

analysis of the world cereals situation carried out by FAO. Finally, the World Population Conference to be held in 1974 at Bucharest would consider one of the questions most closely connected with man's development and welfare.

39. Another typical feature of the current situation was the growing consciousness of the need for collaboration in the economic field between the emerging and the industrialized countries, as clearly expressed in the Tokyo Declaration of 14 September 1973 on general commercial negotiations. The development of the emerging countries was of concern to all countries of the world, and trade in certain primary commodities had led to the establishment of closer and broader links between the developing and industrialized countries, as was demonstrated by the current negotiations on the International Sugar Agreement and by the talks which would shortly take place on the international coffee trade. Although very significant and sometimes sensational progress had been made by several developing countries towards the improvement of their economic situation and the exploitation of their economic resources, the economic situation of all countries did not follow a steady curve, and development could not be considered in a short-term context. It was those considerations which inspired the concept of collective economic security and the drawing up of a charter of the economic rights and duties of States, two initiatives

taken within the United Nations on the basis of that spirit of close collaboration which offered the best guarantees of progress and development for all States.

40. There could be no doubt that the greatest effort of the United Nations in the economic sector should be directed at the development of the emerging countries. He was confident that, for their part, those countries would take the necessary measures to co-ordinate their domestic initiatives with outside assistance.

41. Italy, which had already stated its support for the liberalization of trade, was currently making a very considerable effort to modernize its economic structures and would contribute to the international trade and monetary negotiations in all appropriate ways. His country reaffirmed its wish for broader collaboration of an economic, cultural, technological and scientific nature with the developing countries in many fields and in several forms, through UNIDO and UNDP among others. To achieve that purpose, a number of channels could be used, at both the State and private enterprise levels.

42. In concluding, he expressed his country's hope for closer links and for further mutual understanding among all countries, which appeared to be the best guarantee for peace, security and welfare.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

1519th meeting

Monday, 1 October 1973, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1519

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mrs. THORSSON (Sweden) said that her country attached great importance to the role that the United Nations could and should play to initiate, carry out and follow up necessary action at the international level and to improve considerably the international community's performance in the field of development.

2. On the credit side of the balance-sheet, preceding speakers had rightly stressed the present rapprochement between the great Powers which—it was hoped—would open up new trade possibilities for third world countries. The coincidental occurrence of a boom in the primary commodity markets, however short-lived it might be, had already significantly changed the balance of trade and the balance of payments of some—but not all—developing countries. In some countries national planning had been improved, reforms had taken place and production had been increased. There were also examples of how mass poverty and unemployment had been successfully combated, changing the lives of millions, of how reforms in the fields of health care and education had been carried through and of how people had been actively involved in the struggle for a better future. Such progress had been made even in countries with a very low gross national product (GNP) *per capita*, as measured by conventional indicators.

3. With regard to international discussions on development issues, she disagreed with the often-expressed view that they were tedious and ineffective. On the contrary, there had been considerable progress. The self-evident truths of yesterday had been questioned, old concepts had been refined, and new ones introduced. As a result, there was a distinct possibility of reaching a deeper understanding of the development process and, consequently, of establishing firmer ground for action and the more efficient use of scarce resources. The United Nations was to be commended for the way in which it had in recent years pursued its efforts to fulfil its increasingly important normative functions. Such functions should be considered one of the main tasks of the United Nations, as the "brain trust" of the international community, the pace-setter for intellectual advances in international debate, and the honest broker in bringing about a meeting of minds between countries and groups or blocs of countries.

4. For example, until only recently it had been taken for granted that economic growth was, by and large, synonymous with development, that national and international averages for production figures, income, wealth and so on conveyed meaningful information about conditions in a country or the world, and that targets could be formulated in mainly quantitative and even globally aggregated terms. Such a philosophy was

now regarded as narrow and over-simplified. The individual had replaced statistical abstracts in the centre of the development process and it was recognized that development must materialize as improvements in the daily life of each person. New indicators and new ways of measuring progress had been suggested to replace or complement the traditional GNP criterion. "Net beneficial product" on the macro level and "poverty datum line" on the micro level were concepts that might very well become household words in the United Nations family of organizations in the immediate future. What was important was that the new concepts did not result from mere speculation but were a product of the confrontation of ideas with reality. A case in point was the concept of "the least developed countries", which in a very short time had become accepted as requiring special attention.

5. But the progress being made in international debate and the development gains recorded in some countries had been offset by failures in other countries and, above all, progress in many countries had been eroded by rapid population increase. The first review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy revealed a bleak picture and made it very difficult to challenge the conclusion reached by the Committee for Development Planning at its ninth session¹ that the cause of development had lost momentum. Alarming reports had recently been received concerning the world food situation in general and, more specifically, concerning the consequences of the severe drought in the Sahelian region of West Africa. A question currently being asked was how long the natural resources of the planet would last—that applied particularly to the energy resources—and whether the ecological system was not being overstrained. In the meantime, the world population was constantly increasing: the net increase since the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly amounted to some 75 million people.

6. Yet, it would be wrong to allow oneself to become paralysed by frustration. Instead, one should look upon the doubts, vacillations and even the despair that characterized so much of the current debate on development as an indication that the international community found itself at a turning-point and that, if efforts were concerted and reinforced, new possibilities would open up.

7. There were, admittedly, no easy solutions. A number of different but interrelated problems had to be attacked in a multifaceted and co-ordinated manner, and a systematic approach would have to be applied to planning for such an attack, which would then have to be broken down into a series of concrete and practical but still harmonized measures. Nevertheless, all solutions had one thing in common: they required much more solidarity between individuals and between nations than had previously been displayed. Interests, privileges and positions of power, previously considered natural and legitimate, would have to be sacrificed and the well-being of the many should take precedence over the privileges of the few.

8. An increased sense of world solidarity could find concrete expression first of all through a consensus on the main task facing the General Assembly in the field of economic and social development, namely, the re-

view and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the International Development Strategy—the most comprehensive pledge yet made by the world community for international solidarity in development. The General Assembly should focus its attention on the real problems encountered by individual human beings and their increased well-being should be its main concern. It was her Government's sincere hope that all Member States, and particularly the developed countries, would review their positions in that spirit and would make such concessions as were necessary.

9. The discussions and negotiations on the review and appraisal had so far focused on trade and monetary measures. That was only natural, for developments, particularly in the monetary field, had tended to change the basis for economic co-operation, not only between developed and developing countries, but also within groups of those countries. In the prevailing atmosphere it was again necessary to emphasize the importance of official development assistance as the most concrete form that international solidarity could take from the standpoint of the individual citizen—the taxpayer—in a rich country. Official development assistance was designated by the Strategy to play a leading part in the joint development efforts of all countries. The probability that the total flow of such assistance would fall far short of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent was due mainly to the disappointing performance of a small number of countries, whose assistance was the most crucial. The international community had every reason to keep up the pressure on those countries to fulfil the commitments made in the Strategy. Specifically, there was a pressing need to ensure that the transfer of financial resources from the rich to the poor countries, on sufficiently soft terms and through appropriate multinational channels, was not being held up through reluctance or obduracy by the Governments in those countries. The matter was of the utmost urgency, even in a situation where many developed countries were facing the current economic phenomenon of "stagflation" and therefore experiencing a sharp conflict of interests.

10. By emphasizing the importance of official development assistance, she did not mean to imply that the Second Committee should neglect the wider aspects of development co-operation. The discussions taking place in other bodies on trade policy problems and monetary matters would have to be reflected in the debates and decisions of the Committee. The Committee would also have to attend to problems of a general nature, such as the economic and political independence of the developing countries, to which world-wide attention had been drawn as a result of the decisions taken by the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at their recent meeting held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973. The Strategy was based on the conviction that developing countries should take action to mobilize their human and natural resources according to their own priorities and that the international community must respond positively to such efforts. Her delegation was therefore deeply interested in the work being started within the United Nations by the Group of Eminent Persons on the impact of multinational corporations on the development process and on international relations appointed in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1721 (LIII). It had noted that three areas would be the subject of detailed studies: the im-

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 5, para. 29.*

fact of multinational corporations on host countries; the multinational corporation and the nation state; and the multinational corporation and the international economic system. It had studied with interest the main report before the Group, prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs,² and in particular the set of possible action programmes outlined in the summary thereof, and was eagerly awaiting the completion of the Group's work and its final report, expected in the summer of 1974. The international community should respond to the efforts made by developing countries to assert their economic and political independence even when such efforts, in terms of economic policies, implied a change of ownership and control and a readjustment of economic strength in international relationships. Too often such efforts had met with suspicion, criticism, cuts in financial transfers, and even outright economic isolation. Such a reaction was obviously a violation of the Strategy, and that should be clearly spelt out in the course of the review and appraisal.

11. Elaborating on the question of political independence, she stressed that international solidarity should encompass peoples that were still under colonial oppression. The right of all peoples to self-determination had been repeatedly affirmed in the United Nations and in other international forums. One effective way of encouraging independence was to assist the liberation movements, as recommended in General Assembly resolutions 2918 (XXVII) and 2980 (XXVII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1804 (LV). The United Nations system, and in particular the specialized agencies, should play a more active role in that regard, and her Government had put forward for consideration some suggestions as to how the specialized agencies might overcome some of the procedural and legal obstacles to assisting liberation movements.

12. The notion that development must materialize as improvements in the daily life of the individual applied most obviously to the question of food: it was the self-evident right of every human being to be properly fed. For some months, the acute world food shortage had given rise to grave concern. While the future need not necessarily be viewed with pessimism, prompt action to give mankind the basis for an expanded and sustained food production was imperative. At the same time, swift and effective assistance should be rendered to countries where drought, floods or other disasters had caused widespread want and hunger. The problem had to be attacked on a long-term and medium-term, as well as an emergency, basis. In the long run a permanent solution to the world's food problem would be found only in a sustained increase of food production in the developing countries themselves. That was an immense undertaking which required above all the mobilization and active participation of the peoples of the developing countries, especially their rural populations. Ecological, climatic and hydrological factors were of vital importance if it was to succeed, and it must also include measures more immediately directed to productivity increase, such as irrigation, better seeds, fertilizers, credit facilities and vastly improved extension and marketing services. At the medium-term level, planning should aim at preventing shortages during the time required for the long-term efforts to take effect.

² *Multinational Corporations in World Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.11).

The need for some kind of storage programme, as proposed by the Director-General of FAO, in particular at the fifty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council (1861st meeting), was clearly indicated. The international community must also provide prompt and effective assistance to the victims of natural and man-made disasters. If that threefold approach was to be even moderately successful, far greater multinational efforts were necessary. They should encompass scientific research in the agricultural field, large-scale investments in irrigation systems, fertilizer production, storage facilities, and a strengthening of the machinery for international disaster aid. The world food problem offered a most striking example of the urgent need for a heightened feeling of world solidarity, expressed in concrete terms as a well-conceived plan of action at the emergency, medium-term and long-term levels.

13. In his introductory statement at the 1516th meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had presented an impressive analysis of the role that scientific and technological development could and should play in economic and social development, if applied in a well-planned, constructive and far-sighted way to the modernization process. The international community must find a formula for the transfer of technology to the developing countries that would represent a significant redistribution of the world's resources in that field, thereby leading to a higher degree of technological and economic independence for the developing countries. A way must be found to replace or to supplement the multinational corporations as the primary supplier of technology to the third world and, above all, to endow the latter with the possibility of influencing the choice of technology to be introduced. While efforts to that end were under way in various parts of the world, nothing could free the United Nations of the over-all responsibility which, as the Under-Secretary-General had said, it had recognized since 1963, without really assuming it. It was to be hoped that the study on multinational corporations would assist the United Nations in formulating an effective course of action.

14. However, the Organization had still broader responsibilities. One major task was to initiate work for the ultimate formulation of a global policy for science and technology, embracing the specific needs of the developing countries. An OECD report of 1971 had stated the very pertinent conclusion that advances in technology and increased application of technology would require a substantial expansion of international action. There was thus an obvious need for the elaboration of a comprehensive science policy in the United Nations system. Moreover, the nature of the immense scientific and technological advances that were predicted for the fairly near future and the anticipated exorbitant costs of developing technological programmes—in certain sectors at least—made it imperative to set up international machinery for forecasting and assessing technological development. The aim of such machinery should be to assist in promoting as balanced a development of technology as possible, in preventing harmful consequences where feasible, and in observing the effects of technological development on the economy and on society as a whole. It was essential that the developing countries should avoid costly mistakes in the application of new techniques to

the development process. Again, such action would be an expression of true world solidarity.

15. The concept of world solidarity in the development process was usually seen in terms of relations between developed and developing countries. However, solidarity must also reign within the group of developing countries themselves, and it was therefore encouraging to note that the United Nations system, particularly UNDP, had been the basis for increasing development co-operation among developing countries. The recent decision of the Governing Council of UNDP, at its sixteenth session,³ that one of the principles governing the distribution of total resources available for indicative planning figures for the period 1977-1981 would be to devote a much larger share of those resources to developing countries at the lower end of the *per capita* GNP scale, was an encouraging sign and it was to be hoped that the same spirit would manifest itself in other ways during the current session of the General Assembly. Furthermore, it should be borne in mind that international solidarity began at home. The International Development Strategy and the working paper relating to the first over-all review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the Strategy, submitted by the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly (Council resolution 1827 (LV), annex), emphasized the importance of structural reforms—such as land reform and the redistribution of income—which were aimed at improving the well-being of the individual in the developing countries.

16. There were two other aspects of the concept of world solidarity to which her delegation attached considerable importance. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, had proved beyond doubt that the condition of the biosphere was of utmost concern to rich and poor countries alike and that common action was needed to protect and enhance the environment. The foundation for further concrete action in that field had been laid in the Action Plan for the Human Environment adopted by the Stockholm Conference and since endorsed by the Assembly resolution 2994 (XXVII). It was of course natural for countries at different levels of development to regard environmental problems differently and the various groups of countries would attach different priorities to the work ahead. In the international community compromises would, in many cases, be required. Nevertheless, it would be an act of international solidarity if all countries kept the ultimate goal—a better environment for all—clearly in sight.

17. In many respects, the permanent work now being started at the international level for the preservation and enhancement of the human environment represented a new departure, turning international solidarity into global solidarity by virtue of efforts to preserve the future of the earth for coming generations. It was only fitting that the next step in the direction of global solidarity should be the World Population Conference, to be held in August 1974 at Bucharest.

18. Her delegation regarded that Conference as an event which went far beyond the world demographic situation *per se*. It hoped that the Conference would acknowledge clearly the fact that population problems

must be looked at in terms of the relation between the number of world citizens and the quantity of world material resources available and, by so doing, would command attention also in industrially advanced countries with high *per capita* consumption levels. Her delegation also hoped that, as a result of the Conference, issues relating to the distribution and availability of resources, the human environment, the population situation and, particularly, linkages between those issues would become permanent and priority items on the United Nations agenda. There was therefore good reason to urge those Governments that were not directly involved in the preparations for the Conference to begin to consider their contribution to it at an early stage. As a follow-up to its involvement in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the Swedish Government was pleased to be acting currently as the host for the Symposium on Population, Natural Resources and Environment which, it was hoped, would establish the importance and nature of the link between the population factor, on the one hand, and resources and environment, on the other.

19. With regard to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the General Assembly's decision (resolution 3019 (XXVII)) to place the Fund under the authority of the Governing Council of UNDP had led to several satisfactory measures with respect to the administration of the Fund, its financial rules and the orientation of its operational activities. Such measures should form a sound basis for a continuous, prosperous and efficient development of the Fund.

20. A commitment to the cause of development and a consistent search for expressions of world solidarity could be based only on a deep public understanding of the nature of the development process and the importance of international co-operation. It was clearly spelt out in the International Development Strategy that mobilization of public opinion in both developed and developing countries was an essential part of the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)). Sweden was devoting considerable attention to the task of creating awareness both of the problems and aspirations of the developing countries and of the responsibility of the developed countries to assist in accelerating economic and social progress in the developing world. A significant feature of the Swedish information programme was its reliance on the so-called popular movements—the trade unions, religious communities and educational associations—to reach people at all levels of society. Her Government had recently appointed a consultative panel to establish principles and design practical measures for finding more efficient ways of disseminating information and mobilizing public opinion. Budgetary appropriations for the information programme had almost doubled from the last fiscal year to the current one, and now amounted to 8 million Swedish kroner, or almost \$2 million.

21. Activities at the national or international level, if they were to contribute to the solution of the crucial and increasingly global problems of the time—development, redistribution of resources within and between nations, genuine social justice, and protection of the human environment—all presupposed a United Nations that was a practical expression of the feeling of world solidarity, and a United Nations that would have

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 2A*, para. 90.

to develop and grow much stronger, if the future was to be contemplated with reasonable confidence. She wished to associate herself with the Secretary-General's statement that: "The United Nations will not develop through ritual public statements of approval and support which are not backed by inner conviction, realism and whole-hearted participation. If the United Nations is to become the organization which the Governments and peoples of the world require and which their problems demand, we have to make a continuous effort to assess the challenge of the radical changes in the world, to make the necessary adjustments and, where needed, to develop new machinery and methods."⁴ That was the challenge which Member States and their Governments must face during the crucial years through which they were living.

22. Mr. GEHLHOFF (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government's bilateral development policy had been an established fact for many years. Its experience in that field had led his Government to concentrate on harmonizing its bilateral development aid with its multilateral assistance to the fullest extent possible. Before becoming a Member of the United Nations, the Federal Republic of Germany had participated actively in the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and had stated in a letter⁵ addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the Secretary-General on 22 October 1970, on the occasion of the adoption of the Strategy on 24 October 1970, that it would be guided by the principles of the latter. Its aim during the Decade was therefore to promote the economic and social progress of the developing countries in a system of world-wide partnership with a view to improving the living conditions of their peoples, and its development policy was thus integrated into its general political approach and into the framework of its foreign relations.

23. Within the context of those political goals, his Government attached primary importance to remedying the depressing food situation in many parts of the world. Addressing the General Assembly on 26 September 1973 (2128th plenary meeting), the Federal Chancellor had stated that where hunger prevailed there could be no peace in the long run, and had indicated the urgent need not only to establish the amount of food required to keep large sections of mankind from hunger, but also whether or not States were prepared to accept the rules required for the achievement of that goal.

24. During the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Economic and Social Council, several representatives of developing countries had expressed their concern about trends in the policy of *détente* between East and West which in their view might lead to a situation where less consideration would be given to the interests of the developing countries. They had asked what role was left for the United Nations in the development field in the light of that process of *détente*. In his Government's view, *détente* could not be confined to its political and military components, but should be a process transcending the old fabric of intergovernmental relations. Real peace must be based on a relaxa-

tion of social and economic tension in the world, and his Government attached high priority in its development policy to the fight for social justice and against mass poverty and unemployment. That view of *détente* was not at variance with the interests of the developing countries; indeed, it opened up a new dimension for United Nations development activities. While it would be premature to spell out what the interrelationship between *détente*, development and the United Nations role should be, the important thing was that the will to co-operate and to compromise was there. On the occasion of its admission to the United Nations, his Government's Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his statement before the General Assembly (2119th plenary meeting), had rejected the distinction implied by the use of the term "third world" and had advocated a declaration of solidarity as citizens of one world in the fight against poverty. The Minister for Foreign Affairs had expressed the view that, if there was a policy which could achieve that goal, it was the policy of *détente*, in which his Government had taken an active part; *détente* was not meant to be exclusive, but was to benefit all, in that the reduction of confrontation could liberate energies which could then be used to overcome economic and social injustice.

25. His Government attached primary importance to the review and appraisal of the objectives and principles of the International Development Strategy. In a world increasingly marked by economic complexity and interdependence, an effective development policy required world-wide co-operation, and his Government's development policy was designed to fit in with the Strategy and was based on the measures it advocated. The global review and appraisal of progress achieved was an important innovation of the Second Decade as opposed to the First. His delegation had followed with interest the discussions on review and appraisal held so far, and welcomed the progress achieved in Geneva during the fifty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council in formulating the working paper annexed to Council resolution 1827 (LV), a consensus which would be of major significance for future co-operation between developed and developing countries. His delegation would participate actively in the continued discussion of review and appraisal and, during the Committee's debates under agenda item 46, would discuss in more detail the first global report by the Secretary-General on review and appraisal, as well as the question of revision of the Strategy, including the introduction of volume targets in the field of science and technology.

26. An important aspect of development activity was the application of science and technology to development, an area in which there was an ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries. The *World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development*⁶ stressed *inter alia* that any transfer of technology from developed to developing countries must take into account the special conditions prevailing in the latter. That attitude coincided with his Government's concept of development policies; at the second session of the Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology, his delegation had announced his Government's intention of establishing a technology information centre which, in accordance

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A*, sect. II.

⁵ Transmitted for information to Permanent Missions of the States Members of the United Nations, on 26 October 1970.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.II.A.18.

with the recommendations of UNCTAD resolution 39 (III),⁷ would co-operate with corresponding institutions in the developing countries. Preparation for the establishment of the centre would begin in October 1973 and it was planned that the centre itself would start work in 1974. It would collate information on production processes of special interest to developing countries, provide support for the establishment and expansion of partnership institutes in developing countries, transfer information to the developing countries through those institutes, promote research and development in applied technology primarily in the developing countries themselves, establish contact between firms in the developing countries and those in the Federal Republic for the purpose of technological co-operation, systematically promote the Federal Republic's development assistance machinery, with special reference to applied technology, and offer a reference system for patents and licences of interest to the developing countries. The centre represented a significant and practical first step in the effort to transfer technology in accordance with the scientific and technological development level of individual developing countries, and it would not doubt enter into a constructive dialogue with the United Nations.

27. The aim of any development policy was to enable the developing countries to become equal partners in economic relations. With its extensive foreign trade, conducted under an outward-looking and liberal policy, the Federal Republic of Germany would, as a member of EEC, support all efforts to promote the unhampered development of world trade and to ensure that the increasing trade relations could be developed organically. In so doing, it would take appropriate account of the particular situation of the developing countries in the trade sector.

28. The ministerial meeting of GATT, held at Tokyo from 12 to 14 September 1973, had been of significance to both trade policy and development policy. The Declaration it had adopted could be seen as an affirmation of the political will of all countries to co-operate in international trade and to strengthen international economic relations. The most important elements of the Declaration were that the participation in future negotiations would be open to all countries, including those not parties to GATT; that the main goals of the negotiations would be to expand and progressively liberalize world trade and to secure additional trade advantages for the developing countries; that the negotiations would deal primarily with customs and non-tariff trade obstacles in the industrial and agricultural sectors, including tropical products, and with a review of the protection clause; that the talks would be conducted on the basis of global reciprocity, with the developing countries exempt from counterpart obligations incompatible with their development, finance and trade needs; and that special measures were envisaged for the benefit of the least developed countries. A prime requisite for the adoption of the declaration had been the agreement reached between EEC and the United States on the link between trade and monetary negotiations; both parties recognized that world trade could not be liberalized without parallel endeavours to achieve a stable monetary system. His delegation was

convinced that the declaration represented a sound basis for the forthcoming negotiations, which would take place in 1974.

29. His Government welcomed the active co-operation of the developing countries in the reform of the international monetary system, and believed that their wishes for an appropriate supply of international liquidity must be taken into account. It therefore advocated their participation in the creation of new special drawing rights (SDRs), the issue of which should be based on criteria taking into account both the interests of stability and international requirements. It was in the interest of developing and industrialized countries alike to strengthen confidence in SDRs as an internationally accepted reserve medium, and to ensure that a reformed international monetary system functioned smoothly.

30. The Governing Council of UNEP had held its first session at Geneva in June 1973; the compromise reached there justified the hope that United Nations activities in relation to the environment would be successful. Because of its complexity, the concept of environment did not always lend itself to clear definition, and the second session of the Governing Council in March 1974 should be given the chance to discuss the questions before it objectively, and to implement the programmes it adopted on the basis of as broad a consensus as possible. His Government was aware that national environmental policies should not be conducted at the expense of the developing countries, and it would contribute towards making UNEP a success.

31. Reverting to the interrelationship of *détente*, development and the future role of the United Nations, he wished to mention the European development policy. His Government was in favour of step-by-step realization of a comprehensive development policy on the part of EEC and its members, which would include the gradual expansion of EEC's ability to grant technical and financial aid to non-associated countries, as well as of its possibilities for increased co-ordination and harmonization of bilateral assistance measures adopted by its members. As the largest trading partner of the developing countries, EEC felt a special responsibility for their integration into world trade on an equal footing.

32. His delegation would in its work be guided by the principle that conciliation could be achieved only through a frank and objective dialogue leading to consensus. Consensus was not merely an empty formula indicating the smallest common denominator, but an expression of what the international community could jointly put into practice. As such, it was the basis of fruitful co-operation.

Organization of work

33. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) urged delegations which had expressed a desire to take part in the general debate to indicate when they wished to do so.

34. Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) said his delegation was concerned about possible delays in the Committee's work. It would be desirable if meetings could begin on time, and those delegations which wished to take part in the general debate might perhaps consider whether the points they wished to make could not equally well be made under subsequent items of the agenda. In any event, his delegation believed that the

⁷ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.D.4), annex I.A.

debate on item 101 (Consideration of the economic and social situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures to be taken for the benefit of that region) should begin on the date initially scheduled for it, since experts from various countries would be travelling to New York specifically for that debate.

35. The CHAIRMAN said he hoped that in future delegations would make an effort to ensure that meetings began at the latest 15 minutes after the scheduled time.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

1520th meeting

Tuesday, 2 October 1973, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1520

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for his introductory statement at the 1516th meeting on the world economic situation. Over the past year, a number of potentially far-reaching events and factors had arisen in the sphere of international relations which could lead to changes affecting not only political but also economic, financial and development relationships within the international community. Since 1970, major steps had been taken to formulate or conceptualize various aspects of international relationships and aspirations. Those steps included the third session of UNCTAD in April-May 1972; the creation of UNEP (General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII)), and the explicit concern devoted to such issues as collective economic security, disarmament and development, a charter of the economic rights and duties of States, multinational corporations, the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)), and the process of review and appraisal of the Strategy. A review of recent debates and reports and of the development of nations showed an increasing concern for many of the inherent elements in the philosophy of economic development, such as social equity and economic growth, economic growth as a moral issue, rapid economic growth versus income redistribution, efficient technology versus inefficient technology, and the quality of life. However, economic development was not a goal in itself. It was a means towards the realization of a healthy, progressive and equitable society.

2. Poverty, hunger, squalor, disease, poor health and deprivation of education still dominated the living conditions of two thirds of the world's population. Despite bilateral, multilateral and global aid programmes, the gap between the developed and the developing countries continued to widen and was expected to widen even further, largely because of rapid population growth and increasing unemployment. Moreover, the current world economic situation, the increasing uncertainty in monetary arrangements, trade, and inflation were a serious source of concern and anxiety for the majority of Member States, in particular for developing countries. The successive changes, realignments and uncertainties in international exchange rates, trade policy negotiations, dissatisfaction concerning terms of trade, and inflation characterized the current situation

and caused profound concern for the well-being of the developing countries. At the present time, particular mention must be made of the role that the IMF special drawing rights (SDRs) would play in the foreign reserves and development funding available to developing countries. His delegation fully supported the International Development Strategy, not only as an important conceptual framework for the progress of the developing countries but as a set of guidelines for action to achieve the targets set. It also constituted a guide for the action to be taken by developed countries, the obligations incumbent upon individual developing countries and co-operation among developing countries. The Strategy provided a blueprint for an agreed consensus and a framework for an enhanced and more effective dialogue among nations.

3. The various reports before the Committee presented a picture of insufficient progress and even failure to cope convincingly and effectively with the problems of development. For example, only one third of the developing nations of the world had exceeded the over-all target of a 6 per cent annual growth rate in 1972. One half had failed to achieve even 5 per cent, and in about one fifth of the developing countries there had been a decline in *per capita* income. The low growth groups accounted for about 40 per cent of the population of developing countries. Altogether, agricultural output in the developing world had fallen by an estimated 1.6 per cent between 1971 and 1972, after having shown a similar increase in the previous 12 months. In its International Development Strategy, the United Nations had set as a target an average annual growth rate of at least 6 per cent for the gross national product (GNP) of the developing countries. To make that possible, the developed countries had been called upon to increase official development aid to 0.7 per cent of their GNP by 1975. Unfortunately, it was now clear that that objective would not be reached. There were, however, exceptions: for example, the Netherlands had increased its official development aid and had passed the level of 0.6 per cent.

4. If progress was to be achieved, the developing countries must participate fully in the decisions concerning monetary and trade matters to be taken at the forthcoming GATT multilateral trade negotiations and in the talks concerning the reform of the world monetary system. Full consideration should be given to the vital and special interests of those countries and the result should be better access to markets for their products, enabling them to increase their export earnings