)].

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Organization of the work of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors (concluded) (E/1978/L.49)

29. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that as soon as the Council had taken note of the note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors (E/1978/L.49), particularly paragraph 9 thereof, it should consider transmitting it to the General Assembly, in order that the Second Committee could take the suggestions it contained into account when organizing its work.

30. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) said that he had intended to make a number of observations

on the matter, but if, as he hoped, the Council accepted the Ugandan representative's proposal, the United States delegation would make those observations in the Second Committee of the General Assembly, where they would be more useful.

31. Mr. BERTELING (Netherlands) said that his delegation endorsed the suggestions in paragraph 9 of the note by the Secretariat and fully supported the suggestions made by the United Kingdom representative at the Council's 37th meeting.

32. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it a proposal to transmit the note by the Secretariat, in particular paragraph 9 thereof, to the General Assembly for consideration by the Second Committee when the latter considered the organization of its work. It obviously lay with the Second Committee to take whatever decision it saw fit on the matter. If the Council decided to adopt the proposal, perhaps it ought also to transmit the observations made on the subject.

33. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the President of the Council had just made the point on which he himself had asked to speak. In his view, it would indeed be useful to transmit, at the same time as the note by the Secretariat, the observations made on the matter, particularly with regard to paragraph 9 of the note. The question now arose of the means whereby the transmission would be effected.

34. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should transmit to the General Assembly the note by the Secretariat and the relevant observations. That could be done, for example, by means of informal or formal consultations with the Bureau of the Second Committee.

35. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) thought that the procedure followed by the Second Committee should not be so precise and clear-cut as to prevent delegations or groups of delegations from requesting debates or public statements on any particular problem if it should appear necessary in the course of negotiations or informal consultations. Repetition of discussions already held in other United Nations forums should certainly be avoided, but that did not mean that delegations should be denied any opportunity to express points of view likely to be taken into consideration when final decisions were made.

36. The PRESIDENT said that delegations holding such opinions would have to express them, so that the Second Committee could be aware of them.

37. Mr. OULD SIDI AHMED VALL (Mauritania) said that his delegation was prepared to support the Ugandan representative's suggestion. In his view, the Council could transmit the note in question not only to the Second Committee of the General Assembly but also to its Third Committee, which might find it of interest.

38. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted a draft decision to the effect that the note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors (E/1978/L.49) should be transmitted to the General Assembly, for consideration by its Second and Third Committees, the attention of the Second Committee being drawn particularly to paragraph 9 of the note; that the comments made by delegations on the subject during the Council's debates should also be communicated to the General Assembly; and that consultations should be held be-

tween the Bureau of the Council and the officers of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly with regard to the consideration of the issues dealt with in the Council's report to the General Assembly.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/73].

39. The PRESIDENT said that during the Council's second regular session of 1978 a number of informal meetings of heads of delegation had been held to consider practical ways and means of improving the Council's operation and methods of work. Those meetings had resulted in several conclusions, which he had been asked to sum up.

40. It had been recognized, in the course of the meetings, that practical measures for strengthening the Council's ability to consider the questions within its competence were essential, irrespective of any changes that might be introduced in accordance with the restructuring recommendations contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197. Given the Council's responsibilities under the Charter, on the one hand, and the stupendous increase of activities in the economic, social and human rights fields which had taken place over the past three decades, on the other, the Council must evolve practical means and selective approaches to enable it, in the words of Council resolution 1768 (LIV) on the rationalization of the work of the Council, to "focus attention on major issues and emerging developments on which action is necessary to bring about more equitable and harmonious economic and social relationships". The Council's programme of work, therefore, should in future be more thoroughly reviewed at the organizational session; to that end, the Secretariat should include in the draft basic programme of work practical suggestions regarding ways and means of:

(a) Achieving a shorter and more action-oriented agenda through a more rational integration of inter-related substantive questions;

(b) Reducing the number of documents, improving their quality and evolving new forms of presentation designed to highlight the main issues requiring intergovernmental review; in that context, renewed efforts should be made to ensure that documents were concise and action-oriented and that they were submitted in conformity with the six-week rule for distribution;

(c) Enabling the Council to transmit without debate certain reports submitted through it to the General Assembly, in order to avoid repetition of the presentation and discussion of such reports by different bodies;

(d) Enabling the Council to assist the work of the General Assembly, including possible adjustments of the format of its report to the General Assembly.

41. It had also been agreed that the implementation of the above-mentioned measures relating to the Council's programme of work would require certain practical steps concerning other aspects of the Council's work. The calendar of meetings would have to be drawn up in conformity with the following principles:

(a) The overlap of meetings on related substantive issues should be avoided;

(b) As far as possible, no meetings should be scheduled for the first two weeks of January or during August of any year;

(c) The duration of sessions should be as short as possible, in no case exceeding two weeks.

42. Provision should also be made for the servicing of a larger number of informal consultations, including regional and other groups, in order to facilitate the achievement of consensus on substantive issues. The Council's subsidiary bodies, for their part, should conform strictly to the calendar of meetings approved by the Council and should not, once the calendar was approved, ask for changes or for additional meetings. In that context, the Council should work more closely with the Committee on Conferences and, if necessary, convene joint meetings of the Bureau of the Council and the Committee on Conferences in order to undertake an in-depth study of the proposed calendar of meetings submitted by the Secretariat, taking into account the specific requirements of each organ.

43. With regard to the preparatory work for the General Assembly, the Council should, at its second regular session each year, make suggestions, for consideration by the General Assembly, concerning the programme of work and agenda on economic and social matters, including the grouping of related items, documentation and the organization of business. The Council should also review its recommendations made to the General Assembly on substantive issues throughout the year, in order to ensure consistency; to that end, the Secretariat should circulate to the Council, at its second regular session, the list of items on economic and social matters appearing on the provisional agenda for the subsequent regular session of the Assembly, and other relevant information. The Council should also explore ways and means of improving its working relationship with subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly.

44. Furthermore, all participants in the consultations had agreed on the importance of the more active participation of the executive heads of United Nations agencies and regional commissions in the work of the Council. As far as possible, they should submit their reports at the beginning of the Council's session, in order to give the Council more flexibility in the organization of its work and to enable it to establish at an early stage the priority of the questions to be discussed during the session. In that context, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions should be more actively involved in the preparation of the Council's work and should have the discussion of certain issues entrusted to them.

45. It had been emphasized that the President and the members of the Bureau should provide more active leadership in organizing the Council's work throughout the year; it had been suggested that they might undertake informal consultations with members of the Council and executive heads of the competent United Nations bodies in drawing up the programme of work and agenda, and making suggestions for areas on which the Council should concentrate. Steps should be taken to ensure a better organization of the debates in plenary and in the sessional committees, in order to avoid repetition and to ensure the observance of deadlines for the submission of proposals and punctuality in the opening of meetings. The President should also submit annually to the Council, and through it to the General Assembly, an analysis of the general debate, including directions for possible future consideration and action.

46. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to include the outline he had just given in its report to the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

Study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of women and men (E/1978/113)

47. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the note by the Secretary-General on the appointment of a special rapporteur to prepare a study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of women and men (E/1978/113). He understood that the Council was not yet in a position to appoint a special rapporteur and he therefore suggested that the item should be postponed to the resumed session.

48. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that, if the Council was not in a position to implement a resolution adopted more than a year previously, there was reason to wonder whether it accepted the principle of appointing a special rapporteur. The task might be more appropriate for UNESCO than for the Council.

49. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) regretted that a decision could not be taken at the present session. His delegation was ready to participate in any unofficial consultations on the subject.

50. Mr. DIENE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO was responsible for the subject of information under its Constitution. The UNESCO General Conference had set up a commission for the study of communication problems.

51. UNESCO had already done some work in that field; in particular, it had prepared a bibliography on the role of women in the mass communication media. It was also organizing a joint UNESCO/United Nations seminar on the subject. UNESCO would be submitting to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session two closely related studies on the application and improvement of national information and mass communication systems for the purpose of social progress and development and on the preservation and fostering of cultural values. UNESCO was ready to take account of any recommendations which the Council might make to it, for contributing to the proposed study.

52. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should decide (a) to request the President of the Council to consult the Director-General of UNESCO on the preparation of a study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of women and men, in the light of Council resolution 2063 (LXII) and taking into account the views expressed in the Commission on the Status of Women, and (b) to take a decision on the matter at its resumed second regular session of 1978.

It was so decided [decision 1978/75].

53. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the Council had taken a wise decision. Responsibility in the matter lay with the Economic and Social Council, and not with the Commission on the Status of Women, since it was the Council which had taken the decision to appoint a special rapporteur.

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (E/1978/105)

54. The PRESIDENT said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Council decided to consider the report of ACC on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes

(E/1978/105) at its resumed second regular session of 1978.

It was so decided.

Summary of estimates of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its first and second regular sessions of 1978 (E/1978/140)

55. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General giving a summary of estimates of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its first and second regular sessions of 1978 (E/1978/140).

56. In reply to a question from Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the report provided estimates of the implications of all decisions taken by the Council up to the present time.

57. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that there was no need to reiterate his country's position regarding the use of United Nations resources, for it was well known.

58. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) said that his delegation considered that expenses should as far as possible be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations.

59. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) expressed concern about the increase in expenditure on the social and economic activities of the United Nations system. Those activities were not always financed in the most satisfactory way. His delegation would keep a close watch on the way in which the Organization's limited resources were used.

60. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that his delegation would study every item of the estimates of financial implications with the greatest care at the meetings of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgeting Questions during the coming session of the General Assembly.

61. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the Council had used up 77 of the 89 meetings provided for the present session, but it had wasted the equivalent of 30 meetings through delays in the opening of meetings.

62. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council decided to take note of the Secretary-General's report on the summary of estimates of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its first and second regular sessions, 1978 (E/1978/140).

It was so decided [decision 1978/77].

AGENDA ITEM 18

Transnational corporations

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1978/133)

63. The PRESIDENT suggested that the meeting should be suspended until the report of the First Committee on agenda item 18 (E/1978/133) had been circulated.

The meeting was suspended at 5 p.m. and resumed at 7 p.m.

64. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the delegations concerned had kindly agreed to proceed without waiting until the report had been distributed in all the working languages. He suggested that the draft resolutions should be dealt with first, after which representatives could make their comments. He appealed to them not to repeat statements that they had made in the Committee, since their reservations would be included in the Council's report.

Draft resolution I: Transnational corporations, code of conduct and the Ad Hoc International Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1978/71].

Draft resolution II: Transnational corporations and permanent sovereignty over natural and other resources

A vote was taken by roll call.

China, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

Against: France, Germany, Federal Republic of Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Austria, Finland, Greece, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Sweden

The draft resolution was adopted by 35 votes to 5, with 8 abstentions [resolution 1978/72].

Draft resolution III: Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régimes in that area

A vote was taken by roll call.

The United Republic of Tanzania, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

Against: France, Germany, Federal Republic of Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Austria, Finland, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Sweden

The draft resolution was adopted by 35 votes to 4, with 9 abstentions [resolution 1978/73].

Draft decision: Establishment of an Ad Hoc Inter-governmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1978/76].

65. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, while he was willing to accede to the President's appeal not to repeat statements made in the Committee, the First Committee's reports unfortunately did not reproduce the substance of his reservations accurately. The points he had wished to make clear were the following. While the corrupt practices of transnational corporations were an evil that must be fought, the conference on them had not been properly prepared for and the decision to convene it was premature. The real evil of transnational corporations was their use of their economic strength to interfere in the internal affairs of countries, in particular the developing countries, where they influenced economic and social life, extracting enormous wealth from them and thus to a large extent creating their difficulties. It was essential therefore that the United Nations should give absolute priority in its work on transnational corporations to the preparation of a code of conduct, so that at least there would be some limits and obstacles to their activities.

66. He had noted that those delegations which had obstinately forced a decision concerning the conference on corrupt practices had failed to support Council decisions against the main evil of transnational corporations. For example, a number of Western countries had voted against resolutions condemning interference in domestic affairs and support for racist régimes. He had also noted that, when the question of a conference had first been discussed, those same delegations had caused delay by asking for time for consultation, but when it was a question of condemning the transnational corporations for their more fundamental evils, those delegations did not need to consult; they just voted against. That was important politically, since it showed up the real intentions of the countries concerned and the context in which the conference would be convened.

67. His delegation had shown goodwill in dealing with the present item without having the documents in Russian, which was an official working language of the United Nations. It was not the first time it had had to work with documents in English and he hoped that was not going to become a working tradition in the United Nations. It put the English-speaking delegations at an advantage and the others at a disadvantage. The work of the United Nations should be based on equality between the official working languages without any discrimination.

68. The PRESIDENT renewed his expression of appreciation of the Soviet and other delegations' gesture in agreeing to work with documents in a working language other than their own. That had helped the Council by preventing further delay in completing the session. He assured the representative of the Soviet Union that there had been no discrimination.

69. With regard to reservations, it should be clearly understood that all reservations, in particular those of representatives who had agreed not to repeat them in the plenary meeting, would be accurately reflected in the records of the Council.

Adjournment of the session

70. The PRESIDENT said that the summer session of the Council was invariably an occasion for review-

ing and assessing the state of the world economy and taking stock of progress in pursuit of the fundamental aim of establishing an equitable and stable international economic order. It was also approached with the hope that the Council would take on a new lease of life and display a greater ability to perform its vital role under the Charter. The feeling of hope and the need for self-examination had been particularly evident on the present occasion. The reasons were, firstly, the serious state of the world economy; it was now generally recognized that the difficulties were fundamental and not to be resolved by superficial readjustments. Secondly, there was the critical state of negotiations on the new international economic order and the disappointing outcome of the first session of the Committee of the Whole. Thirdly, the Council's session was of particular significance in relation to the efforts to restructure the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and to streamline and improve the work of the Council and its related bodies.

71. The general debate had revealed a deep concern over the social and economic issues facing the world, which were rightly a major preoccupation of the Council. Among the issues which had featured in the debate had been the state of the world economy, the concept of interdependence, the need for action to increase the transfer of resources to developing countries, energy, basic needs, the state of discussions on the new international order and the functions of the Committee of the Whole. The discussion had underlined the existing mood of uncertainty and lack of readiness for constructive action on the serious problems facing the international community. There had been strong criticism of the lack of positive response to any of the fundamental proposals put forward by developing countries on the establishment of the new international economic order—after four years of debate.

72. As the United Kingdom representative had noted in the general debate (19th meeting), for the first time the world as a whole had assumed collective responsibility for all its inhabitants. Yet it was difficult to escape the conclusion that, despite problems of a most serious nature and despite a growing conviction on all sides that the world community was on the threshold of major and fundamental changes, particularly in economic relations, there was a great reluctance or inability to act positively. The current stagnation was due partly to an unwillingness to give up the past and partly to a lack of the confidence and innovative spirit needed to move forward. The Secretary-General in his opening statement (17th meeting) had called for an affirmation of the political will to achieve real progress in major international negotiations, particularly in North-South relations; failure would leave a legacy of want and conflict to coming generations. While it was understandable that the United Nations system should be affected by the general conditions and the prevailing mood, it seemed logical to expect it now to exercise a particular influence and find ways and means of helping the international community to move into action. The restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and the improvement of the Council's machinery and working methods could be a positive contribution to that end.

73. The present session had not brought dramatic changes, but members and the officials involved had shown a genuine wish for the Council to be more dynamic and more efficient. That had been particularly evident at informal meetings and in informal discus-

sions between the officers and heads of agencies and of regional commissions. While the failure of the Council to achieve the expected progress in its own restructuring was a serious setback to the movement towards making the United Nations system truly effective, the work put in over the past three years provided a sound basis for positive action and he hoped that the Council would take the necessary decisions in the coming months.

74. With regard to the performance of the United Nations system, there was a danger of confusing cause and effect, particularly in the case of the Committee of the Whole. The general debate and other discussions during the session had shown that serious differences existed concerning the role of the Committee. Obviously, its success would depend to a great extent on the wisdom with which it was used, but an examination of the records of discussions on the new international economic order in various meetings over the past four years showed a regrettable similarity in outcome in most instances. The inevitable conclusion was that the major factor responsible for the situation was not the nature of the forum but the basic lack of agreement, particularly on proposals calling for fundamental changes in the international economic system. Failure to face up to that fact would lead to endless procedural debate and ultimately to open confrontation.

75. There was a clear need to improve the international institutional machinery for discussion and negotiation and the Council could give a lead by a positive move to make its own deliberations more productive and by helping other major bodies of the United Nations system. It had been agreed at the present session that the Council could make a greater effort to help the General Assembly in dealing with its work in economic and social matters. The Council should also be enabled to make an effective contribution to the work of the Committee of the Whole in the way indicated in General Assembly resolution 32/174. It was not enough to seek to protect the role of the Council in relation to other bodies in the United Nations system. The full performance of the Council's role under the Charter could only benefit the work of the entire sys-

tem, as well as increasing its own prestige. The power to bring that about was in the hands of the Governments of member States, and the path had been indicated.

76. The Council's agenda had covered a wide and complex range of social and economic issues, some of world concern, others of national or regional concern. They included the special problems of the countries of southern Africa, food problems, industrial development, energy, the transfer of technology, the environment and human settlements, the operational activities of the United Nations system and the broad issue of international economic co-operation and development. The Council had reviewed the work of a number of agencies with particular responsibilities in sectoral or regional matters and had taken a number of important decisions. It had shown a greater awareness of the need to deal more effectively with the topics on its agenda and to establish a better working relationship with the agencies.

77. If the ideas, both old and new, which had been prominent in the discussions on ways of improving the Council's work were put into effect, along with the general restructuring, there was reason to hope that the Council and the United Nations system would be able to provide the stimulus, support and guidance so sorely needed at the present critical stage in international economic affairs.

78. After an exchange of courtesies, in which Mr. DI BERNARDO (Italy) on behalf of the Western-European countries, Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) on behalf of Hungary, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) on behalf of the African members of the Group of 77, Mr. BOTERO (Colombia) on behalf of the Group of 77, Mr. ONG (Philippines) on behalf of the Asian members of the Group of 77 and Mrs. AUGUSTE (Trinidad and Tobago) on behalf of the Latin American members of the Group of 77 participated, the PRESIDENT declared the second regular session of 1978 of the Council adjourned.

The meeting rose at 7.50 p.m.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RESUMED SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1978

Summary records of the 39th to 45th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters,
New York, from 12 October to 19 December 1978

39th meeting

Thursday, 12 October 1978, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.39

AGENDA ITEM 26

United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (*concluded*)* (A/CONF.79/13 (part I))

1. Mr. MORSE (Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries), introducing the report of the Conference, said that the document before the Council (A/CONF.79/13 (part I)) contained the operative parts of the report, including the decisions and recommendations agreed upon. Chapter I contained the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and chapter II the four resolutions adopted by the Conference. He wished to draw special attention to the Plan of Action, and would amplify his remarks later before the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

2. The Plan of Action was the first blueprint ever drawn of the work that must be done to provide the technical foundations for a revolutionary change in the balance of elements contributing to international development co-operation and was a prescription for intensifying and accelerating the building of national and collective self-reliance as indispensable ingredients in the advance of the developing countries and in the attainment of a new set of international economic relationships. The Plan of Action approved at Buenos Aires had added emphasis to the notion that technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) was premised upon the sovereign initiatives of individual Governments based on the fundamental principles enunciated in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI)). It called for additional financial support for TCDC projects and activities, but stressed that the entire United Nations development

system should be permeated by the spirit of technical co-operation among developing countries, drawing upon existing financial resources for expanded TCDC activities requested by Governments. It underlined the conviction that TCDC activities and traditional technical co-operation and development assistance to which the developed countries contributed should be productively linked. It advocated neither autarky nor the construction of two separate systems of technical co-operation.

3. Interest in the Conference had steadily increased in the final months of preparation and had been affirmed by the unusually large number of States participating and the high level of representation.

4. At the Conference, technical co-operation among developing countries had been perceived within the larger context of all forms of co-operation among developing countries as a major and increasingly vital dimension of international relations and the establishment of a new international economic order.

5. The draft Plan of Action submitted by the Secretariat to the Conference as the main negotiating document had been discussed in great detail, each progressive segment being first agreed upon in the Group of 77 and then passed to a full Working Group of the Main Committee, where the views of developed countries had been presented with a clear desire that the Conference should produce results upon which there could be action that developed countries would support.

6. Major responsibilities for the promotion and support of technical co-operation among developing countries had been vested in UNDP by the Conference. That was perhaps the most significant request for change and innovation in the Programme since the Consensus of 1970. While awaiting the judgement of the General Assembly, on the basis of the Council's recommendations, he and his colleagues had already begun to assess the immediate, medium-term and longer-term implications and action requirements of the relevant recommendations in the Plan of Action. Those with

* Resumed from the 35th meeting.

financial implications would be submitted to the Governing Council.

7. Finally, he called the Council's attention to recommendation 37 of the Plan of Action, which the Conference had adopted by consensus, and by which it recommended to the General Assembly that it should entrust the over-all intergovernmental review of technical co-operation among developing countries within the United Nations system to a high-level meeting of representatives of all States participating in UNDP to be convened by the Administrator, starting in 1980, in the same place as, and prior to, sessions of the Governing Council, and reporting to the General Assembly through the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council. He believed he was correct in interpreting the background to that recommendation as being a strong conviction that the technical requirements for co-operation among developing countries were now perceived as of such fundamental and urgent importance in the search for improved performance of the world economy as a whole, and for a new order founded in equity, that there must be a specific, high-level concentration on and review of progress every two years. Although it had not been easy for the Conference to reach agreement on the precise modalities of such a meeting, the fact remained that perhaps the first, even though modest, substantive North-South consensus for action within the context of the resolutions of the sixth special session of the General Assembly had been reached. He therefore asked the Council to transmit the report of the Conference to the Assembly at its current session.

8. Mr. HERRERA VEGAS (Argentina) said it must be a cause for satisfaction to all who had participated in the Conference that the quality of the debates, the high level of the representation and the intensity of the negotiations had led to results that were satisfactory for all countries, whatever their level of development. The unanimous support of the developed countries for the measures adopted showed their awareness of the global benefits which could be generated by that type of international co-operation.

9. The concept of collective self-reliance among developing countries could be one of the pillars of the new international development strategy and could help to reduce the gap between the economies of developed and developing countries. The Buenos Aires Conference was one of the first cases in which that concept had been put into practice in a Plan of Action accepted by the whole international community.

10. The principal achievements of the Plan of Action were the following: first, technical co-operation among developing countries was no longer an abstract concept but had become a practical exercise in horizontal technical co-operation projects and activities; second, although financing and execution were the primary responsibility of the developing countries themselves, the developed countries and the United Nations development system were to support and finance those activities at the request of the countries concerned; third, the developed countries were to direct their bilateral technical and financial assistance towards strengthening institutions in the developing countries and encouraging TCDC by using those institutions and other inputs from developing countries in assisting other developing countries; fourth, the specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations development system, including UNDP, were to support and finance TCDC projects and activities at the request of the developing

countries concerned; fifth, the governing bodies of those organizations were to make arrangements for their secretariats to integrate TCDC into their operational or technical assistance programmes and activities; sixth, UNDP was to integrate technical co-operation among developing countries fully into its regular activities and adapt the latter to the promotion and financing of TCDC through the introduction of more flexible procedures. Since UNDP would be the main source of funds, it was to be entrusted with the over-all intergovernmental review of TCDC and with the implementation of the Plan of Action within the United Nations system. To that end, the Administrator was to convene in 1980 and 1981, and subsequently every two years, a meeting of all States participating in UNDP.

11. Those important results were very satisfactory, and the Council should take note of the report of the Conference and transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration.

12. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that, in his statement at the 27th plenary meeting of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Uganda had expressed his country's firm belief that the worsening economic conditions in developing countries could be alleviated through collective self-reliance and that co-operation among them offered the most promising way out of their economic plight. Uganda therefore fully supported and endorsed the decisions of the Conference and the Plan of Action. His delegation recommended that the Council should take note of the report with appreciation and transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session with the comments made at the current meeting.

13. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that he fully endorsed the statement of the representative of Argentina. He requested that paragraph 3 of the Plan of Action should be incorporated into the decision to be adopted by the Council concerning the report of the Conference.

14. Mr. PEREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela) expressed appreciation of the Conference's success in attaining its aims. One important aspect of collective self-reliance which had dominated the discussions was that of national research and training centres of multinational scope, on which the Conference had adopted a resolution (resolution 2). The many such centres which already existed in the third world, and particularly in Latin America, should be strengthened and new centres should be established so that self-reliance became a practical reality for all third world countries. Other instrumentalities to encourage technical co-operation among developing countries were also mentioned in the Plan of Action. The Conference would undoubtedly have inspired the developing countries to a greater effort at co-operation among themselves. Self-reliance had been stressed throughout the Conference, rather than self-sufficiency, for the concept of mutual aid did not exclude—indeed, it presupposed—other forms of action in which the developed market-economy countries and the socialist countries could participate.

15. The successful results of the Conference should be combined with the work being done within the framework of the United Nations with a view to advancing North-South relations. One isolated success could not have sufficient impact, and it was to be hoped that it would be followed by similar successes in other United Nations forums. He hoped that in the coming months there would be a change in the position of the

more powerful Governments in particular, since they were responsible for the stagnation of the work of the United Nations in the development field.

16. Mr. MARINESCU (Romania) expressed the appreciation of his delegation for the untiring efforts of the Administrator of UNDP, as Secretary-General of the Conference, which had greatly contributed to its success.

17. The Plan of Action was only the beginning of a complex process which would require perseverance and political will on the part of both developing and developed countries and of the entire United Nations system. The Plan of Action could be an important step in the process of building a new international economic order if all concerned were really determined to implement it on the basis of strict respect for the principles of sovereignty, national independence, equal rights, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage.

18. Mr. STIBRAVY (United States of America) said that the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was a product of hard co-operative work on the part of all who had participated in the Conference and in the preparations for it, and a heartening example of international co-operation. As such, it merited the strongest endorsement and continuous support to ensure its fullest implementation. Failure to give such endorsement and support would not be consistent with the spirit of commitment which had characterized the work of the Conference or with the great importance of the common TCDC objectives within the framework of a new international economic order. His delegation was therefore prepared to take note of the report and to have it transmitted to the General Assembly along with the comments made during the discussion at the current meeting.

19. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) said that the consensus reached at the Conference reflected the will of all countries to contribute effectively to technical co-operation among developing countries. The developed countries and the international institutions had accepted their responsibilities in that regard. He hoped that the spirit of Buenos Aires would lead to the concrete implementation of the decisions of the Conference. His delegation wished to express its appreciation to the Administrator of UNDP and his staff, and to the Government of Argentina, for their contributions to the success of the Conference.

20. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said his delegation wished to place on record its appreciation to the Administrator of UNDP for his efforts in connexion with the Conference and to reiterate its gratitude to the Government and people of Argentina. His Government was gratified that it had been able to take a constructive part in the work of the Conference

and would support all efforts aimed at strengthening self-reliance among developing countries.

21. Mr. SAMHAN (United Arab Emirates) expressed appreciation to the Administrator of UNDP and said his delegation hoped that the recommendations of the Conference would be implemented.

22. Mr. WU Hsiao-ta (China) thanked the Administrator of UNDP for his excellent summary of the work of the Conference and the Government of Argentina for its hospitality. His Government supported the Plan of Action, which had been adopted unanimously, and hoped that it would be implemented in earnest and would provide a basis for the establishment of the new international economic order. The Council should note the report with appreciation and transmit it to the General Assembly.

23. Mr. MOHAMUD MALINGUR (Somalia) expressed the appreciation of his delegation for the contribution made by the Secretary-General of the Conference. The unanimous adoption of the report of the Conference showed the importance of technical co-operation among developing countries. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia had already expressed the views of his Government in his statement at the 23rd plenary meeting of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, and he (Mr. Mohamud Malingur) would merely reiterate that, while the success of TCDC would depend mainly on the developing countries, the developed countries also had a role to play. Finally, he wished to thank the Government of Argentina for its hospitality.

24. Mr. LIONDAS (Greece) thanked the Administrator of UNDP and the Government of Argentina for their contributions to the success of the Conference. The promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries would help to further the cause of development and would contribute to the self-reliance of the developing countries.

25. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the following decision:

"The Council takes note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and decides to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, together with the comments made thereon.

"The Council also urges all Governments, the entire United Nations development system and the international community as a whole to take effective action for the implementation of the decisions of the Conference.

It was so decided (decision 1978/78).

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

40th meeting

Monday, 30 October 1978, at 11.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.40

AGENDA ITEM 27

Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and programming procedures (A/33/6 (parts 1-30), A/33/38, E/6003, E/1978/12, E/1978/41 and Corr.2 and Add.1, E/1978/42 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/43/Add.2)

AGENDA ITEM 22

International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system (continued)* (A/33/38, E/1978/43 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/93)

1. Mr. PIRSON (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination), introducing the report of CPC on the work of its eighteenth session (A/33/38), said that in 1976 CPC had become the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the area of planning, programming and co-ordination. In 1977, the Assembly had broadened the sphere of activities of CPC and had established the bases of an administrative structure which would provide CPC with the necessary substantive support and technical secretariat services.

2. At the request of the Secretariat, CPC had left consideration of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 (A/33/6 (parts 1-30)) until the second part of its eighteenth session, so that the Secretariat would have time to review its plan, taking into account the new structure of the economic and social sectors. Nevertheless, it had not been possible to carry out that review within the time-limit envisaged, and the bulk of the proposed medium-term plan for the economic and social sectors had been transmitted to CPC after the second part of its session had begun, some components of the plan being received right at the end of the session. That had made the Committee's work very difficult, particularly since it had given up its previous character of a small committee of experts to assume fully the intergovernmental role assigned to it by the Assembly and the Council. Consequently, CPC had not been able to examine all the programmes thoroughly.

3. In spite of all the efforts made, the United Nations planning and programming machinery still had grave deficiencies, and the plan submitted in 1978, although far superior to the one submitted previously, was still not entirely satisfactory. The plan was extremely voluminous and could only be used by specialists, although it was really intended to assist the Council and the Assembly in determining the directions to be taken by United Nations activities over a four-year period, with a view to achieving the objectives set by the governing bodies. The description of the activities envisaged was in many instances imprecise, the distribution of tasks among the various United Nations organs was not always clear and, with regard to the subprogrammes, almost no time-limits for execution were indicated.

Both CPC and the Joint Inspection Unit agreed that it was necessary to reconsider the planning and programming process. In 1979, CPC would conduct an in-depth study of that process, on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General in co-operation with the other organizations of the United Nations system and of a report by the Joint Inspection Unit. The conclusions of that study might perhaps be considered by the Council at a brief session of the type envisaged in section II, paragraph 7, of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

4. With regard to some salient features of the plan and the recommendations of CPC, he pointed out that the introduction did not meet the requirements set forth in General Assembly resolution 31/93 and was merely a summary of the opinions of the programme directors. CPC recommended that the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization should be taken as a model for the introduction, which should be prepared by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, under the authority of the Secretary-General.

5. CPC recommended that the chapter on financial data (chapter 3) should be regarded as a reference document and should not be published as a component of the final plan. The following year, the nature of the necessary financial data would be reconsidered. He was convinced that it was necessary to have, at least, for the United Nations and the organizations within the system, general data on the resources previously allocated to the programmes, both from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources.

6. Under its mandate, CPC had to recommend an order of priorities for United Nations programmes as defined in the medium-term plan. Two years earlier, CPC had developed the formula of relative real growth rates, which it had retained during the current year, for lack of any other more satisfactory formula. The table of relative growth rates for the programmes set forth in paragraph 54 of its report had been adopted by consensus, on the basis of informal consultations, but that did not mean that the members of the Committee were satisfied with the rate assigned to each programme, because the table represented a compromise solution. The table was of practical value and, in particular, enabled the Secretary-General to give guidelines to his services at the beginning of the budgeting process. CPC had refrained from indicating to what extent the budget should be increased, since that question did not fall within its competence.

7. The Committee had been unable, owing to lack of agreement among its members, to make recommendations on the structure or the relative growth rate of the programme formerly entitled "Social development and humanitarian affairs" (chapter 27), or to carry out the detailed study envisaged in Council resolution 1978/35. There had not even been agreement on the title of the programme, and the description of the Committee's

* Resumed from the 35th meeting.

work on the subject was contained in paragraphs 639 to 657 and paragraphs 96 to 98 of its report.

8. He drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 91 of the report, in which was proposed the convening, early in 1980, of the Fifth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance.

9. In paragraphs 673 to 675 of its report, CPC submitted, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197, a progress report indicating the measures adopted to implement the recommendations on restructuring which concerned it.

10. Although the programme of work of CPC for the following year contained a limited number of topics, its execution would require great efforts on the part of the Secretariat. It was doubtful whether that programme of work could be completed in four weeks; five or six weeks might be needed.

11. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) said that the in-depth study of the planning process to be carried out by CPC in 1979 would provide an opportunity to clarify the role of the subsidiary bodies in that process. As a result of the meeting cycle, many bodies did not have an opportunity to make formal contributions to the preparation of the medium-term plan or the programme budgets concerning them. Accordingly, when such bodies did have an opportunity to make revisions, that complicated the debates in CPC. A related problem was the total time available to CPC for the important work of review that had been entrusted to it. When one considered the volume of work and the thorough nature of the consideration which CPC had to undertake, there must be serious doubts as to the practical possibility of its being completed within the time scheduled.

12. CPC had not reached an agreement regarding the proposed change of title and structure of the current social development and humanitarian affairs programme and, in the light of the comments and recommendations of CPC, the Secretariat proposed that that title should be retained, instead of replacing it by the proposed title "Women and special groups", and that the four subprogrammes entitled "Youth", "Aging", "Children" and "Disabled persons" should be replaced in the draft plan by two subprogrammes entitled "Social integration policies" and "Social welfare services".

13. Mr. BERTRAND (Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit) said that his making a statement was justified not only because the Joint Inspection Unit had become a habitual working partner of CPC but also, and above all, because he considered it essential, before the initiation of the study on the conception of the medium-term plan that had been recommended, to draw the Council's attention to the importance of programming problems.

14. Although the definition of programmes should be an area for negotiation among Member States, current procedures did not permit that. Generally speaking, United Nations activities could be divided into two main categories, namely, negotiation activities relating to the future, i.e., negotiations aimed at defining future developments, and activities concerning the execution of programmes already adopted. The latter activities usually aroused less interest, perhaps because they were regarded as somehow lacking the same orientation towards the future. He disagreed with that assessment because, although it was true that a consensus already existed among Member States with regard to the pro-

grammes contained in the United Nations budget; that consensus was subject to change. It was therefore highly important to deepen that consensus and to accord great attention to policies and strategies relating to programme execution.

15. In his opinion, current programming instruments did not facilitate negotiations aimed at deepening consensus. Their content should include a clear exposé of policies and strategies, and the options open. Currently, there was no real possibility for the exercise of options, because the medium-term plan was an exposé, with a budgetary character, of what was going to be done, rather than of policies. Without an explanation of policies, there was no possibility for negotiation. The explanation of policies should be clear, offer more options and be reflected in subprogrammes that were clear, precise and executable within set time-limits. The medium-term plan should be an exposé of policies, and not a budget.

16. Even if it was presented as a readable volume and was devoted to the explanation of policies and strategies, the medium-term plan would not in itself enable Member States to study, examine in depth and negotiate the conception of the programmes. He believed that the exposé of programme strategies should be made in two parts, namely, in summary form in the medium-term plan, and in more detailed form in a series of separate documents, each devoted to an exposé of the policy of one programme. Those documents should meet two conditions. First, they should not all be prepared at the same time, but should be submitted to CPC on a staggered basis. Secondly, the documents should incorporate some evaluation of past programmes, since only on the basis of that experience was it possible to define the policy to be followed.

17. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that his delegation shared the concern that had been expressed regarding the format of the report of CPC. In his delegation's view, the report should concentrate on well-argued recommendations of the Committee and submit its conclusions and recommendations in a clearer and more orderly fashion. His delegation welcomed the intention of CPC, mentioned in paragraph 3 of the report, to carry out an in-depth study of the programme planning process. At the current time, there seemed to be too much confusion on that point. He wondered whether it might not be wise to concentrate all the efforts of CPC on that issue during the coming year, since clarification and simplification of the programme planning process was a prerequisite for any further progress in meaningful programme building.

18. His delegation wished to express reservations concerning the practical value of the system of relative real growth rates. The basic issue should not be budget figures, but rather the efforts that were required to develop a comprehensive, well-balanced programme that would serve the interests of all Member States, with particular emphasis on the needs of the developing countries.

19. His delegation regretted that CPC had not been able to conduct the study requested in Council resolution 1978/35 and hoped that implementation of the resolution would not be unduly delayed as a consequence. His delegation also attached importance to cross-organizational programme analyses as a possible method of promoting system-wide co-ordination and hoped that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation would provide

guidelines for the preparation of future exercises of that kind.

20. In the circumstances, it was neither realistic nor possible to carry out substantive consideration of the report of CPC during the current stage of the resumed session of the Council. However, he hoped that the General Assembly would be able to devote more attention to the relevant subjects therein.

21. Mrs. DERRÉ (France) said that both the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and the report of CPC were too bulky. CPC should change the format of its report in order to ensure better presentation of the arguments in support of its recommendations. Perhaps CPC could submit two reports, one for the Secretariat and another, more concise, report for the Council.

22. The structure of the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 was the same as that for the preceding period, 1978-1981. However, the various activities were greatly diluted, there was no clue as to the *raison d'être* of many of the programmes and no indication was given of the means of achieving stated objectives. The Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit had stated that it might be advisable to review the plan and that the Secretariat should submit a series of possible alternative solutions for the Council to choose from. Her delegation found merit in that suggestion, although it did not see how it could be put into practice.

23. Her delegation had strong reservations concerning the financial data reproduced in chapter 3 of the medium-term plan, which did not correspond exactly to what had been asked of the Secretariat. Her delegation would deal more fully with that issue during the relevant discussions in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

24. Her delegation endorsed the list of priorities, indicated in the form of relative real growth rates, in paragraph 54 of the report of CPC. Although it was not perfect, that list should be respected, since it was the result of a consensus. The Chairman of CPC had explained the difficulties of drawing up a list of priorities. The Committee should receive assistance in such work from the various technical intergovernmental bodies.

25. With regard to industrial development and international trade programmes, the reports of the Permanent Committee of the Industrial Development Board¹ and of the Trade and Development Board² had greatly facilitated the work of the Committee. Those bodies and others might be requested to indicate priorities in their respective sectors.

26. Her delegation supported the draft resolution contained in paragraph 91 of the report of CPC and all the conclusions of that body, in particular the recommendations regarding the review of the planning and programming system. With regard to evaluation, her delegation supported all the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (see E/1978/41 and Corr.2).

27. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation attached great importance to the work of CPC and participated actively in its work. However, the effectiveness of the work of CPC was dependent, *inter alia*, on the timely submission

of documentation. The delays in the submission of documents at the eighteenth session had made it impossible for the Committee to consider them in detail and to adopt appropriate recommendations. He expressed the hope that that situation would be remedied in the future, so that it would not be necessary to postpone sessions of CPC by two weeks or more.

28. Because of its specific nature, CPC should serve as an example to the bodies whose activities it studied, and the length of its own sessions should not be extended. The effective co-operation of the Secretariat was essential in that respect. For example, the documents submitted to CPC at its eighteenth session, in particular the introductory chapters of the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983, contained controversial proposals and imprecise data. The Committee had had to devote a great deal of time to clarifying the situation. It had also had to delete from the proposed plan the chapters relating to integrated programmes for rural development and development information services, because those items had been submitted by the Secretariat without the proper legal authorization.

29. With regard to chapter 27 of the plan, not only had the title of the programme been changed to "Women and special groups", but the substance and orientation of the programme had also been changed, and two subprogrammes, namely, "Popular participation and institutional development" and "Services for social integration and welfare", had been excluded. The new title of the programme did not reflect its scope since, by concentrating on special groups, it no longer covered wide-ranging issues relating to social development. The Secretariat had exceeded its functions, since General Assembly resolution 32/197 did not provide the necessary legal basis for introducing such changes. His delegation considered that the Secretariat officials concerned should take due account of the views expressed in that regard by many delegations in CPC.

30. Chapter 27 should not be submitted to the General Assembly for approval in its current form. The programme structure of the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981 should be maintained in the proposed medium-term plan for 1980-1983, and the original title of the programme, namely "Social development and humanitarian affairs" should be restored. Until a final decision was reached on that chapter, the Secretariat should be guided by the 1978-1981 plan. In that connexion, he emphasized that in document A/C.5/32/86, which contained the administrative and financial implications of the approval by the General Assembly of resolution 32/197, it was stated that the restructuring of the Secretariat should not affect the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in view of its scheduled transfer to Vienna.

31. At the eighteenth session of CPC, his delegation had proposed that issues such as East-West trade and the trade and economic implications of disarmament should be re-incorporated into the medium-term plan for 1980-1983. Those issues were very important, and the Council should support such orientations in the activities of the United Nations.

32. The members of CPC had not been able to give detailed consideration to chapter 1 of the medium-term plan (Problems and strategies of the United Nations in the medium-term future) because of the delay in the submission of the relevant documents. Consequently, his delegation wished to refer briefly to that chapter.

¹ E/AC.51/L.91.

² E/AC.51/L.90. For the printed text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/33/15)*, vol. I, part three, chap. II, sect. C.

Section IV of that chapter, relating to economic and social programmes, contained no reference to the activity of the United Nations in the field of social development or to the need to study the experience gained in different forms of co-operation between socialist countries and the developing countries, or the experience of the developing countries in the field of radical socio-economic change. Nor was any study envisaged in the subprogramme for the Economic Commission for Europe of ways and means of eliminating the artificial barriers created by certain capitalist developed countries which hindered East-West trade. All those issues were equally important and should be studied with a view to normalizing trade.

33. His delegation joined previous speakers in supporting the recommendations for improving the process of programming and evaluation of United Nations activities submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit (see E/1978/41 and Corr.2). At its eighteenth session, CPC had carried out much useful work and had formulated a series of recommendations for avoiding duplication of effort in such areas as information systems,

international trade, the transfer of technology, industrial development and so on. All those recommendations were very useful and deserved the support of the Council.

34. In conclusion, he pointed out that in the final paragraph on page 6 of document E/1978/103, reference was made to a draft medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 in the economic, social and human rights fields. His delegation did not know what plan was meant since the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983, which was currently under consideration, referred to all the activities of the United Nations Secretariat. Perhaps there was an error that should be rectified.

35. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) referring to paragraphs 362 and 620 of the report of CPC, said that the Secretary-General would submit revisions to the subsections dealing with ECA and ECLA in connexion with the concept of basic needs and the programme of work on transnational corporations.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

41st meeting

Monday, 30 October 1978, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.41

AGENDA ITEM 27

Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and programming procedures (*continued*) (A/33/6 (parts 1-30), A/33/38, E/6003, E/1978/12, E/1978/41 and Corr.2 and Add.1, E/1978/42 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/43/Add.2)

AGENDA ITEM 22

International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/33/38, E/1978/43 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/93)

1. Mr. STIBRAVY (United States of America) welcomed the introductory statements that had been made to the Council, which should help it to grapple with the twin problems of the future planning of United Nations activities and the development of the analysis and recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination with a view to assisting the Council and the General Assembly in taking decisions in that area. The United States had participated fully in the consideration by CPC of the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 (A/33/6 (parts 1-30)), and its views and reservations on the plan, including specific reservations regarding the proposed growth rates, could be found in the relevant summary record¹ and were still valid. He wished, however, to reaffirm his Government's view that, under the current circumstances, real growth in any programme of the United Nations should be offset by equivalent reductions in other programmes and that there was sufficient latitude within the United Nations programme budget to accom-

modate such adjustments. The United States welcomed the decision of CPC to make an in-depth study of the planning process and of the biennial programme budget at its nineteenth session, and hoped that it would identify possibilities for substantial improvement in that process. His delegation had joined in the adoption by consensus of the Committee's report (A/33/38), and hoped that the Council would endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in it and transmit the report to the General Assembly.

2. His delegation felt that, in view of the consensus on changing the title of chapter 27 of the medium-term plan to "Social development and humanitarian affairs", the Secretariat should issue a corrigendum to resolve the question. The United States wished to record its support for the prerogative of the Secretary-General to make professional, substantive decisions on how to allocate resources within a department for the purpose of carrying out programme activities, which he had in fact exercised in the area in question. His delegation was prepared to approve chapter 27 of the medium-term plan and transmit it to the General Assembly.

3. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that his delegation had already had the opportunity, during the Third Committee's consideration of the Council's report for 1977 at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, to set forth its views on the manner in which certain recommendations of the Council in the social development field had been implemented. He recalled that, although in its resolution 2079 (LXII) the Council had endorsed the proposal of the Commission for Social Development that an *ad hoc* working group should be appointed to consider the reinforcing of the social development sector within the United Nations, the Council had not implemented that proposal in

¹ E/AC.51/SR.564.

1977, with the result that both the Council and the General Assembly were now faced with an even more confused situation than before the question of reinforcing the social sector had been introduced. It was true that the Council had meanwhile adopted resolution 1978/35 on the subject; the objective of the sponsors had been to enhance the role of the institutional factor in the establishment of the new international economic order, in view of the fact that General Assembly resolution 31/84 had stressed the interdependence of economic and social development in promoting comprehensive growth. Furthermore, at its organizational session for 1979 the Council would be reconsidering the mandate of the *ad hoc* working group to be set up under resolution 2079 (LXII). However, in the view of his delegation, the documentation on agenda item 22 raised a number of questions concerning the implementation of Council resolutions by subsidiary bodies. The report of CPC did not explain what action was envisaged to strengthen the social sector within the United Nations system as a whole, and did not clearly bring out the need to undertake measures of an institutional nature in order to ensure that the resolutions of the Council were put into effect. Moreover, those questions had not been referred to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which should be allowed to express its views on a subject that fell directly within its mandate. His delegation therefore proposed that the question of reinforcing the social sector of the United Nations system should be incorporated in item 12 of the agenda of the General Assembly (Report of the Economic and Social Council) and referred to the Third Committee, so that the latter could express its views on the work done so far and provide guidelines for the future activity of the Council.

4. With regard to the question of youth, he recalled that the report of the Third Committee² on item 72 of the agenda of the General Assembly (Policies and programmes relating to youth) contained three draft resolutions which had been sponsored by over 60 States, representing all the geographical regions. Draft resolution II, entitled "International Youth Year", had been introduced by Romania on behalf of 48 sponsors representing all geographical regions and had been adopted by consensus. His delegation was therefore surprised that the report of CPC allotted a marginal place to youth, minimized the role of youth in current and future programmes of the United Nations and contained contradictory statements which failed to indicate the views of the majority, although the Third Committee had pronounced itself in the clearest possible manner on the question in adopting the draft resolution. Nevertheless, that short-coming could be remedied in the light of the Third Committee's report and of the views of the more than 80 States whose representatives had spoken during the discussions on item 72.

5. His delegation strongly believed that all problems relating to social development should be appropriately discussed by the Third Committee during its consideration of the Council's report. However, it would like the Council to produce clear ideas which could give the Third Committee proper guidance, particularly with regard to social development, problems of youth, the need for improved co-ordination between the competent mechanisms of the United Nations and, most

of all, the co-operation which should exist between the Commission for Social Development and the Committee for Development Planning.

6. Mr. LEMP (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation would confine its comments on the report of CPC to a few general observations. CPC had been confronted with great difficulties in the field of documentation—a fact which, in the opinion of his delegation, could only partly be explained by the necessary transformations within the Secretariat in the wake of the decisions on restructuring. His delegation considered it a good working arrangement that CPC continued to be open for contributions from interested observer delegations. It agreed with the CPC approach of selecting a few items and problem areas for in-depth consideration each year, and supported the decisions taken on the Committee's future work programme in that regard. In view of the limited time available, CPC should avoid overburdening its agenda and, rather than becoming too involved in reviewing the programme budget in 1970, should limit itself to the planning and programming exercise and to problems of system-wide co-ordination in accordance with its mandate. His delegation also wondered whether the CPC report could be shortened and summary records could be reintroduced to cover at least part of the Committee's deliberations, thus eliminating the need for lengthy discussions on the draft report.

7. The presentation of the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 in the form of a confusing set of documents, addenda and corrigenda left a great deal to be desired; however, it must be recognized that medium-term planning in the United Nations was still in the early stages and a process of trial and error was unavoidable. His delegation therefore welcomed the Committee's decision to devote special attention to planning procedures within the United Nations system during its 1979 session. It believed that a certain amount of flexibility would always be needed, and that the plan should constitute an instrument providing guidelines for future work with, as far as possible, a description of options for policy decisions; as such an instrument, it should be improved and strengthened. In developing that instrument, the Secretariat should refrain from including financial data on future programmes; his delegation supported the relevant recommendation of CPC. It welcomed in principle the fixing of relative priorities through relative real growth rates as an important framework of guidelines, which was in accordance with the Committee's mandate, but believed that a certain flexibility was needed in the implementation of those recommendations. His delegation would have liked the proposed relative real growth rate for the human rights programme to be qualified so as to take into account the potentially growing resource needs resulting from the entry into force of the two International Covenants on Human Rights, and felt that similar reservations would be appropriate for the programme of international drug control, where the role of the United Nations should be considerably expanded. With that understanding, his delegation could accept the recommendations as a whole, and considered the definition of relative real growth rates a useful framework for future programming and for the preparation of the United Nations programme budget.

8. On the more general aspects of evaluation in the United Nations, his delegation agreed with the recommendations contained in chapter III of the CPC report.

² Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 72, document A/33/314.

In particular, it supported the idea of exploring the possibilities of introducing a system of time-limited objectives in medium-term planning. So far, very little had been done by the Secretariat to implement General Assembly resolution 31/93, and the current medium-term plan was disappointing in that regard. It was to be hoped that the introduction of time-limited objectives would bring about a decisive improvement and enable the United Nations to concentrate its necessarily limited resources on truly important activities.

9. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the work of CPC was of great long-term importance to the efficiency of the United Nations, and the Council had the responsibility of ensuring that full value was derived from it, bearing in mind its relevance to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and to its own work, especially at its organizational session for 1979. The Council should ensure that the General Assembly derived full benefit from the work of CPC and that its own subsidiary bodies were made more aware of the importance of good programming and evaluation and of the contribution they could make; it should provide full support to CPC when it came to endorse the conclusions and recommendations in the Committee's report.

10. His delegation believed that programming should include the choice of strategies for translating the objectives laid down in resolutions into concrete activities. In the light of the widely expressed doubts about the format of the current medium-term plan, it was important to note that the aim was not primarily to control the activities of the Secretariat, but to assist in the choice of effective strategies which would result in the best service to the international community, and in particular to developing countries. His delegation welcomed the decision of CPC to carry out an in-depth study of the planning process in 1979.

11. Progress was being made in evaluation; there again, it was not so much a question of control, although it was important for Governments to know whether planned activities had actually been carried out; as the CPC report put it, evaluation was a management tool for a broad examination of the impact of the actions of the United Nations on the problems at which those actions were aimed. His delegation expected significant improvement in the internal evaluation report to be prepared on the Centre on Transnational Corporations in 1979, and looked forward to further advice from the Joint Inspection Unit on the development of effective evaluation within the United Nations.

12. In the light of the statement by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the harmonization of programme budgets and medium-term plans (E/1978/43/Add.2), his delegation hoped that the recommendations made by CPC in paragraphs 46 to 49 of its report would be endorsed. The presentation of compatible financial information on programmes was essential if cross-organizational analysis was to be facilitated. His delegation agreed that United Nations procedures for planning and budgeting should converge with those of the agencies of the United Nations system. It hoped for a considerable improvement in the format of the cross-organizational report to be prepared for CPC in 1979 on energy activities. Co-operation from all concerned was required to ensure that the new system which was on trial for facilitating the exercise of the Council's system-wide co-ordinating role worked well.

13. With regard to the programme of work of CPC, if the new sector-by-sector approach to co-ordination was to yield results, the Council needed advice from CPC, and the latter should itself examine the individual sectors in accordance with a cycle which would not let too many years pass between successive examinations of each sector; it should therefore examine at least two sectors each year and should not allow that work to be squeezed out by work on the medium-term plan. His delegation would not go so far as to suggest that CPC should abandon its examination of the programme budget, as suggested by some delegations, although it considered that the concern was valid.

14. His delegation supported the work being undertaken by the ACC task force on long-term development objectives (see E/1978/43/Add.1); the studies being prepared under the auspices of the task force would be a vital contribution to intergovernmental preparations for a new international development strategy and it was essential that the relationship between the various development objectives set in the 1970s should be assessed dispassionately. His delegation hoped that the Council would commend the report on the joint meetings of ACC and CPC (E/1978/93).

15. Paragraph 91 of the CPC report contained a draft resolution which the Committee recommended for adoption by the Council, on the holding of a Fifth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance. The draft resolution, which his delegation had supported, was a compromise between the views of those delegations which doubted whether a further meeting was justified in view of the General Assembly's call for the streamlining of the Council's subsidiary machinery and those which felt that a meeting of experts was needed to help in preparing a chapter on public administration and finance in the new development strategy. The lesson to be drawn was that expert groups should not expect their lives to be extended automatically; they must be judged by their results, and the most cost-effective means of providing expert advice must be decided upon in each case. Although the Division of Public Administration and Finance would need expert advice in the future in carrying out its new tasks, the record showed that such advice should be problem-specific. General meetings had not been effective in assisting the Division to produce good results.

16. The Chairman of CPC had drawn attention (40th meeting, para. 7) to the complex problem presented by the Committee's failure to agree on the structure and content of chapter 27 of the proposed medium-term plan, concerning social development and humanitarian affairs. A number of significant points should be borne in mind in that respect. First, the Secretary-General was fully empowered to make changes in the administrative structure of the Secretariat; nothing which he proposed in chapters 13 and 27 of the medium-term plan in connexion with subprogrammes in the social development area exceeded his prerogative in that respect. Second, the evaluation conducted by CPC on the basis of an internally prepared report showed that there had been some ineffectiveness in the execution of certain subprogrammes and that in future those subprogrammes might with advantage be executed in conjunction with similar work undertaken by units responsible for development planning as a whole. Third, the Council and the General Assembly had been concerned for many years to promote an integrated approach to development analysis and plan-

ning and the co-ordination of work on social development with work on development in general. Fourth, there had never been a single homogeneous social programme as such, and it would be inadvisable to create one. If the work was to be well-rounded and influential, social factors should be the concern of many technical units. Half the United Nations activities in the social field had been carried out by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the remainder being shared among several other units. The Secretary-General's proposal to transfer two subprogrammes from one unit within the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to another unit in the same Department could hardly be regarded as an attempt to destroy the social programme, as some delegations alleged. It was a conscientious effort to increase the effectiveness of those important activities. Fifth, discussion of the merits of the proposed reorganization had been complicated by the question of the Centre's move to Vienna in 1979, which was a matter for the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. The question of the move was also linked with the possible creation of a separate secretariat in New York for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women to be held in 1980, which was a question for the Third Committee of the Assembly, and with another institutional problem, the status of the unit dealing with crime prevention and criminal justice. Those administrative problems were not the Council's direct concern, but an awareness of them was essential for understanding the positions taken by the various parties to the discussion on the content and structure of the social development and humanitarian affairs programme.

17. The Council must try to resolve the problem put before it by CPC. The point at issue was the treatment of social questions in a manner integrated with work on other development problems, as called for in repeated resolutions and, more specifically, the approach to be adopted towards activities on behalf of women in both developed and developing countries, as well as certain special population groups. His delegation would prefer the Council and the Assembly to endorse the Secretary-General's original proposals in chapters 13 and 27 of the medium-term plan. However, it recognized that certain delegations held different views, and it had noted with interest the suggestions made at the previous meeting by the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination and the representative of the USSR.

18. Mr. TERADA (Japan) endorsed the views expressed by other speakers regarding the distribution of documents needed for the consideration of the proposed medium-term plan. The late arrival of the basic documents had placed an unjustifiable burden on delegations. He therefore supported the resolution on documentation adopted by CPC (see A/33/38, para. 1).

19. Japan was a member of CPC, and his delegation had thus had an opportunity to discuss the medium-term plan in detail. He would therefore confine himself to a few remarks about the general lines of the proposed plan.

20. His delegation was convinced that the formulation of a medium-term plan with a view to introducing a logical and unified order into United Nations programmes and activities and assisting in the setting of the biennial programme budget was useful. The plan should, at the same time, establish priorities among programmes and see that duplication of activities was eliminated, so that the best possible use could be made

of the Organization's limited financial resources. However, as the Chairman of CPC had noted at the preceding meeting, the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 left much still to be done to achieve a satisfactory procedure for medium-term planning. His delegation therefore applauded the Committee's decision to carry out an in-depth study of the planning process at its nineteenth session.

21. According to General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX), the Secretary-General should provide information on programmes or activities that were already completed or regarded as being obsolete or of marginal usefulness. However, in examining the medium-term plan, his delegation had noted that most chapters gave no such indication. Moreover, although the programme budget for the biennium should be examined in the light of the medium-term plan, no attention had been paid to the budgetary implications of the activities of the Main Committees of the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies. According to General Assembly resolution 32/197, existing rules concerning the submission of programme budget implications of proposals should be enforced and statements of such implications should indicate related programmes already included in the medium-term plan, the percentage increase in the expenditures of the Secretariat units concerned and the resources which could be released from any programme elements which had become obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective.

22. With respect to the information on the financial aspects of the medium-term plan referred to in General Assembly resolution 31/93, his delegation fully supported the decision of CPC to examine the application of that resolution at its nineteenth session in the context of its in-depth study of the planning process in the United Nations system.

23. Mr. CAMILLERI (Malta) said that, in the short time his delegation had had to examine the vast amount of documentation relating to the medium-term plan, a number of points had come to mind. First, how did the medium-term plan relate to the restructuring decision adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/197? For example, on a cursory reading there seemed to be no reference in the medium-term plan to the role of the new Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. Second, how did the plan relate to the objectives of the new international economic order as defined in the various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly? A third, more complex question was how the tasks of the Secretariat as described in the medium-term plan would be related to the new international development strategy on which work was just starting.

24. It would appear that CPC itself had felt that those and similar questions were not satisfactorily dealt with in the whole complex of work before it. That accounted for the proposal, in paragraphs 51 and 52 of the Committee's report, that the introduction to the proposed medium-term plan should be redrafted by the new Director-General and issued as a self-contained document. His delegation suggested that, before that was done, some attempt should be made to form a clearer picture of the whole purpose of the plan and its implications. The General Assembly should not be asked to consider the plan at the current stage; instead, the Council should try to examine it in some depth.

25. A corollary question was the role of the Council in the entire exercise. His delegation felt that there

was a whole cluster of conceptual questions that needed to be dealt with, and not simply ignored because of the immensity of the task. Moreover, some parts of the plan were of special interest to members of the Council which were not members of CPC. For example, Malta was interested in the role of the regional commissions, especially the Economic Commission for Europe, and his delegation would be glad of an opportunity to study that question at leisure and in detail and to make its views known. It felt that the whole process of examining the plan had been rushed at every stage, and that it was too important a matter to be disposed of hastily. His Government must insist on its right to look at those aspects of the plan which related to it most intimately, and to bring its views and comments to the attention of the other members of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly.

26. The PRESIDENT said many delegations seemed to feel that it would be useful if informal consultations could be held on some of the points under consideration. He therefore proposed that the Council should not meet on the following day and that the time should be used for those consultations.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (continued)* (E/1978/103 and Add.1, E/1978/113, E/1978/141, E/1978/L.51)

APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL RAPPOREUR TO PREPARE A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF THE MASS COMMUNICATION MEDIA ON THE CHANGING ROLES OF WOMEN AND MEN (concluded)* (E/1978/113, E/1978/141)

27. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Council, at its 38th meeting, had decided to defer until the resumed second regular session the question of the appointment of a special rapporteur to prepare a study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of men and women, as called for in Council resolution 2063 (LXII), paragraph 8. At the same time, the Council, in its decision 1978/75, had requested him to consult with the Director-General of UNESCO on the preparation of such a study. The exchange of correspondence had been circulated in document E/1978/141, and the reply from the Director-General of UNESCO showed that he was prepared to co-operate fully with the special rapporteur. The names of several candidates had been put forward in document E/1978/113. The Bureau of the Council had held consultations with a view to enabling the Council to take a decision at its resumed session, and he hoped that members were now prepared to do so.

28. Mr. DIENE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), referring to the let-

ter from the Director-General of UNESCO in document E/1978/141, said that UNESCO wished to reiterate its hope that the special rapporteur would undertake the study concerned in close co-operation with it. UNESCO believed that its expertise on the matter, acquired over many years, could broaden the scope of the study.

29. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) said that the activities of the special rapporteur should also be co-ordinated with those of other United Nations bodies working in the field of information.

30. The PRESIDENT said that, on the basis of the consultations to which he had referred, he wished to propose that the Council should appoint Mrs. Esmeralda Arboleda de Cuevas of Colombia as the special rapporteur to prepare a study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of men and women called for in Council resolution 2063 (LXII), paragraph 8. Her qualifications, set forth in document E/1978/113, and in particular her connexion with UNESCO, made her a most suitable candidate. He also proposed that the work of the special rapporteur should be carried out in full co-operation with UNESCO and should take into account other activities in the field of information in the United Nations.

It was so decided (decision 1978/79).

31. Mr. BARBERI (Colombia) said that he was sure that Mrs. Cuevas's exceptional qualifications would enable her to carry out her task successfully.

32. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the statement by the representative of UNESCO had reassured him that that organization would co-operate closely on the study in question, and he offered Mrs. Cuevas his delegation's best wishes for her success.

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS (continued)** (E/1978/L.51)

33. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided (a) to convene the Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments, at Headquarters, from 29 January to 9 February and from 26 March to 6 April 1979; (b) that the session of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development should be held at Geneva from 5 to 16 March 1979 (instead of from 22 January to 2 February); and (c) that the regional group for Latin America of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, scheduled to meet at Santiago for three days in 1979, should meet from 28 to 30 May 1979 at Mexico City.

It was so decided (decision 1978/80, para. 1 (a) to (c)).

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.

* Resumed from the 38th meeting.

** Resumed from the 37th meeting.

42nd meeting

Wednesday, 8 November 1978, at 3.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.42

AGENDA ITEM 27

Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and programming procedures (continued) (A/33/6 (parts 1-30), A/33/38, E/6003, E/1978/12, E/1978/41 and Corr.2 and Add.1, E/1978/42 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/43/Add.2, E/1978/102, E/1978/L.52)

AGENDA ITEM 22

International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system (continued) (A/33/38, E/1978/43 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/93)

1. Mr. STOBY (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that, in section VI of the annex to its resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, the General Assembly had confirmed and expanded the responsibilities of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. The report of CPC on its eighteenth session (A/33/38) showed that the confidence which the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had placed in that body was justified.
2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly had established the office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. The Director-General attached great importance to the mandate entrusted to him by the Assembly of ensuring the coherence, co-ordination and efficient management of all activities in the economic and social fields financed by the regular budget or by extra-budgetary resources, and felt sure that that attitude was in accordance with the wishes of Member States.
3. The proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 (A/33/6 (parts 1-30)) had drawn a number of criticisms from CPC. In particular, the Committee had deplored the delay in the submission of documents to it and had expressed the view that chapter 1 of the plan did not conform to General Assembly resolution 31/93, paragraph 3 (a), where it was stipulated that the draft plan should embody a short statement on directions that United Nations activities should take in the medium term. The Committee had made a number of proposals concerning the future form and orientation of the document.
4. The Director-General regretted that the medium-term plan, which had been prepared before his office was established, had reached CPC and the Council too late and he assured the Council that the delay, which had been due, *inter alia*, to the restructuring of the Secretariat, would not be repeated; for, clearly, a document which was to provide the basis for the programme budget was of little use if it could not receive due consideration.
5. CPC had recommended that the introduction to the future medium-term plan should be issued as a separate document providing an overview of activities and the strategy for their implementation, and should be prepared by the Director-General under the authority of the Secretary-General. It should be pointed out that, owing to the fact that the medium-term plan covered areas outside the responsibilities of the Director-General in the economic and social fields, some parts of the introduction would have to be prepared elsewhere.
6. In considering the question of devising an effective evaluation system in the United Nations, the Committee had been greatly assisted by the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the matter (E/6003). As had already been stated to the Committee, the Secretary-General was in agreement with the JIU recommendations and to a large extent intended to implement them. With regard to the programme on transnational corporations, which CPC had decided to evaluate at its nineteenth session, the Committee had felt that there had been a lack of objectivity where previous evaluations were concerned because they had been undertaken by the programmes being evaluated. The Director-General was currently studying ways of avoiding that and other related problems, and he had in mind the establishment of a high-level interdepartmental committee under his chairmanship.
7. Finally, with regard to cross-organizational programme analysis, that concept needed to be refined for use as a management tool by the Secretariat and by Governments. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination had given CPC a stimulating exposé on the methodological problems involved and suggestions for developing the methodology further. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation would continue to look to him to effect the necessary improvements. In addition, in so far as the entire system was involved with the question, the Director-General would seek to foster intersecretariat co-operation in the pursuit of methodological refinement.
8. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that it was regrettable that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had not been able to present his statement on the CPC report in person to the Council. In view of the importance of the subject, a number of delegations would certainly have had questions to put to him.
9. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) said that, if the Council adopted the draft decision submitted by the President (E/1978/L.52), that would mean that the proposed medium-term plan would not be acted on by the Council at the current stage. In that case, the Secretariat would have no basis on which to prepare the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, which must be ready for consideration by CPC in May 1979. The Council might therefore wish to agree also that the proposed medium-term plan should be used as a working basis in preparing the programme budget,

on the understanding that whatever changes were made by the Council and by the General Assembly would be reflected by adjustments in the programme budget.

10. Replying to some of the questions raised at the preceding meeting, he said that, to the extent possible, the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations had been reflected in the medium-term plan. For example, the programmes formerly under the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had been presented in two sections: one to be administered under the new Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the other under the new Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. The programmes under the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs had also been reoriented with a view to facilitating the implementation of its function of interdisciplinary research and analysis, particularly in undertaking in-depth intersectoral analyses and syntheses of development issues, and identifying and bringing to the attention of Governments new economic and social issues of international concern. That reorientation was particularly apparent in chapter 13 of the medium-term plan, entitled "Development issues and policies". It was also reflected in the programmes on population, natural resources and energy, ocean economics and technology and statistics. That factor had also been taken into account in the social development and humanitarian affairs programme (chapter 27), entitled "Women and special groups", which had not been accepted by CPC and the Council. He was happy to state that it had been possible to draft a new revised programme, the text of which would be distributed in the near future.

11. However, it should be noted that the process of restructuring was still going on. Although some of the most important steps had been taken, such as the appointment of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the restructuring of a number of Secretariat units, the organization of the Department and of the Office of the Director-General was not yet completed.

12. As stated in CPC by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, the decisions of the General Assembly concerning the establishment of a new international economic order had also been reflected in the medium-term plan. The research and analysis work of the Department would help to attain that objective. The means for attaining it were set out in the chapter entitled "Development issues and policies", particularly subprogrammes 1, 2 and 5 of programme 1. The need to establish a new international economic order had also been one of the main points of reference in the preparation of the other programmes of the Department.

13. He wished to assure the Council that the preparations for a new international development strategy had been one of the main considerations in his Department's planning of activities. The activities directly relating to the preparation of the new strategy were presented under the programme entitled "Development issues and policies", not only because they were inherent in the functions of that programme but also because they provided the substantive support of the Secretariat for the Committee for Development Planning in the initial preparation of the new strategy. He would like to point out, however, that at the time when the medium-term plan had been completed the General

Assembly had not yet taken any decision concerning the formulation of the new strategy.

DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION (A/33/38, PARA. 91)

14. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution entitled "Fifth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance", the text of which appeared in paragraph 91 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. Without prejudice to the Council's streamlining of its subsidiary bodies pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, he would take it, if there was no objection, that the Council decided to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1978/75).

DRAFT DECISION SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT (E/1978/L.52)

15. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) said that his delegation, which had participated in the work of CPC as an observer, was not alone in feeling that the members of the Council must be given an opportunity to study the medium-term plan in greater detail and to comment on it. His delegation therefore agreed with the draft decision submitted by the President (E/1978/L.52). However, that did not mean that the Council should do nothing, especially since the Secretariat needed guidelines, particularly for the preparation of the next programme budget. Accordingly, the medium-term plan could perhaps be considered in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in a few weeks' time. His delegation, like others, had unfortunately not been able to study the report of CPC as carefully as it would have liked because of its length and its late submission, which in turn had been due to the fact that the medium-term plan had not been submitted sufficiently in advance of the session of CPC. His delegation agreed with the Committee's decision to study the planning process in depth at its nineteenth session and was pleased that that had been mentioned in draft decision E/1978/L.52. It believed that the cross-organizational programme analyses undertaken by the Committee with respect to information systems, the application of science and technology to development and economic co-operation among developing countries would be very useful. It hoped that, in future, the Committee would have more time to pursue those analyses and would have available for that purpose reports which took into account the experience gained in 1978.

16. The proposal concerning the evaluation of the programme on transnational corporations was interesting, but his delegation considered it necessary to seek a balance between internal and external evaluation.

17. Mr. METELITS (United States of America) supported the draft decision submitted by the President, which was the result of lengthy negotiations and reflected numerous points of view. His delegation noted with satisfaction the interest shown by the members of the Council in the medium-term plan and welcomed the Council's intention to study that document in greater detail, since that would facilitate the task of CPC when it came to consider the planning process at its next session.

18. He pointed out that foot-note 3 to paragraph (g) was missing in the English text.

19. The PRESIDENT said that that foot-note should read: "Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/33/38), para. 675."

20. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) and Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), said that the views expressed at the current session of the Council concerning the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be transmitted to the General Assembly. He wondered whether the second phrase of paragraph (c) of the draft decision ("as well as the views expressed thereon in the Economic and Social Council") would be more suitably placed in paragraph (g).

21. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) disagreed. Since the draft decision and the whole of the Council's report were to be transmitted to the General Assembly, there was no need for the change suggested by the representative of the United Kingdom.

22. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) supported the representative of Tunisia. Paragraph (e) of the draft decision was perfectly clear: the Council had not had the opportunity to study the contents of the medium-term plan in depth and had therefore decided to postpone its consideration until 1979. The Council could not transmit to the General Assembly conclusions or recommendations concerning a text which it had not been able to consider properly. He was not, therefore, in favour of changing the text of the draft decision.

23. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) agreed that, in the circumstances, it would be best to retain paragraph (c) in its present form.

24. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that, in paragraph (d) of the draft decision, the phrase "and preparation of programme budgets" went further than the recommendation made by CPC in paragraph 3 of its report, which referred only to the "planning process". He therefore proposed that paragraph (d) should read as follows: "Approves the decision of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to study in depth, at its next session, the process of medium-term planning as a whole".

25. Mr. PIRSON (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) said that, according to paragraph 675 (e) of its report, the intention of CPC had been to consider, in 1979, "the whole process of medium-term planning and programme budgeting". As in paragraph (d) of draft decision E/1978/L.52, the question at issue concerned programme budgeting, and not the preparation of programme budgets, as stated in the English text. What CPC had in mind was indeed the whole process of planning and programming, and the French text raised no problem. He suggested that it might be advisable to bring paragraph (d) of the English text of the draft decision into line with the French text.

26. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed, as a compromise, that the English text of paragraph (d) might be amended to read: "Approves the decision of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to study in depth, at its nineteenth session, the process of planning and programming."

27. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft decision as amended by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Draft decision E/1978/L.52, as amended, was adopted (decision 1978/84).

28. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) said that the Group of 77 was very satisfied with the consensus reached by the Council on draft decision E/1978/L.52. He expressed the hope that the Council would in the future play its proper role in the process of considering the medium-term plan. The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the Assembly itself could take note of the decision adopted and could draw appropriate conclusions from it, especially when the next budget was being finally adopted. The Group of 77 was aware that the Secretariat used the medium-term plan as a framework in drawing up the budget. When the budget estimates were being drawn up in their final form, account should therefore be taken of any changes which the Council might make during its examination of the plan in 1979. It was not his intention to criticize the actions of CPC or its working methods; the Group of 77 was aware of the importance of the Committee's work and of its services to the Council and the General Assembly. It considered, however, that the Council's role should be respected while the plan was being drawn up.

29. Mr. CAMILLERI (Malta) said that he shared the view expressed by the representative of Tunisia on behalf of the Group of 77 and welcomed the fact that agreement had been reached on the draft decision.

30. Some preliminary comments on the proposed medium-term plan were necessary before any decision was taken regarding the documentation before the Council.

31. First, there was clearly a close relationship between the plan and restructuring. However, the situation in regard to restructuring was not yet clear, nor was it clear what the functions of the various organs and officials would be, particularly those of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. For that reason his delegation, speaking both in its individual capacity and as a member of the Group of 77, looked forward to the Secretary-General's report on the subject. He considered that it would not be possible to analyse the medium-term plan properly until more information on restructuring was available.

32. Secondly, judging from the presentation of the programmes in the medium-term plan, the question arose whether the goals of the new international economic order were properly reflected therein. In particular, it was not clear whether the programme of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, as set out in paragraph 13.9 of chapter 13 of the plan, would meet the expectations of the developing countries. He quoted from that paragraph the four important considerations which had been taken into account in designing the programme of the Department:

"First, it seeks to heighten the responsiveness of current work to the changing concerns of Governments. Secondly, it reflects a new thrust in the work towards the analysis of policy alternatives. Thirdly, it focuses more on analysis of the global interdependence among countries and country groups, and on policies affecting international relations. Fourthly, it seeks to effect a full integration of the analysis of

economic and social issues throughout the programme of work.”

The question arose whether the programme properly reflected the concerns of the developing countries with regard to development. That question deserved to be raised, and should be studied in greater depth. Moreover, the word “development” did not appear in the title of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, nor in the text of the four considerations which he had quoted. Perhaps an attempt should be made to include it.

33. Thirdly, while the introduction was not totally devoid of linkage with the plan, the connexion was not very clear. His delegation therefore supported the recommendation of CPC that the text of the introduction should be revised and furthermore held strongly to the view that the link between the introduction and the plan itself should be clearly set out in the revised text.

34. Finally, he regretted that programme 4 of chapter 13, regarding the Economic Commission for Europe, did not refer to the North-South aspect of the Commission's work but only took account of the East-West aspect. The Commission had itself accepted that its work should cover that aspect. That point would have to be corrected, not only in chapter 13, but also in the introduction and in chapter 28, which covered the major programmes unique to the regional commissions.

35. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was not opposed to the adoption of draft decision E/1978/L.52 by consensus but nevertheless considered that it did not give any precise guidance for dealing with the proposed medium-term plan. When adopting the plan for the current period, the Council had clearly recommended it to the General Assembly and thus to the Fifth Committee. A very ambiguous situation had arisen, however, in so far as the Council was not recommending the proposed plan to the General Assembly, yet the plan would nevertheless be submitted to the Fifth Committee. He inquired how, in those circumstances, the Fifth Committee could consider the document and what decision it could take. That was a question which had to be considered.

36. The Council had been assured by the Secretariat that the chapter on social affairs would be completed in the near future. He understood that assurance to mean that, when the document was ready, the Council would be convened in order to examine it before its submission to the General Assembly.

37. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) thanked the representative of Tunisia for the comments which he had made, on behalf of the Group of 77, concerning the adoption of draft decision E/1978/L.52 by the Council.

38. He noted that the representative of Malta had rightly stressed certain problems. There was of course a link between the medium-term plan and the restructuring exercise and it would undoubtedly have been easier to examine the proposed medium-term plan in that context. Unfortunately, the Secretary-General's report on restructuring was not yet available. That was, moreover, a point which must be stressed, since it could be asked whether there was not a deliberate intention on the part of some to submit documents late so that they could not be examined in detail. With regard to the report on restructuring in particular, he noted that some of the subjects to be dealt with in that document

had already been, or were currently being, considered by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which led him to wonder whether an effort was not being made to have it examined in separate segments. However, it should be noted that the report on restructuring was an extremely important document which did not deal solely with the medium-term plan.

39. The USSR representative had compared the way in which the Council had considered the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 with the manner in which it had considered the previous plan. While it was aware that some points might be controversial, his delegation thought, however, that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System had achieved results which, at least on one point, could not be challenged.

40. Mr. PIRSON (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) thanked the Council for its careful study of the report of CPC and welcomed its adoption of draft decision E/1978/L.52. Thus, the Fifth Committee would be able to begin without delay its consideration of the report and the proposed medium-term plan. Furthermore, it was understood that the Council would continue its consideration of chapter 27 relating to humanitarian and social questions. He hoped that the Council would soon be in a position to submit its recommendations on the subject to the General Assembly.

41. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination), replying to the representative of Malta, said the fact that the word “development” did not appear in the text of the four important considerations which had been taken into account in the definition of the programme of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs should not be taken to mean that development questions were not at the centre of the Department's concerns. The word “development” did appear in the title of several subprogrammes of the Department—subprogrammes 1, 2, 4 and 5, for example—and there was no doubt that questions relating to development occupied a fundamental place in the work of the Department.

42. The PRESIDENT noted that several delegations had expressed concern about specific points. He assured them that their concern would be fully taken into account and that an effort would be made to resolve the difficulties which they had indicated.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION (E/1978/102)

43. The PRESIDENT asked the Council whether it wished to take note of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on measures for achieving better co-ordination between social and other development activities within the United Nations system (E/1978/102), which was before it under agenda item 27. The Council might also wish to take note of the progress report brought to its attention, namely the report of ACC on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (E/1978/105), and to transmit both reports to the General Assembly.

44. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the first of the documents in question, which dealt with several controversial issues, had been issued with intolerable delay, and that no decision could be taken on it. In any event, no note could be

taken of the two documents unless delegations had had time to examine them.

45. The PRESIDENT suggested, in the light of the USSR representative's comments, that consideration of the reports in documents E/1978/102 and E/1978/105 should be postponed until the next meeting.

It was so decided.

OTHER REPORTS SUBMITTED UNDER AGENDA
ITEMS 27 AND 22

46. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the annual report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1977/78 (E/1978/43 and Add.1 and 2) and the report of the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the joint meetings of those committees (E/1978/93). He said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to take note of those reports.

It was so decided (decision 1978/82).

47. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit submitted under agenda item 27 (E/6003, E/1978/12, E/1978/41 and Corr.2 and Add.1, E/1978/42 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to take note of those reports.

It was so decided (decision 1978/96).

48. The PRESIDENT announced that the consideration of agenda item 22 had not been concluded and would be continued at a subsequent date with the examination of the recommendations of the General Conference of UNESCO concerning the designation of an international year for science and technology for development and the report of the Director-General of UNESCO on the results of the Intergovernmental Conference on Strategies and Policies for Informatics (SPIN). The consideration of item 27 would be continued once the members of the Council had had time to study the revised draft programme contained in the new version of chapter 27 of the proposed medium-term plan which would be circulated by the Secretariat in about two weeks' time.

AGENDA ITEM 34

Nomination of members of the World Food Council

49. The PRESIDENT announced that, in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), the Council had to nominate members for the 12 vacancies in the World Food Council which would occur on 31 December 1978, for election by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session according to the following pattern: three seats for African States, three seats for Asian States, two seats for Latin American States, one seat for the socialist States of Eastern Europe and three seats for Western European and other States.

50. Mr. PARSI (Iran), speaking as Chairman of the group of Asian States, announced that, following consultations within the group, which had selected five candidates instead of three, Malaysia and Indonesia had withdrawn their candidature, and that thanks to their co-operation, the group of Asian States had been able to submit its list in time.

51. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Council) read out the list of candidates whose names had been communicated to the Secretariat. They were, for the African States: Botswana, Ethiopia and Liberia; for the Asian States: India, Iraq and Thailand; for the Latin American States: Colombia and Mexico; for the socialist States of Eastern Europe: Yugoslavia; and for the Western European and other States: Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

52. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to nominate the 12 States, the names of which had just been read out by the Secretary of the Council, for election by the General Assembly to membership in the World Food Council.

It was so decided (decision 1978/83).

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

43rd meeting

Wednesday, 15 November 1978, at 11.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.43

AGENDA ITEM 31

World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (A/33/339 and Add.1, A/CONF.94/PC/4, E/1978/106, E/1978/NGO/14)

1. Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women at its first session (A/33/339), stressed once again the importance of the 1980 World Conference and the great

hopes placed in it both by the international community and by the organizations of the United Nations system. Taking place at the midpoint of the Decade, the Conference would evaluate progress made and obstacles encountered at the national, regional and international levels in respect of the attainment of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and would develop a programme of concrete action for the second half of the Decade.

2. The Conference was therefore a follow-up to the World Conference of the International Women's Year held at Mexico City in 1975, as well as a major event

in the course of the Decade for Women, 1976-1985. It would be a time for taking stock of what had been achieved and for devising improved policies and strategies for action in the light of accomplishments since 1975. It would also be a first attempt to evaluate achievements in implementing the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year adopted at the Mexico Conference,¹ the first comprehensive, universal, socio-economic and political plan designed to improve the situation of every human being. The Conference would also attempt to evaluate how far the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade had been achieved with regard to the full integration of women in development.

3. Part of the Conference's importance lay in its timing, since it would take place within the context of the establishment of the new international economic order, when the disadvantaged situation of women needed to be increasingly understood as one of the basic obstacles to the establishment of social justice and to the achievement of the aims of the new order.

4. At its first session, in June 1978, the Preparatory Committee had examined all aspects of the preparations for the Conference. The discussions and decisions of the Committee were reflected in its report (A/CONF.94/PC/4). In addition, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 32/140, the Secretary-General had prepared the report on the work of the Preparatory Committee which was now before the Council (A/33/339).

5. The Secretary-General's report spelt out in greater detail the implications of the Preparatory Committee's recommendations regarding the organization of and substantive preparations for the Conference. Chapter II contained the Secretary-General's observations on the work of the Preparatory Committee and on its recommendations as they appeared in the draft resolution adopted by it, which was reproduced in annex I to the report. Chapter III contained the programme budget implications of the preparations for and convening of the Conference. The addendum to the report (A/33/339/Add.1) contained a proposed programme of information activities for the Conference and indicating the related costs, in accordance with the decision of the Preparatory Committee reproduced in annex II to the report.

6. In preparing his report and formulating his observations and proposals, the Secretary-General had taken full account of the Preparatory Committee's recommendations and of the need to ensure the success of the World Conference through efficient arrangements for its preparation and holding. She drew attention to paragraph 8, in which it was suggested that the Council might wish, at its organizational session for 1979, to review its programme of work and that of the Commission on the Status of Women in the light of the preparations for the Conference and to make consequential modifications in them and in the related documentation. Such adjustments might cover any necessary rearrangements of priorities in the programme of work of the two bodies for the biennium 1979-1980, in order to ensure optimum utilization of resources for the successful preparation of the Conference. She was confident that the Council would give high priority to the responsibili-

ties of the Commission on the Status of Women for the review of substantive documentation to be submitted to the Conference. The table in paragraph 12 of the report indicated, *inter alia*, the documents to be submitted to the Conference through the Commission.

7. Paragraph 10 referred to the deadlines for documentation which must be met to ensure timely distribution. She made a special plea to delegations to refrain from requesting the submission of additional reports either to the Conference or to the United Nations legislative bodies for the biennium 1979-1980, since the resources and time available would not allow for their preparation.

8. Paragraph 11 gave a description of the work to be carried out in connexion with the preparations for, the holding of and the follow-up to the Conference, for the period from 1 January 1979 to 31 December 1980. Paragraph 12 contained a table listing the documents to be submitted to the Conference, distinguishing between those which would be submitted through the Commission on the Status of Women and those which would be submitted directly to the Conference. Paragraphs 13 to 19 referred to staff requirements and described the specific functions of the additional staff to be recruited in conformity with paragraph 9 of the Preparatory Committee's draft resolution in annex I. Paragraph 20 contained a proposal by the Secretary-General that all the direct responsibilities for the preparatory work for the Conference should be centralized in the Conference secretariat at United Nations Headquarters.

9. Paragraphs 21 and 22 of the report gave an estimate of the number of staff to be seconded from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and of temporary staff to be recruited to assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The entire Conference secretariat would consist of 13 members, a very small number compared to other United Nations conferences. Under the proposed arrangements, the Advancement of Women Branch would retain four professionals to carry out its numerous mandates not related to the Conference. The extent to which they would be able to do so would depend on the possibility of co-operation and co-ordination with the members of the Branch who were seconded to the Conference secretariat. She would, of course, do everything possible to facilitate such co-operation and co-ordination.

10. With regard to the preparatory meetings for the Conference, including the second session of the Preparatory Committee, regional preparatory meetings, sectoral meetings and meetings of non-governmental organizations, dealt with in paragraphs 24 to 31, she had just been informed by the Department of Conference Services that, subject to the approval of the Council, the dates for the second session of the Preparatory Committee would be changed to 27 August to 7 September 1979 and it would be held at Headquarters in New York. She stressed the importance of regional preparatory meetings for the successful implementation of the World Plan of Action and the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women.² In accordance with the Preparatory Committee's recommendations, regional preparatory meetings in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Western Asia and Latin America would undertake regional reviews and appraisals and adopt pro-

¹ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

² Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5909), annex V.

grammes of action for the second half of the Decade. Those reviews and programmes would be essential prerequisites for the global review and global programme of action to be considered and adopted by the World Conference. Paragraphs 26 and 27 on regional preparatory meetings should be read in conjunction with paragraphs 45 to 48 on their budgetary implications, particularly paragraph 47, which gave a breakdown of costs for each meeting. The column headed "Travel and subsistence" did not provide for travel and subsistence of participants, as it was assumed that Governments would bear those costs.

11. The summary of costs in paragraph 53 of the report showed a grand total of \$890,160 for 1979 and \$1,575,800 for 1980. The information programme together with the related budget estimates, which appeared in the addendum to the report, would be presented by the Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Information.

12. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the study of the interagency programme for the Decade (E/1978/106), which had been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 32/138, she said that, currently, the programme did not constitute a joint undertaking of a common programme or programmes by interested organizations, although she was confident that that would be the situation one day. Rather, it provided an organized picture of activities on behalf of women within the United Nations system according to guidelines approved by interested organizations and inspired by the recommendations of the 1975 Conference and the World Plan of Action.

13. With regard to paragraph 29, concerning the protection of women in situations of armed conflict and emergency, and the two neglected areas mentioned in it, she had in the meantime been in contact with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which had promised its full co-operation in that important matter.

14. In the form in which it stood the interagency programme had been a very powerful catalyst for the follow-up to the Conference's recommendations in terms of concrete projects. Its next updating would constitute the basis for the review and evaluation of regional and global programmes of the United Nations system aimed at promoting the objectives of the Decade which would be submitted to the 1980 World Conference.

15. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan) said that his delegation attached particular importance to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women and to the work of the Preparatory Committee. It would agree to the Council's simply taking note of the report of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.94/PC/4) and recommending the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein (*ibid.*, para. 118), on the understanding that there would be an opportunity to comment on the subject in detail when it was taken up in the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

16. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) said that not all delegations had had an opportunity to consult their Governments on the draft resolution formulated by the Preparatory Committee. He therefore proposed that the operative paragraph should be amended to read "Transmits to the General Assembly the following draft resolution". The Council could thus avoid taking a position on the substance of the draft resolution.

17. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet Union supported the lofty goals of the United Nations Decade for Women and the holding of a World Conference and was participating in the preparations for it. It was significant that many delegations in the Preparatory Committee had stressed the importance of the struggle to strengthen international peace and security and oppose colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and racial discrimination. His delegation believed that energetic efforts should be made during the Decade to maintain international peace, develop co-operation among States on a basis of equality, eliminate the vestiges of colonialism and racism and attain the basic goals of the Decade, namely, equality, development and peace.

18. His delegation supported the provisional agenda for the Conference proposed by the Preparatory Committee and annexed to the draft resolution, as it gave equal weight to each of the goals of the Decade. It believed that the broad range of measures planned at the national, regional and international levels would contribute to attaining those goals.

19. His delegation was concerned about some of the proposals in the report of the Secretary-General (A/33/339) which, in its view, would entail excessive expenditure that could not be justified. A large proportion of the expenditure for the preparation of the World Conference consisted of administrative costs for the recruitment of temporary personnel and consultants and staff travel expenses, amounting to over \$800,000. His delegation felt that there was insufficient justification for the establishment of a separate Conference secretariat, and particularly for the 13 Professional and 8 General Service posts requested, as the result would be not only considerable expenditure but duplication of the work of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as evidenced by the proposal to establish a number of high-level posts for "co-ordination". His delegation believed that the functions of the Conference secretariat could very well be carried out by the Centre, which could be allowed a reasonable number of additional Professional posts during the period of the preparation and holding of the Conference; the experience of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries showed that that was a sound approach. His comments applied, *inter alia*, to paragraphs 4, 14 and 15 of the draft resolution.

20. His delegation hoped that all necessary steps would be taken to avoid unjustified expenditure and to finance the costs of its Conference from internal reserves and from resources released as a result of the completion, curtailment or reorganization of programmes and the discontinuation of obsolete programmes. It hoped that the Secretary-General would take those comments into account when making cost estimates.

21. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) urged the Council to support the amendment proposed by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. The points made by the representative of the Soviet Union were well taken; however, the Council did not have time to discuss the expenditure for the Conference, and would have to leave that task to the General Assembly.

22. Mr. NENEMAN (Poland) said that the Council clearly did not have enough time to discuss the reports and the draft resolution in detail, and in-depth discussion would have to be left to the Third Committee of

the General Assembly. He supported a number of the points made by the representative of the Soviet Union about the excessive costs envisaged in the Secretary-General's report.

23. Ms. HUGGARD (World Federation of United Nations Associations), speaking as First Vice-President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, said that the officers of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations were extremely concerned about paragraph 8 (g) of the draft resolution recommended by the Preparatory Committee, under which the Secretary-General of the Conference would be requested to provide a list of the non-governmental organizations which might address the Conference, for approval by the Preparatory Committee at its second session, on the understanding that the number would be limited . . . They regretted the departure from the procedure of previous conferences, such as the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Habitat, the United Nations Water Conference and the recent United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, where non-governmental organizations had been allowed to speak, with the determination being made on the spot by the chairmen and members of the appropriate bodies. In their opinion, the effectiveness of the contribution of non-governmental organizations was enhanced if they were able to present their views orally. Only a very small number of non-governmental organizations participating in conferences had actually taken the opportunity to make oral statements, and they had generally been scrupulous in speaking to the point and within the time allowed.

24. Placing a predetermined limit on the number of representatives of non-governmental organizations would be detrimental to the development of constructive relations between the United Nations and those organizations. It would require the establishment of selection procedures which could give rise to accusations of arbitrariness and which were not easy to devise. The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations therefore earnestly hoped that participants from such organizations in the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women would be permitted to make oral statements if they so requested—subject, of course, to the availability of time.

25. Mr. HAIDAR (India) said that, although his delegation could support the draft resolution of the Preparatory Committee as it stood, it was prepared, in the interests of expediting the work of the Council, to agree to the amendment of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the understanding that the many important issues in the Preparatory Committee's report which the Council had not had time to discuss would be taken up in the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

26. Ms. MARTINEZ (Jamaica) said that her delegation could support the draft resolution, and pointed out that it had been adopted by consensus and that the report of the Preparatory Committee had been available for some months. However, in order to expedite the work of the Council and assist those delegations which had not had an opportunity to consider the draft resolution, her delegation could support the proposal of the Federal Republic of Germany and reserve its substantive comments for the Third and Fifth Committees of the General Assembly.

27. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said it would probably be wise to adopt the amendment, although his delegation could associate itself with the draft resolution.

28. Miss ILIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that her delegation could support the amendment because of the pressure of time, on the understanding that it would not create a precedent.

29. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said that Iran had participated in the work of the Preparatory Committee and could support all the provisions of the draft resolution. However, in view of the late submission of the report of the Secretary-General (A/33/339) and of some language versions of the report of the Preparatory Committee, her delegation would support the amendment of the Federal Republic of Germany. She had been somewhat surprised that delegations which had participated in the consensus on the draft resolution in the Preparatory Committee were now expressing doubts about the arrangements for the Conference secretariat. She was glad that the Secretary-General had taken into account the concern expressed in the Preparatory Committee, and in the Third Committee at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, about the need for adequate preparation, inasmuch as the Conference could be very important in promoting the status of women, particularly in the fields of employment, health and education. Her delegation would revert to that subject in the Third Committee.

30. Miss BEAGLE (New Zealand) said that, while her delegation could support the draft resolution, it would agree to the amendment of the Federal Republic of Germany because of considerations of time, reserving the right to make substantive comments on the report in the Third Committee.

31. Miss OLOWO (Uganda) said that her delegation, having taken part in the work of the Preparatory Committee, agreed that the Committee's concern that there should be adequate preparation for the Conference had been duly taken into account in the Secretary-General's report. It also agreed that the report should be discussed in the Third Committee of the General Assembly. However, the Preparatory Committee appeared to have overlooked the desire of regional groups in Africa and elsewhere to give liberation movements, such as those recognized by the Organization of African Unity, an opportunity to express their views, and she hoped that the Council could discuss financial provisions to that end.

32. Ms. MATTESON (United States of America) associated her delegation with the views expressed by the representatives of Jamaica and the United Kingdom.

33. Mr. ZELNER GONÇALVES (Brazil) said that Brazil had participated in the consensus on the draft resolution in the Preparatory Committee but could accept the amendment of the Federal Republic of Germany, since it believed that delegations should be allowed time to study the report of the Secretary-General.

34. Mrs. MORENO DE CUETO (Mexico) said that Mexico had participated in the work of the Preparatory Committee and supported the draft resolution; however, it could accept the amendment of the Federal Republic of Germany.

35. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) said that, since his country was not a member of the Preparatory Committee, it would appreciate having some time to consider the reports before they were taken up in the Third

Committee, when it would make substantive comments on them, and on certain aspects of the draft resolution.

36. Mr. MORET ECHEVARRIA (Cuba) said that, while his delegation was ready to adopt the draft resolution, it could agree to the amendment on the understanding that it would not create a precedent.

37. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that, if the Council simply took note of the report of the Secretary-General, that action should not constitute a precedent; her delegation reserved the right to express its views in the Third Committee on some of the proposals contained in it, particularly certain financial proposals for which there was no legislative basis.

38. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should decide (a) to transmit to the General Assembly for its consideration the report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women on its first session (A/CONF.94/PC/4), the draft resolution referred to the General Assembly therein (*ibid.*, para. 118) and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Preparatory Committee at its first session (A/33/339), together with the comments made thereon; (b) to review, at its organizational session for 1979, in the light of the provisional agenda for the Conference, the related programmes of work of the Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, with a view to making consequential modifications thereto and to the related documentation; and (c) to authorize the Secretary-General to submit directly to the General Assembly the report requested by the Preparatory Committee on a programme of information activities for the Conference (A/33/339/Add.1).

It was so decided (decision 1978/85).

39. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should also take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the study of the interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (E/1978/106) and transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, together with the comments made thereon.

It was so decided (decision 1978/86).

40. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 31.

AGENDA ITEM 33

World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/33/262)

41. The PRESIDENT said that agenda item 33 had been included in the Council's work programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). By its decision 1978/1, the Council had decided to consider it at its resumed second regular session of 1978. The World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had decided to request its President to submit the report of the Conference to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, and the Third Committee had begun consideration of that question. At present, the Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Conference (A/33/262); the report of the Conference itself was not yet available. By its resolution 1978/3, the Council had decided to review the outcome of the Conference at its first regular session of 1979. In the circumstances, he would take it, if there was no objection, that the Council agreed to take note of the report of the Secretary-

General on the work of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/33/262).

It was so decided (decision 1978/87).

42. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 33.

AGENDA ITEM 27

Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and programming procedures (*continued*) (A/33/6 (parts 1-30), A/33/38, E/1978/102)

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION (*continued*) (E/1978/102)

43. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on measures for achieving better co-ordination between social and other development activities within the United Nations system (E/1978/102).

44. Mr. VOICU (Romania) reaffirmed the views he had expressed at the 41st meeting of the Council concerning measures for improving co-ordination between social and other development activities within the United Nations. His delegation attached particular importance to the implementation of Council resolution 1978/35 and the strengthening of activities in the social development sector within the United Nations. All issues relating to social development should be discussed in depth in the Third Committee of the General Assembly with a view to improving co-ordination in the competent United Nations bodies, particularly the Commission for Social Development and the Committee for Development Planning. He welcomed the concern of Member States to reinforce the social development sector in the United Nations, as reflected in paragraph 7 of the ACC report. However, his delegation did not accept the view expressed in paragraph 9 of the report that it was no longer possible to single out a "social sector" from other development activities except on the basis of a rather artificial distinction. With regard to the concept of integrated development, his delegation was of the view that, since Governments were responsible for defining and implementing development objectives, integration machinery should reflect the priorities established by Governments. His delegation reserved the right to comment on the subject in greater detail in the Third Committee and at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development.

45. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that, in addition to the report under consideration, the Council in its resolution 1978/35 had also requested reports from the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Committee for Development Planning and had recommended that those various reports should be considered in a consolidated manner. The essential purpose of that resolution, namely, to focus the attention of Governments on the importance of social development in the over-all context of national development, was not reflected in the ACC report. The Secretariat should ensure that that aspect was adequately reflected in United Nations activities and, in particular, in the documents it submitted to the various bodies concerned with the formulation of the new international development strategy. His delegation did not agree with the views expressed in paragraph 9 of the report. Chapter II of the report contained virtually no proposals for modifying the medium-term plan with a view to strengthening the social sectors of

the United Nations, owing to a false assumption by the authors that no distinction could be drawn between social and other development activities.

46. With regard to the view expressed in paragraph 19 of the report concerning the allocation of work between the First and Second Committees of the Economic and Social Council and between the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, he pointed out that the roles of those bodies were defined in the Charter of the United Nations. Consequently, it was not proper for the Secretariat to make proposals in that respect without the authorization of intergovernmental organs. Moreover, any proposal to submit social development issues to the already overburdened Second Committee of the General Assembly would narrow the scope of discussions on social development throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries, and would be contrary to the high priority given to social development in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV)) and other instruments adopted by the United Nations. For all those reasons, the Council should not transmit document E/1978/102 to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, currently in progress.

47. Mr. NENEMAN (Poland) said that the authors of the ACC report did not appear to have taken into account the important debate in the Third Committee of the General Assembly on the social aspects of development and their impact on economic development or the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which had laid down the guidelines for United Nations activities in that field. Their assumption that social development was an automatic side-effect of economic development was completely false; many economically advanced countries were relatively backward in terms of social development, and vice versa. Consequently, it was essential that the United Nations system should promote the exchange of experience among countries in order to foster social development. The view expressed in paragraph 9 of the report that any distinction between social and other development activities was artificial was entirely erroneous, as was the assumption that economic development financed social development activities. Indeed, in many instances, lack of social change hampered economic development and the advancement of human rights.

48. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) said that it was regrettable that the reports of CPC and the Committee for Development Planning requested in Council resolution 1978/35 were not available and that consequently it would not be possible to discuss all the reports in the consolidated manner recommended in paragraph 4 of that resolution.

49. On the basis of a preliminary examination of document E/1978/102, he shared some of the reservations expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union. However, he did not consider it appropriate to elaborate further on the substance of the ACC report at the current stage, on the understanding that adequate provision would be made for consideration of it and of the wider aspects of follow-up measures to resolution 1978/35 during the debate in the Third Committee on item 12 of the agenda of the General Assembly.

50. He agreed with the representative of Romania on the need for speedy implementation of resolution 1978/35 in order to facilitate decisions by Member States regarding programmes and priorities in the field of

social development, the preparation of the new international development strategy and administrative changes in the social sectors of the Secretariat.

51. Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) endorsed the views expressed by the representative of New Zealand. His delegation reserved the right to comment further on the item under consideration in the Third and Fifth Committees of the General Assembly at the appropriate time.

52. Mr. NÁTHON (Hungary) said that the ACC report included certain proposals which had political implications for the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983. Since the Council had decided at the 42nd meeting to resume its consideration of that plan at its organizational session for 1979, he proposed that consideration of the ACC report should be deferred until that session. In the light of its own experience over the past 35 years, Hungary favoured an integrated approach to development. However, he did not agree with the view expressed in the report that there was no difference between social and other development activities.

53. Ms. MORGENTHAU (United States of America) said that the ACC report was well presented and contained a number of salient points. It was obvious that the well-written report was not the work of an economist. Development should be a unified process, in the sense that Governments should ensure that social development as well as economic growth was fully integrated in their development policies and programmes. However, it would be useful to take a fresh look at the question of social development in relation not only to the Secretariat but also to Member States, particularly in view of the ongoing discussions on a new international development strategy and a new international economic order. Her delegation favoured submission of the ACC report to the Third Committee of the General Assembly and hoped that that Committee would decide to activate the *ad hoc* working group recommended in Council resolution 2079 (LXII). With regard to paragraph 19 of the report, she said that the existing division of responsibilities between the Second and Third Committees of the Assembly was questionable, and her delegation welcomed the suggestion that the allocation of work to those bodies might be re-examined.

54. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation was not completely satisfied with the ACC report. He endorsed the view expressed by previous speakers that economic development did not automatically ensure social development, although the two were closely interrelated. On the other hand, he rejected the view that economic growth was an international issue while social development was an exclusively national concern. He agreed that discussions on the item under consideration should be continued in the Third Committee of the Assembly. However, the Second Committee should also take due account of the social aspects of development in its discussions. His delegation fully supported the views expressed by the representative of the United States concerning the appointment of the *ad hoc* working group. As Council resolution 1978/35 called for a review of the terms of reference of the proposed *ad hoc* group at the organizational session for 1979, he hoped that document E/1978/102 could also be considered at that time.

55. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) endorsed the views expressed by the representatives of Finland and New Zealand.

56. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) agreed with the representative of the United States concerning the proposed *ad hoc* working group. She also agreed with the representative of Hungary that the ACC report should not be transmitted to the General Assembly at its current session, since the other reports requested in resolution 1978/35 were not available. Her delegation could not even agree to the Council's taking note of the ACC report at the current stage, because it had certain difficulties with the text. Among other things, the document failed to take account of Council decision 162 (LXI) regarding the practical application of a unified approach to development analysis and planning, which had been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/84. In view of the important reservations expressed by numerous delegations, she urged the Council to adopt the proposal of the representative of Hungary that consideration of the ACC report should be deferred until the organizational session for 1979.

57. Mr. HAIDAR (India) said that his delegation was genuinely concerned at the absence of any reference in the ACC report to the relevant United Nations resolutions concerning the establishment of the new international economic order. Referring to paragraph 21 of the report, he expressed the hope that ACC would take due note of those resolutions in the documents it provided to the intergovernmental bodies charged with the task of framing a new development strategy.

58. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that, although not all the documents requested in resolution 1978/35 were available, the ACC report provided an interesting basis for further discussion. It should be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration, particularly in the Third Committee, with a view to activating the proposed *ad hoc* working group and enabling Member States to provide a meaningful contribution on social development to the discussions on the formulation of a new international development strategy.

59. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) welcomed the interesting exchange of views on the item under consideration. However, it would not be appropriate for the Council to take a decision concerning the ACC report at the current stage. He shared the views expressed by the representative of Poland concerning the relative lack of social development in certain economically advanced countries. Moreover, certain poor countries, such as Sri Lanka, had achieved an advanced level of social progress while in other countries, such as Iran, social development had not kept up with the tremendous economic growth, a situation which had led to the current social unrest in that country.

60. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said that she felt it was out of place to make reference to a particular country during the discussion.

61. Mr. ZELNER GONÇALVES (Brazil) said that, since the Third Committee of the General Assembly, like the Council, was faced with time constraints, the ACC report should be studied in depth by the Council before it was transmitted to the Committee.

62. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination), replying to the question raised by the representative of the Soviet

Union, said it was true that three reports had been requested. Although there had been complaints about the late submission of the ACC report, it had in fact been issued a few days after ACC had met to consider it. At its eighteenth session, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had reviewed the programme evaluation of the programme on social development and humanitarian affairs on the basis of two reports,³ and had set forth its comments, on the basis of that material, in paragraphs 201 to 235 of its report (A/33/38). It was for the Council to judge whether that constituted a sufficient response to the requirements of Council resolution 1978/35.

63. The PRESIDENT said that the Council must take a decision on the transmission of the report to the General Assembly, in view of the short time remaining before the end of the Assembly session. It was clearly important that the Council should be able to make a major contribution to a subject of such significance for international development. In view of what a number of delegations had said about the inappropriateness of considering the question in the Assembly before the Council had been able to consider it in depth, it seemed that it would be difficult to arrive at a consensus to transmit the report to the Assembly. He therefore suggested that the Council could support the Hungarian proposal (para. 52 above), which would give it an opportunity to consider the matter more thoroughly and to present the results of its deliberations to the General Assembly.

64. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it seemed that a majority of delegations wanted the item to be retained on the Council's agenda, and a decision could be taken on that basis.

65. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said it seemed that the Council had no choice but to accept the President's suggestion. However, so as to avoid merely postponing consideration of the issue, it should decide to take it up again at its organizational session for 1979, with special reference to Council resolution 1978/35, paragraph 5.

66. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) suggested that the Council should take a final decision on the item at its next meeting, since it would have to report to the General Assembly in any case.

67. Ms. MORGENTHAU (United States of America) supported that suggestion. Her delegation had been disappointed that all the reports had not been ready at the same time, in view of the recommendation in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1978/35 that the General Assembly should consider them in a consolidated manner; however, since the subject of social development was on the agenda of the Assembly, the mechanical question of transmitting the item should not seriously affect progress in discussing the subject.

68. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should postpone a decision on the question until its next meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

³ E/AC.51/91/Add.2, E/AC.51/93/Add.2.

44th meeting

Monday, 27 November 1978, at 3.50 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.44

AGENDA ITEM 27

Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and programming procedures (*continued*) (A/33/6 (parts 1-30), A/33/38, E/1978/102, Conference Room Paper No. 1)

1. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) said that the revised draft (Conference Room Paper No. 1) of part of chapter 27 (Social development and humanitarian affairs) of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 contained the changes that had been made in programme 1, subprogrammes 4, 5, 6 and 7, of the original text (A/33/6 (part 27)); those subprogrammes had been replaced by new subprogrammes 4 and 5. Subprogrammes 1, 2, 3 and 8 had not been changed. The new subprogramme 4, entitled "Social integration policies", dealt with specific aspects of policies for the integration of certain groups in development activities, including methods for assessing social integration and studying the social impact of development measures.

2. The new subprogramme 5, entitled "Social welfare services", included aspects of the former subprogrammes 4, 5, 6 and 7, concerning policy measures and strategies for improving the organization and delivery of social welfare and other related services to population groups.

3. The portions relating to the International Youth Year and the World Assembly on the Elderly were not included under either of the subprogrammes he had mentioned, but would basically fall within the scope of subprogramme 4.

4. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in the view of his delegation, the text contained in Conference Room Paper No. 1 represented only the beginning of the work of redrafting chapter 27, since it did not reflect important resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The main deficiency of the new text was in its emphasis on the problems of special groups of the population and its neglect of the social problems of the working population, which made the fundamental contribution to the implementation of national development plans and constituted the main productive force of society. The draft did not take into account such important instruments as the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV)) and resolutions concerning income distribution, agrarian reform, agricultural development, the co-operative movement and social aspects of industrialization.

5. Although the new draft purported to refer to the social integration of certain groups, in substance it only related to youth and made no serious effort to deal with the problems of the aging and the disabled. The description of the role of young people in development was abstract and there was nothing concerning their

right to education and employment or their participation in political life. The draft mentioned the participation of marginal groups, but did not elaborate on the concept of marginal groups. In short, only certain groups were selected and they were not linked by general social attributes.

6. Subprogramme 5 was very loosely formulated and was not very convincing in its presentation of the notion that improvement in various groups could enhance their role in the process of development.

7. In general, neither subprogramme accurately dealt with the subject of its title. Much work remained to be done, and his delegation therefore felt that it would be premature for the Council to recommend the new draft of chapter 27 to the General Assembly. The proper procedure would be to take note of the document and ask the Secretariat to continue its work on chapter 27, taking into account the critical comments that had been made.

8. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) said his delegation agreed with the Soviet delegation that more work needed to be done on the draft of chapter 27. The headings of the subprogrammes had been changed, but the contents dealt more with social development than with humanitarian affairs. The Third Committee of the General Assembly had worked on draft conventions on children and on discrimination against women, as well as on other initiatives to protect the human rights of members of those groups, but that aspect was dealt with only in a secondary fashion in Conference Room Paper No. 1.

9. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said his delegation appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to improve the text of chapter 27, but also felt that there was still room for improvement. Specifically, the new draft had left out a whole substantive portion of the original version, namely, that concerning problems of unemployment, education, alienation and others mentioned in paragraph 27.46 of the original text. He therefore proposed that the substance of paragraphs 27.44 to 27.51 of the original text should be retained in the new draft.

10. Certain factual corrections must be made in the revised text. For example, the reference to the "possible" designation of an International Youth Year was incorrect, since the General Assembly had on 3 November adopted by consensus its resolution 33/7, in which it had decided to proclaim an International Youth Year. That and the other references to the International Youth Year as a mere possibility should be corrected to reflect the General Assembly's decision. In addition, the reference in the section on subprogramme 4 to certain achievements "by 1985" did not accurately reflect what had happened in the Third Committee. The final version of the chapter should either mention both 1982 and 1985 or omit the time reference and retain the wording used in Assembly resolution 33/7.

11. Mr. NÁTHON (Hungary) said it seemed that the revised draft text of chapter 27 was restricted to selected elements of social development problems but ignored such equally important aspects as the redistribution of national income and social change and means of effecting those changes. He agreed with the Soviet representative that further work must be done on the draft.

12. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) said it was clear from the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/33/38) that there had been no consensus regarding the manner in which chapter 27 should be redrafted. Opinions had been divided both in CPC and during the earlier discussion in the Economic and Social Council. Without guidelines on the content of the new plan, it was very difficult to draft proposals that would meet the approval of every delegation concerned. The draft contained in Conference Room Paper No. 1 merely represented an attempt by the Secretariat to be of service and reflected the views expressed by members in the absence of a consensus. Members had mentioned a number of resolutions; he would not dwell on the entire restructuring process and the integration of the economic and social aspects of development, but wished to draw attention to the fact that a number of those activities were reflected in other parts of the plan, such as chapter 13. The question was one of the relative distribution of tasks among units of the Secretariat pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council. The Social Development Branch and the Division of Human Rights worked in close co-operation.

13. The references to the International Youth Year would be corrected.

14. He wished to point out that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/93, the medium-term plan was intended as a framework for the programme budget. It would be difficult, without some sort of authority, to plan activities in the field of social development and humanitarian affairs. Even if the Council wished to discuss the matter again in 1979, some guidance was necessary for the preparation of the programme budget.

15. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that it had been decided, as part of the restructuring process, to transfer certain elements of the programme from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to other units of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. The programme components transferred included institutional development, which covered such matters as land reform, and popular participation, which would cover the concerns of the working class referred to by the representative of the USSR. The remainder of the programme stayed with the Centre. The title originally given to the programme, "Women and special groups", was meant to indicate that the Centre's work, in response to the desire of Member States, had become more group-specific. The Centre was supposed to deal with social development and humanitarian affairs and to identify the groups from whose point of view it dealt with them. At the same time, it was not limited to social development but could also consider the economic, legal and political implications. There was not, in fact, a great deal of difference between the original version pre-

sented to CPC and the new formulation in Conference Room Paper No. 1, except for the title.

16. She did not think that it mattered a great deal whether the problems of the working class were dealt with by the research and analysis wing of the Department or by the Centre. She noted that much of the work of the Centre would be performed in a new location, and the more specific its focus, the more efficiently it would be able to carry out its task. Dividing responsibility between units in New York and units in Vienna would not have been good for either, and she had therefore welcomed the transfer of some programme components to the research and analysis wing.

17. In reply to the point raised by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, she said that the Centre dealt only with the social aspects of family welfare and not with the human rights aspect, although she agreed that it might be better if all aspects of the lives of human beings were its concern.

18. The Centre had for the first time been given the important task of considering youth problems and policies, as well as the problems of the aged. The matter had not, perhaps, been well stated in any of the formulations presented, either to CPC or in Conference Room Paper No. 1. She believed, however, that the whole United Nations system was moving towards a "people-oriented" approach, and that the Centre had an important part to play in the integration into the development process of groups not previously so integrated.

19. Mrs. DERRÉ (France) said that it must be very difficult for delegations which were not familiar with the whole medium-term plan to understand the sub-programmes as presented. As the representatives of the Secretariat had noted, other related programmes appeared in other chapters of the plan, largely as a result of the restructuring. The General Assembly had asked for the restructuring, and changes were to be expected. It was unfortunate that the delay in receiving the documents had prevented members of the Council from reading the plan as a whole.

20. If the decision on the medium-term plan was postponed, the restructuring called for by the General Assembly would be delayed by two years. In the circumstances, her delegation could accept chapter 27 as it stood, and it felt that the Council should proceed as it had done with the other chapters of the medium-term plan by transmitting it to the General Assembly for a decision and agreeing to re-examine it itself in detail some time in 1979.

21. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it was indeed clear from the report of CPC that no consensus had been reached on chapter 27. What he did not understand was why the Secretariat had presented a text which had caused such dissension. It had been pointed out in CPC that there was not sufficient legislative authority for the radical changes proposed by the Secretariat. He was still not convinced that the proposal to split up social programmes and redistribute them among other units of the Secretariat was grounded on the restructuring decision. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs seemed very ready to relinquish its activities to units concerned with the other sectors. According to its mandate, the Centre was supposed to deal with important social problems; yet the proposed programme restricted its activities to a few narrow aspects, all related to social welfare.

22. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination had asked what guidelines the Secretariat could follow in continuing to work on chapter 27. A list of relevant General Assembly and Council resolutions had been prepared for the eighteenth session of CPC, and the Secretariat could well use that as a basis in drawing up the programme.

23. It would be premature to present the text in Conference Room Paper No. 1 to the General Assembly. It should be redrafted by the Secretariat and considered by the Council at its next session, together with the rest of the medium-term plan, in accordance with the decision taken at the 42nd meeting (decision 1978/84).

24. Lastly, he noted that the three subprogrammes related to women in chapter 27 had been omitted from Conference Room Paper No. 1. Since chapter 27 was being considered as a whole, all the subprogrammes should have been reproduced for the benefit of delegations not represented in CPC.

25. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the Council faced two problems in dealing with the medium-term plan: the first was how it could give effect to the decision on restructuring, and the second was how it was to deal with the problem of keeping the programme budget and medium-term plan cycle going, in the abnormal conditions of 1978. The Council had not endorsed the medium-term plan or presented it to the General Assembly, and the Assembly would be aware of the developments in the Council when the plan did come before it. In the circumstances, chapter 27 could be treated in the same way as the other chapters of the medium-term plan. The Council would then be able to re-examine it with the rest of the plan in the course of 1979, in accordance with its recent decision. The procedure suggested by the representative of the USSR would not help the Council or the Secretariat.

26. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the mandate of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had been laid down in 1973 when the Centre was established. Since then, it had not relinquished any part of its activities. Over all, much more attention had been paid to the role of the human person in development. It was now felt, however, that two or three of the programme components could be dealt with more appropriately by the research and analysis wing of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, as part of the effort to streamline the activities of the Secretariat and of the Organization as a whole, in line with the decision on restructuring.

27. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) reminded the Council that only two of the subprogrammes in chapter 27 were the results of mergers. Most of the chapter had not been challenged by CPC or by the Council. With reference to the point that only the titles of the subprogrammes and not the content had been changed, he said that the components had been rearranged and refocused. He believed that that action was based on intergovernmental legislation. It had been suggested in CPC that the more than 150 resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council governing social and humanitarian affairs should be consolidated. That was not a task for the Secretariat alone, however, and the intergovernmental body that had been proposed would need at least a year to complete the work.

28. Mr. STIBRAVY (United States of America) said that, when his delegation had examined the original version of chapter 27 in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, it had been prepared to accept it. It had supported the proposed distribution of responsibilities between the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies as being consistent with the decision on restructuring and fully within the prerogative of the Secretary-General to make decisions on the allocation of resources within a department for the purpose of carrying out programme activities. He agreed with the suggestion that, in order not to delay the procedure for consideration of the medium-term plan, chapter 27 should be transmitted to the General Assembly and the Fifth Committee like the rest of the plan. He had thought that that would be the effect of Council decision 1978/84, since no exception had been made for chapter 27. In the decision, the Council reserved the right to examine the whole orientation of the medium-term plan in 1979, and it would be able to re-examine chapter 27 at that time. In view of the pressure of work during the General Assembly session, the members of the Council had had no real opportunity to study the new version, and he would therefore withhold any further substantive comment until the matter was taken up by the General Assembly, or until the Council resumed its consideration.

29. The PRESIDENT said that, while bearing in mind the need to reach a decision as soon as possible, he would propose, in view of the concern and the strong feelings expressed by some delegations, that the Vice-President should convene informal consultations among interested delegations and that a further meeting of the Council should be arranged as soon as it appeared that the Council would be in a position to take a definitive decision on the matter.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION (*concluded*) (E/1978/102)

30. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume its consideration of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on measures for achieving better co-ordination between social and other development activities within the United Nations system (E/1978/102).

31. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand), supported by Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland), said that at the preceding meeting, the Council had been divided on the question of appropriate follow-up action on document E/1978/102. The views expressed at that meeting, and the fact that CPC had been unable to make a recommendation concerning chapter 27 of the proposed medium-term plan, clearly indicated that the issues raised in that document were not merely procedural but were related to the role and effectiveness of social development activities within the United Nations system and that Council resolution 1978/35 must be speedily implemented.

32. In the light of those considerations, his delegation could agree that the ACC report should be submitted to the Council at its organizational session for 1979, without prejudice to full discussion of social development issues in the Third Committee during the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, currently in progress, or the establishment of the *ad hoc* working group

recommended in Council resolution 2079 (LXII). Since the report would be submitted at the organizational session at the request of delegations that had called for further discussions, his delegation understood that such discussions would take place in the context of a full review of the social development sector of the United Nations and follow-up action on resolution 1978/35, and that the *ad hoc* working group would be established at that session and its report would be considered at the first regular session of 1979. The establishment of the group had no financial implications, and it would not make any policy decisions. It would merely conduct a much-needed examination of social development activities within the United Nations and submit recommendations for consideration by Member States. Far from being prejudicial to the formulation of the new international development strategy, as some delegations feared, such recommendations would provide a helpful and timely contribution to the preparation of the strategy.

33. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in view of the already heavy agenda of the organizational session, it would be difficult for the Council to consider the social component of United Nations activities in detail at that session. It would be more appropriate to defer consideration of the ACC report until the first regular session of 1979. However, his delegation could agree that the question of the appointment of the *ad hoc* working group should be considered at the organizational session.

34. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said that the Council's intention in requesting the report contained in document E/1978/102 had been that, at its organizational session for 1979, it would be in a position to take action regarding the establishment of the *ad hoc* working group in the light of full discussions on that issue during the thirty-third session of the General Assembly. His delegation could therefore agree that the report should be submitted at the organizational session, without prejudice to the position it would adopt regarding the establishment of the working group.

35. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should decide to consider the ACC report (E/1978/102) in depth at its first regular session of 1979, and to consider at its organizational session for 1979 the question of the establishment of the *ad hoc* working group recommended in Council resolution 2079 (LXII).

36. Mr. NÁTHON (Hungary) supported the President's proposal.

37. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) said that, since document E/1978/102 had a direct bearing on issues which the Third Committee of the General Assembly was fully entitled to discuss, it might be useful to indicate that, while the Council would consider that document in depth at its next regular session, its decision to do so would not preclude reference to it, as appropriate, during discussions in the Third Committee.

38. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the majority of members who had expressed views on the ACC report had stated that it was controversial and required further consideration by the Council. His delegation felt strongly that that document was defective. At a recent informal meeting of the Second Committee of the General Assembly, many delegations had emphasized the importance of social factors in the developmental process, while according to the ACC report such factors did not even exist. The

President's original proposal accurately reflected the majority view that document E/1978/102 should not be submitted to the General Assembly pending further consideration by the Council and that, since certain delegations were interested in reaching an early decision regarding the *ad hoc* working group, that issue could be taken up by the Council at its organizational session for 1979.

39. The PRESIDENT said that the views expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union accurately reflected the weight of opinion in the Council during the discussions on the ACC report. He therefore suggested that the Council should adopt the formulation he had originally proposed (para. 35 above).

It was so decided (decision 1978/88).

Progress report brought to the attention of the Council (E/1978/105)

40. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (E/1978/105).

It was so decided (decision 1978/89).

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)* (E/1978/44, E/1978/103 and Add.1, E/1978/142)

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS (*continued*)* (E/1978/142)

41. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretariat on the calendar of conferences and meetings (E/1978/142), concerning the new dates proposed for the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

42. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation understood the reasons for changing the dates of the Preparatory Committee's second session, but hoped that the Secretariat would still be able to issue the documents of that session in time for the discussions in the Third Committee at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

43. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided that the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women should be held at Headquarters from 27 August to 7 September 1979, instead of from 16 to 27 July.

It was so decided (decision 1978/80, para. 1(d)).

ELECTIONS OR APPOINTMENTS (E/1978/44, E/1978/103)

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

44. The PRESIDENT said that there was a vacancy in the Statistical Commission for one member from African States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1981. The elec-

* Resumed from the 41st meeting.

tion to fill that vacancy had been postponed from a previous session. He had been informed that Egypt was a candidate for the vacancy. In the absence of any other candidatures, he would take it, if there was no objection, that the Council wished to elect Egypt by acclamation.

*Egypt was elected a member of the Statistical Commission by acclamation.***

45. The PRESIDENT said that there were a number of vacancies in the Commission for Social Development, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on Review and Appraisal and the Commission on Transnational Corporations. Since no candidatures had been presented, he proposed that the elections to fill those vacancies should be postponed until a later session.

*It was so decided.***

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION

46. The PRESIDENT said that a vacancy had occurred in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. It would be recalled that, in accordance with the procedure instituted under its decision 139 (ORG-76), the Council, at its first regular session of 1978, had nominated seven Member States for election to CPC by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1979. However, in a letter dated 2 October 1978, the Permanent Representative of Denmark had informed him in his capacity as President of the Council that Denmark had decided to withdraw its nomination for the coming three-year period. By a letter dated 12 October, he had been informed by the Chairman of the group of Western European and Other States that the group had endorsed the candidature of Norway to fill the resulting vacancy.

47. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to nominate Norway, in place of Denmark, for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1979.

It was so decided (decision 1978/92).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT

48. The PRESIDENT recalled that, in document E/1978/44, the Secretary-General had informed the Council that a member of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, Mr. K. M. Sape (Ghana), had resigned before the expiration of his term on 31 December 1980. To fill that vacancy, the Secretary-General had nominated Mr. F. G. Torto of Ghana for a term effective on the date of appointment and expiring on 31 December 1980. Particulars concerning Mr. Torto were contained in document E/1978/44, paragraph 2.

49. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to appoint Mr. Torto (Ghana) a member of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development for the term indicated.

*It was so decided.***

** See decision 1978/91.

AGENDA ITEM 22

International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system (concluded)*** (E/1978/143)

50. The PRESIDENT recalled that, under agenda item 22, the Council had still to consider the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the results of the Intergovernmental Conference on Strategies and Policies for Informatics (SPIN) (E/1978/143, annex). The recommendations of the General Conference of UNESCO concerning the designation of an international year for science and technology for development had not yet been received.

51. Mr. DIENE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that, at its twentieth session, the General Conference of UNESCO had adopted a resolution proclaiming 1980 International Year for Science and Technology for Development. That resolution fell within the general context of the proposals being prepared by UNESCO in connexion with the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The full text of the decision was not yet available because the General Conference was still in session but, in view of the complexity of the question of holding international years and the Council's very full time-table at its current session, he suggested, on behalf of UNESCO, that consideration of the proposal should be postponed until the Council's second regular session of 1979. The Council might also wish to defer until that session consideration of the Director-General's report on the results of the Intergovernmental Conference, since it reflected only the views of UNESCO and did not take into account those of the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics.

52. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the suggestions of the representative of UNESCO.

53. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to consider the report of the Director-General of UNESCO on the results of the Intergovernmental Conference on Strategies and Policies for Informatics annexed to document E/1978/143 and the recommendations of the General Conference of UNESCO concerning the designation of an international year for science and technology for development at its second regular session of 1979.

It was so decided (decisions 1978/81 and 1978/90).

Organization of work

54. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) suggested that the Council should give some thought to its future programme of work, particularly in the light of the notes by the Secretariat on the calendar of conferences and meetings¹ and on documentation,² which should be on the agenda of the next meeting.

55. The PRESIDENT said that it might indeed be useful to consider the Council's programme of work, perhaps at an informal meeting; if a formal decision was needed, it could be taken at a formal meeting.

*** Resumed from the 42nd meeting.

¹ A/C.2/33/L.27-A/C.3/33/L.31.

² A/C.2/33/L.28-A/C.3/33/L.32.

56. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) said he fully agreed that it would be useful to have a discussion along the lines suggested by the representative of the United Kingdom. However, the calendar of conferences and meetings set out in the note by the Secretariat was no more than tentative, and would probably be considerably expanded towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly. The Council would also be wise to await the results of the consultations on

restructuring and the proposals of the Secretary-General to be discussed at its organizational session for 1979. The Secretary-General had requested all heads of substantive units in the Secretariat to comment and make suggestions to the Council regarding, for example, obsolete or marginal documents produced over the years on a recurrent basis, but his proposals required considerable discussion and would not be ready until 1979.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

45th meeting

Tuesday, 19 December 1978, at 11.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.45

AGENDA ITEM 27

Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 and programming procedures (*concluded*) (A/33/6 (parts 1-30), A/33/38, E/1978/L.54, Conference Room Paper No. 1)

1. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that at the preceding meeting he had been asked to organize informal consultations among delegations, particularly those that had participated in the debate on the item at that meeting, with a view to working out a compromise with regard to the possible revision of chapter 27 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983. Draft decision E/1978/L.54 had been drawn up on the basis of both the original chapter 27 and Conference Room Paper No. 1 and it was the product of the compromise worked out during the consultations.

2. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that her delegation had not participated in the informal consultations, and asked exactly what type of changes the revised version mentioned in paragraph (b) of the draft decision would incorporate. If it was a question of eliminating work for which there was no legislative authority, her delegation would have no objection to the adoption of the draft decision.

3. The PRESIDENT said that the comments of the representative of Argentina would be taken into account in the examination process provided for in the draft decision. Since he heard no objection, he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

Draft decision E/1978/L.54 was adopted (decision 1978/93).

4. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that during the informal consultations a number of delegations had announced that they were satisfied with neither the original text of chapter 27 nor the revised version of the subprogrammes submitted in Conference Room Paper No. 1. Contrary to the statement in paragraph (a) of the draft decision, the conference room paper was not, in his delegation's view, a genuine draft revision and it made only minor changes to the original text. Some delegations had submitted specific proposals to the Council and CPC on how the subprogrammes should be revised. His delegation particularly regretted that chapter 27 contained no subprogramme concerning population. His delegation felt that, in order to comply with paragraph (b) of the draft decision, the Secretariat would have to take fully

into account the specific proposals submitted by delegations with regard to the revision of chapter 27 and completely revise the subprogrammes submitted in Conference Room Paper No. 1.

5. Mr. STIBRAVY (United States of America) said that his delegation had been satisfied with the original version of chapter 27 but that, in a spirit of compromise, it was prepared to agree that the new revised version mentioned in paragraph (b) of the draft decision should embody the substance of Conference Room Paper No. 1.

6. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) reiterated that the main issues were the method of integrating social questions with other development problems and the methods to be adopted with regard to certain special population groups. His delegation found the original version of chapter 27 satisfactory in that respect. However, in a spirit of compromise, it had accepted the inclusion of the two subprogrammes outlined in Conference Room Paper No. 1. A revised version of chapter 27 should take into account the opinions expressed by all delegations. The issuing of a revised version of a chapter of the medium-term plan should not constitute a precedent. At its organizational session for 1979 the Council should determine how best to implement its decision to re-examine the medium-term plan.

7. Mr. FÖLDEAK (Hungary) said that, in his delegation's view, paragraph (b) of the draft decision required the Secretariat to revise chapter 27 of the proposed medium-term plan in the light of the proposals and recommendations submitted in that connexion during the resumed second regular session of 1978. He hoped that the Secretariat would do everything in its power to submit the revised version of chapter 27 early enough for it to be considered by the Council.

8. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he hoped that the revised version of the medium-term plan would take due account of the important work carried out by the Working Group of the Third Committee on the Drafting of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the decisions already adopted by the Council, particularly those concerning the rights of women and young people.

9. Mrs. DERRÉ (France) said that apart from the title, which had been changed, her delegation had had no objection to the original version of chapter 27. In

any event, she felt that the forthcoming revised draft should take into account the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

10. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) said that Conference Room Paper No. 1 was admittedly an improvement on the first version of chapter 27. However, the text was still too general, and his delegation felt that chapter 27 should be revised in its entirety. He believed that in the revision social development questions should be given high priority in the overall development activities of the United Nations system. His delegation hoped that the revised version of chapter 27 would take into account the opinions and proposals put forward at the resumed session, as well as those included in the original version of chapter 27 and Conference Room Paper No. 1.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (concluded)* (A/33/410 and Corr.1 and 2, E/1978/144, E/1978/L.53)

11. Mr. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) said that the First (Economic) Committee of the Council had frequently discussed the question of restructuring, which had been the subject of many formal and informal meetings. During the informal meetings, many documents had been prepared concerning the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197. It had not been possible, however, to draw up specific recommendations. The wisest course would accordingly be to defer consideration of the item until the following session of the General Assembly, and that was the course proposed in draft decision E/1978/L.53.

12. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) noted that the biennial programme of work referred to in paragraph (a) of the draft decision was one of a number of other changes envisaged in the organization of the work of the Council. As matters stood, it would be very difficult to propose a real biennial programme of work, since the Council had not adopted the other measures it had been expected to take in that respect. Moreover, the dates on which the Council was to take up certain questions had been decided by the General Assembly and the Council itself.

13. The Secretariat would, of course, submit a draft biennial programme of work, but the Council should bear in mind how difficult it would be for it to adopt a fully-fledged biennial cycle of meetings. Finally, the programme of work would have to be synchronized with the United Nations programme budget.

14. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since there were no objections, the Council should adopt draft decision E/1978/L.53 without a vote.

Draft decision E/1978/L.53 was adopted (decision 1978/97).

15. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, during consideration of agenda item 10 at the second regular session of 1978, the Soviet Union had made some comments on the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (38th meeting, paras. 22

and 23). It had stated that the reorganization was being carried out in a partial fashion, with senior posts going to only some countries, at the expense of all the others. Since the Secretariat had an important role to play in the restructuring of international economic relations, its members should be chosen on a balanced geographical basis. It was also very important that the recently appointed Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should be able successfully to perform the functions entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/197.

16. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which were also members of the European Economic Community, thanked the Vice-President of the Council for his efforts in connexion with the preparation of draft decision E/1978/L.53 and agreed with him that consideration of the item should be deferred until the following session of the General Assembly. The States Members of the United Nations which were also members of the European Economic Community reaffirmed the view they had expressed on the item at the second regular session of 1978, at the 29th meeting of the First (Economic) Committee.

17. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the Secretary-General's report on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (A/33/410 and Corr.1 and 2) and pointed out that the addendum concerning the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation was not yet available. He asked whether members of the Council wished the report to be transmitted directly to the General Assembly for consideration at the thirty-third session, currently in progress.

18. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that he had hoped that the Council would consider the report instead of simply transmitting it to the General Assembly. It was regrettable that the addendum was not yet ready, because several delegations would very much have liked to consider it before the end of the current session of the Assembly.

19. The PRESIDENT said that he too regretted that, since the addendum was unavailable, the Council had been unable to consider the report and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly.

20. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said that he shared the views expressed by the representative of Uganda. The Council should have considered the report and made recommendations thereon. In the circumstances, it had no choice but to transmit the report to the General Assembly for its consideration. He would comment on the report when it was considered by the Second Committee of the Assembly, but was already in a position to state that the report did not reflect the views expressed by many delegations, in particular those belonging to the Group of 77. It was therefore very important to urge the General Assembly to discuss the report in greater detail than it would have done in normal circumstances.

21. Mr. ABUAH (Nigeria) said it was impossible to consider the report without the addendum, which was extremely important and should long since have been issued, inasmuch as the main report was dated 1 December. He asked whether the addendum was to be transmitted directly to the General Assembly, rather than to the Second Committee.

22. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social

* Resumed from the 38th meeting.

Matters) announced that the addendum had been issued earlier in the day in Russian and French, and that delegations could therefore peruse it in those languages. It was therefore for the Council to decide whether or not it intended to transmit the document to the General Assembly.

23. The PRESIDENT said that the report of the Secretary-General should come before the Second Committee.

24. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the addendum might well have been issued, but that in any case he, for one, had not seen it.

25. The PRESIDENT suggested that the addendum should be transmitted directly to the General Assembly for consideration at the current session.

26. Mr. CAMILLERI (Malta) said it was not the first time that the Council had been unable to do its work properly because it had not received documents in time. As matters stood, if the Council decided to transmit the report in question to the General Assembly, it should ensure that it would really be considered in detail. The Council should therefore recommend that the General Assembly should arrange to give detailed consideration to the questions dealt with in the report.

27. Mr. BENHOCINE (Algeria) said that his delegation was just as concerned about the situation as other delegations of developing countries which had spoken earlier. He agreed with the representative of Malta that the Council, in transmitting the report and the addendum thereto to the General Assembly, should at the same time suggest that the Second Committee should consider the report in detail. The representative of Jamaica had already clearly indicated the importance which the Group of 77 attached to the report on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

28. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in the circumstances, he had to support the proposal made by the representative of Malta. It was most regrettable, however, that the Council had not been able to fulfil the tasks entrusted to it, especially as the result would be extra work for the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

29. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) noted that it was not only the developing countries, but all Member States, which were upset by that kind of situation. The Council obviously had to resign itself to following the course suggested by the representative of Malta. The Second Committee would certainly undertake to consider the report in detail, but the Council should also state that it would itself take account, at its organizational session for 1979, of the comments made on the report by the General Assembly.

30. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Observer for Pakistan) said that it was unfortunate that the report itself had been issued late and that the addendum was not yet ready. There was no doubt that the Council would have to resign itself to admitting that it had been unable to consider the document and therefore had to be content with transmitting it to the General Assembly, on the understanding, however, that the Council had no authority to give the General Assembly instructions as to what it should do. It was also important to consider as soon as possible the addendum concerning the recently established Office of the Director-General for

Development and International Economic Co-operation.

31. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the following draft decision:

“The Council decides:

“(a) That, since circumstances beyond its control have prevented it from carrying out a full examination of the issues covered in the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (A/33/410 and Corr.1 and 2), that report should be transmitted to the General Assembly at its current session;

“(b) To request the Secretary-General to submit the addendum to that report, dealing with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, directly to the General Assembly at its current session for its consideration. The Council expresses the hope that, in the circumstances, these important matters can be given full consideration by the General Assembly;

“(c) To consider, at its organizational session for 1979, how best to carry out its important responsibilities in these matters, taking into account any relevant action taken by the General Assembly.”

32. In reply to a comment made by Mr. CAMILLERI (Malta), the PRESIDENT suggested that the words “circumstances beyond its control” should be replaced by “the non-availability of some of the required documentation”.

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1978/94, para. 1).

33. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the second report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the restructuring of its subsidiary machinery (E/1978/144), submitted in pursuance of paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 32/197.

It was so decided (decision 1978/94, para. 2).

AGENDA ITEM 18

Transnational corporations (*concluded*)* (E/1978/52 and Corr.1-3)

34. The PRESIDENT pointed out that in its decision 1978/76 of 4 August 1978, the Council had decided to consider at its resumed second regular session a draft decision entitled: “Establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting” which the Commission on Transnational Corporations had recommended for adoption by the Council in chapter I of the report on its fourth session (E/1978/52 and Corr. 1-3). He suggested that the Council should adopt the following draft decision:

“The Economic and Social Council decides to consider at its organizational session for 1979 the draft decision entitled ‘Establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting’, recommended by the Commission on Transnational Corporations for adoption by the Council.”

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1978/95).

* Resumed from the 38th meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (concluded) (E/1978/145)****ELECTIONS OR APPOINTMENTS (concluded)**

35. The PRESIDENT drew attention to a note by the Secretary-General (E/1978/145), in which it was proposed that the Council, at its organizational session for 1979, should fill the vacancy which had occurred, owing to the death of a member, on the International Narcotics Control Board and should hold elections at its first regular session of 1979 for the six vacancies which would occur in 1980. For the moment the Council was required only to elect the members of the Committee on Candidatures, whose task it was to examine the lists of candidates submitted by Governments and by the World Health Organization. It was suggested that the Committee should consist of representatives of from 12 to 15 States, to be chosen from among States Members of the United Nations and parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the 1972 Protocol.

36. It had been envisaged that the Committee on Candidatures would hold two sessions at Geneva, the first on 9 January 1979 to examine the candidatures submitted by Governments for the unexpected vacancy. However, since only two candidatures had been received by the deadline, 18 December, he suggested that the Committee should meet in January only if new nominations had been received in the meantime and that, in that case, the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs at Geneva should be authorized to convene the session on the date originally fixed. The second session of the Committee would take place on 1 and 2 February 1979 to examine candidatures for the six seats which would become vacant on 1 March 1980 and which would be filled by elections at the Council's first regular session of 1979.

37. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Council) announced that Argentina, the Federal Republic of Ger-

many, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America had submitted their candidatures for membership in the Committee on Candidatures.

38. Mr. Haidar (India) pointed out that in the period since the list contained in annex IV to the Secretary-General's note had been drawn up, India had acceded to the 1972 Protocol and was consequently submitting its candidature for membership in the Committee.

39. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should elect those States which had submitted their candidatures as members of the Committee on Candidatures.

*Argentina, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were elected members of the Committee on Candidatures.**

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS (concluded)

40. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should decide that, in the event that the General Assembly should decide to resume its thirty-third session, the eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should be convened at Headquarters from 26 February to 9 March 1979, instead of from 5 to 16 March 1979.

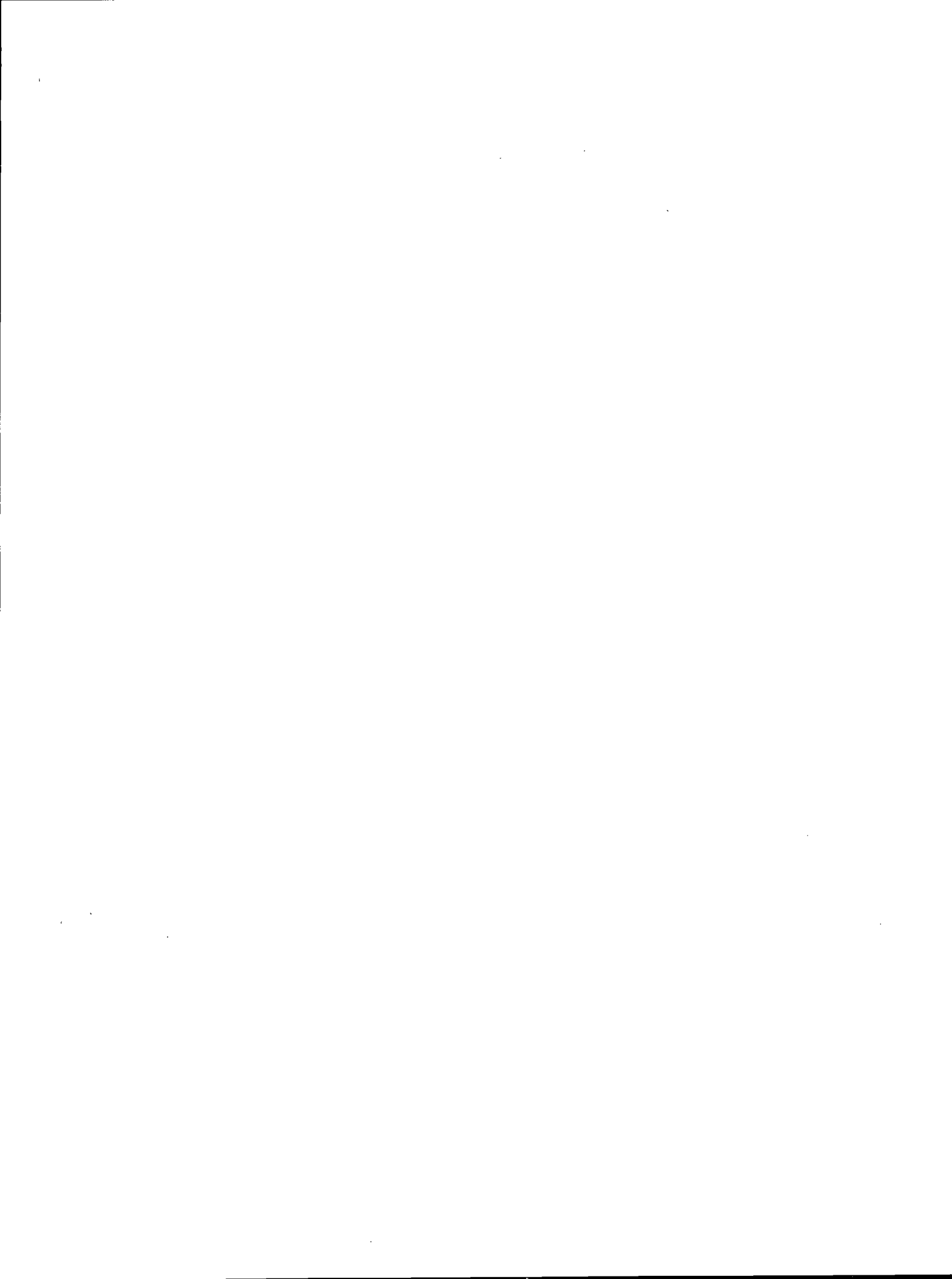
It was so decided (decision 1978/80, para. 2).

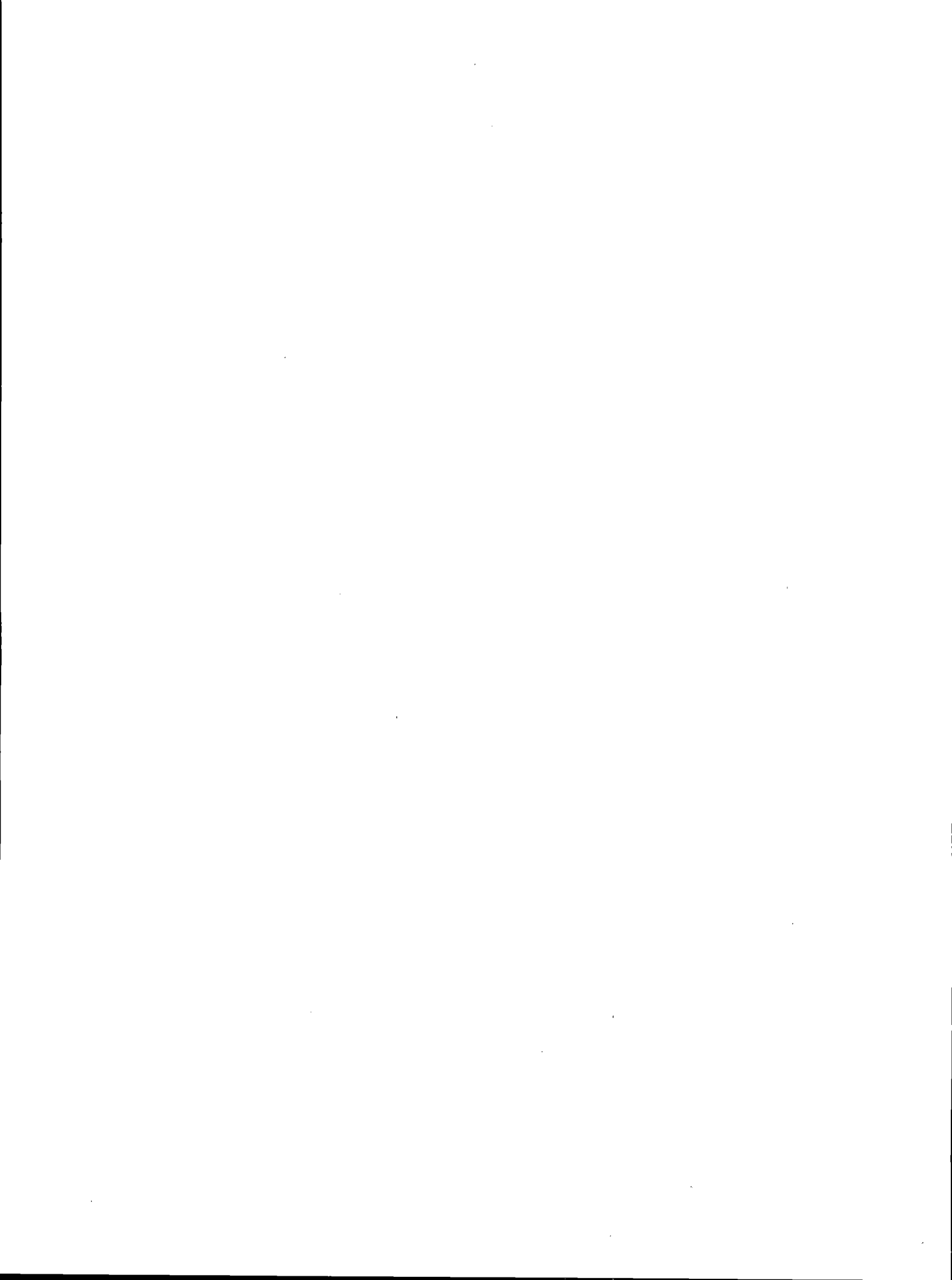
Closure of the session

41. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT said that the Council had completed its work for 1978 and declared the second regular session of 1978 of the Economic and Social Council closed.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

* See decision 1978/91.









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