

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Chairman: Mrs. Lina P. TSALDARIS (Greece).
AGENDA ITEM 12
Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/3848, A/C.3/L.666/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.667) (continued)
FORMULATION OF SOCIAL POLICIES RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (A/C.3/L.666/REV.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Argentina, Liberia and the Philippines had decided to join the six sponsors of the draft resolution on the formulation of social policies related to economic development (A/C.3/L.666). The text, which had been slightly amended, was now contained in document A/C.3/L.666/Rev.1.

2. Mr. ELMANDJRA (Morocco) read out the draft resolution on behalf of its sponsors. Referring to resolution 1161 (XII), in which the General Assembly recommended that the Economic and Social Council, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, should intensify its efforts in the study and recommendation of measures to effect a balanced and integrated economic and social progress, he said that the sponsors of the draft had wished to go beyond that recommendation and to make the General Assembly's instructions both more specific and more detailed. In connexion with the second paragraph of the preamble to the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.666/Rev.1), the Committee should bear in mind paragraph 268 of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3848), and particularly its third and fourth sentences, which summarized the position of the authors of the draft terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa. The terms of reference finally adopted for that Commission (Council resolution 671 A (XXV)) enabled it to deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of economic and social factors. Social affairs divisions had been established in the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the Economic Commission for Latin America, as paragraph 374 of the Council's report recalled. A new trend was thus emerging, which the sponsors had attempted to express and continue in their draft resolution.

3. With regard to the operative part, it should be remembered that under Article 62 of the United Nations Charter, the Economic and Social Council had the power to make recommendations on a number of questions, including social questions. As far as sub-paragraph (a) was concerned, the importance of increasing productivity had been emphasized at the council's twenty-fifth session, as was borne out by the section of the report dealing with industrialization and productivity (A/3848, chap. III, sect. III) and particularly by the third sentence of paragraph 200. The problems referred to in sub-paragraph (b) were well known and there was no need to dwell on the importance of that sub-paragraph. Sub-paragraph (c), on the other hand, might give rise to some misunderstandings. He therefore wished to explain that it should be interpreted in the spirit of the draft resolution as a whole, the title of which clearly showed what was in the sponsors' minds. It was a question of formulating social policies, not of propounding an economic doctrine, which would in any case be a matter for the Second Committee. The need to adapt the tempo of social development to that of economic development was felt above all in the under-developed countries, which were faced with quite specific problems. Moreover, national income would have to be distributed equitably not only among individuals in a particular country but also among its various regions. The recommendations which the Economic and Social Council was to formulate should be based on studies emphasizing social or sociological rather than strictly economic problems. The point might, for instance, be made that certain economic structures were in themselves an obstacle to an equitable distribution of the national income.

4. He hoped that his explanations would dispel the misgivings which might be felt in some quarters and that the proposed text would be adopted by as large a majority as possible.

5. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said that his country was particularly happy to join the sponsors of the draft resolution as it would thus be associated with its Asian and African sister nations. The latest of the regional economic commissions, the Economic Commission for Africa, was especially deserving of support by the Economic and Social Council and the other organs of the United Nations.

6. Mr. SUDJAHRI (Indonesia) said that he, too, was pleased to be among the sponsors of the draft resolution. The interrelationship of economic and social questions was increasingly being recognized, as was shown by the terms of reference adopted for the Economic Commission for Africa. In the under-developed countries the tempo of economic development must be speeded up if its effects were not to be offset by population increases. Moreover, any increase in productivity was conditional upon an improvement

in social conditions. Lastly, while the forthcoming Report on the World Social Situation should provide a thorough study of the problems resulting from technological change and urbanization, measures for the solution of those problems should be contemplated at once. He would therefore urge the members of the Committee to support the joint draft resolution.

7. Miss ADDISON (Ghana) said that her delegation was very pleased to associate itself with other sponsors in submitting the draft resolution. Everyone knew how close was the link between economic and social development. Thus, even in the most advanced countries, productivity could be profoundly influenced by social factors, such as the system of education. In the under-developed countries, the road to economic progress would be barred until such conditions as sanitation, educational standards, housing, and security of employment had been sufficiently improved. It was the duty of the Economic and Social Council to devote special attention to the situation in those countries. To some extent it had already discharged that duty by adopting the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa, but it should go still further and apply itself to the social aspects of economic development more systematically than it had yet done by studying, for example, the difficulties due to taboos, traditions and land tenure or by trying to soften the social repercussions of economic changes. It was in that spirit that the sponsors were submitting their draft resolution.

8. Mr. RIBEIRO DA CUNHA (Portugal) could support the principle of the draft resolution but, to avoid duplication and to co-ordinate the work of the specialized agencies, suggested that the introductory sentence of the operative part should be amended to read: "...as early as possible to formulate recommendations concerning social policies and programmes relating to the social aspects of economic development".

9. Mr. YAPOU (Israel), supported by Mr. HOOD (Australia), Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) and Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands), considered that in view of its importance, the draft resolution should be examined carefully and suggested that the vote should be deferred to a later meeting.

10. Mr. MASSOUD-ANSARI (Iran) said that, in view of that suggestion and of the fact that the draft resolution dealing with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (A/C.3/L.667) would probably be adopted without difficulty, he was in favour of considering that draft resolution first.

11. Mr. ELMANDJRA (Morocco) reminded the Committee that only seven meetings could be devoted to agenda item 12. The Committee should complete its discussion of the draft resolution concerning the formulation of social policies related to economic development at the current meeting; only the actual voting should be postponed.

12. Mr. THIERRY (France) agreed with the views of the representative of Israel, which were shared by several other representatives. Under rule 117 of the rules of procedure he moved the adjournment of the debate.

13. Mr. YAPOU (Israel) proposed that the discussion should be resumed on 8 October.

14. Mr. MEZINCESCU (Romania) thought that the three draft resolutions relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council could be considered together. Item 34 could then be taken up at the next meeting, and discussion of the draft resolutions could be resumed at the meeting on 8 October.

15. Mrs. LORD (United States of America) said that it was sub-paragraph (c) of the draft resolution concerning the formulation of social policies related to economic development (A/C.3/L.666/Rev.1) which was likely to arouse some misgivings. To avoid controversy, without in any way changing the sense of the sub-paragraph, it might be re-worded as follows:

"(c) Promote measures designed to raise the family levels of living".

16. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the French representative's motion for the adjournment of the debate on the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.666/Rev.1).

The motion was adopted by 51 votes to none, with 15 abstentions.

17. The CHAIRMAN stated that consideration of that draft resolution would be resumed on the following day, and invited the Committee to turn its attention to the fourteen-Power draft resolution on UNICEF (A/C.3/L.667).

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (A/C.3/L.667)

18. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that the draft resolution was a tribute to the remarkable achievements of UNICEF, which was one of the organs that were doing the most to raise the prestige of the United Nations in social affairs, and to the co-operation UNICEF was receiving from the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations, as well as the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs. The United Nations Children's Fund needed the financial support of all Members to enable it to carry out its many responsibilities; it was for that reason that the sponsors of the draft resolution called upon Governments to contribute as generously as possible. She hoped that the Committee would give UNICEF the congratulations and support it deserved by adopting the text unanimously.

19. Mr. MASSOUD-ANSARI (Iran), Mr. THIERRY (France), Mr. KETRZYNSKI (Poland), Miss FUJITA (Japan), and Mr. SUDJAHRI (Indonesia) also expressed the hope that all members of the Committee would support the draft resolution, which was a tribute to UNICEF and an encouragement to develop its activities still further.

20. Mr. MEZINCESCU (Romania) said that he would vote for the draft resolution. His Government would make an annual contribution of \$25,000 in kind to UNICEF.

21. Mr. DEHLAVI (Pakistan) suggested that the achievements of the Fund would be more precisely indicated if operative paragraph 2 were amended to read:

"Congratulates the Fund on its outstanding achievements in these fields".

22. Mr. TSAO (China) endorsed that amendment but thought that the words "in these fields" were perhaps superfluous. It would be better merely to delete the word "humanitarian".

23. Mr. SIMPSON (Liberia), speaking as one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, considered that the suggestion made by the representative of China should be adopted.

24. The CHAIRMAN inquired whether the Chinese suggestion was acceptable to the other sponsors.

The Chinese representative's suggestion was accepted.

25. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) considered that it would better if the word "outstanding" were also deleted.

26. Mrs. KHADDURI (Iraq) said that it was regrettable that the word "humanitarian" had been deleted, and proposed that it should be restored.

27. Mr. YAPOU (Israel) doubted whether the draft resolution would be sufficient to enable UNICEF to obtain the funds it required. It would be better to insert between operative paragraphs 1 and 2 a new paragraph which might read:

"Recommends that the Executive Board be entrusted with a study of additional sources of income and report to the Economic and Social Council at its next session".

28. Mr. KETRZYNSKI (Poland) said that he would be unable to vote for the proposed new paragraph. It would be preferable to retain the original text and more especially the word "outstanding".

29. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) also considered that the original text was preferable. The only change necessary would be the deletion of the word "and" between "outstanding" and "humanitarian".

30. Mr. TELSON (Haiti) pointed out that the sponsors of the draft resolution had rightly agreed to the deletion of the word "humanitarian". The word "outstanding", however, should be retained as an expression of praise and encouragement.

31. Mr. THIERRY (France) felt that the word "humanitarian" struck a somewhat infelicitous note, for it identified the work of UNICEF with charity rather than with justice.

32. Mr. CALDERON PUIG (Mexico), Mr. TSAO (China) and Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) agreed with the French representative and felt that it would be best not to reconsider the deletion of the word "humanitarian".

33. Mrs. KHADDURI (Iraq) withdrew her amendment to that effect.

The draft resolution (A/C.3/L.667), as amended orally by the representatives of Pakistan and China, was adopted unanimously.

34. Mr. PATE (Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund) thanked the Committee for its expression of confidence in UNICEF. The Board would make every effort to be worthy of it.

Organization of work (A/C.3/L.665) (continued)

35. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that it had still to decide on the order in which it would consider the other items of the agenda. The representative of France had suggested that the programme set out in the note by the Chairman (A/C.3/L.665), with the modifications already introduced, should be followed. On the other hand, the delegations of

Morocco and Saudi Arabia considered that item 32 (Draft International Covenants on Human Rights) should be taken last.

36. Mr. ELMANDJRA (Morocco) observed that, as his delegation's proposal was an amendment to the French proposal, it should be put to the vote first.

37. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) considered that the Committee had given the draft Covenants the place that was their due by deciding to devote thirty-five meetings to them. It must now ensure that its debates as a whole took place in a logical order. The Third Committee usually heard the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at the end of October or the beginning of November. It therefore had about twenty meetings before then in which it might consider item 33 (Recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination) and item 35 (Freedom of information: report of the Secretary-General on consultations concerning the draft Convention on Freedom of Information). If it then took up item 31 (Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), followed by item 71 (The organization of an international public health and medical research year), it could devote all the remainder of its session to the draft Covenants, which could be considered uninterruptedly.

38. Mr. THIERRY (France) said that if the Committee began consideration of the draft Covenants as soon as possible, it would show that it was anxious to make every effort to complete its work on them with the greatest possible speed. Under rule 131 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly the Moroccan proposal was not an amendment, as was proved by the fact that, if it was adopted, there would be no need to put the French proposal to the vote.

39. Mr. ELMANDJRA (Morocco) was not of that opinion. In his view, the Moroccan proposal was a true amendment, within the meaning of rule 131 of the rules of procedure.

40. Mr. ROSSIDES (Greece) considered that the Moroccan proposal involved only a slight change in the programme of work on which the French delegation had requested a vote. If it was adopted, the Committee could then vote on the plan of work contained in the note by the Chairman (A/C.3/L.665) as a whole.

41. Mr. WAHLUND (Sweden) observed that as the number of meetings had been increased from seventy to seventy-five, the consideration of the draft Covenants would no longer take up half the Committee's meetings. In order to give that item the priority it deserved and at the same time preclude any possibility of the discussion's being cut short for any unforeseen reason, the Committee should take it up immediately after item 34 (Advisory services in the field of human rights: report of the Economic and Social Council).

42. Mr. ALDUNATE (Chile) was strongly opposed to any attempt to delay the discussion of such an important question as the draft International Covenants on Human Rights. No justification of any kind must be given to those who accused certain countries of wishing to delay the adoption of the covenants because of their failure to observe fundamental human rights. The Third Committee would be in a better position to

celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights properly if it adopted the French Proposal without delay.

43. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) considered that the Third Committee was giving the draft Covenants adequate priority by devoting thirty-five meetings to them. They would not be given any more importance if they were taken up immediately after item 34, since that debate would have to be interrupted at the end of the month and that would inevitably make it disjointed.

44. Experience at previous sessions showed that no one wanted to reduce the number of meetings devoted to the consideration of the Covenants. Unfortunately, the situation was not the same with regard to recommendations concerning the right to self-determination and the draft Convention on Freedom of Information. He was afraid that if the Committee did not keep to its schedule, that would interfere with the consideration of those two items.

45. Mr. HARREMOES (Denmark) concurred in the French representative's view that item 32 should be taken up as soon as possible. The recommendations concerning the right to self-determination and the draft Convention on Freedom of Information were undeniably important but, as 1958 marked the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and since it was primarily as the champion of human rights that the Third Committee was known to the public, it was mainly in that field that progress must be made during the thirteenth session.

46. Mr. BONDEVIK (Norway) agreed with the representatives of France and Sweden. It was regrettable that the Committee should spend so much time on purely procedural debates; he hoped that it would proceed to a vote as soon as possible.

47. Mr. CUNHA MELLO (Brazil) and Mr. SAARI (Finland) supported the French proposal.

48. Mrs. LORD (United States of America) said that all the items on the agenda were equally important. Her delegation wished to submit proposals in connexion with items 33 and 35 as well as with item 32. However, she would like to have time to consult other delegations before the opening of the debates on the right to self-determination and freedom of information, as she was not so well acquainted with those two items as with the draft Covenants. She would therefore prefer the Committee to take up item 32 first, on the understanding, however, that the twenty meetings allotted to the other two items would in fact be devoted to them.

49. Mr. THIERRY (France) said that his interpretation of rule 131 of the rules of procedure differed from that of the representative of Morocco but, in order to avoid a long procedural debate, he would not press for his proposal to be voted on first.

50. The CHAIRMAN put the Moroccan proposal to the vote, explaining that if it was rejected, the French proposal, namely the programme of work suggested in the note by the Chairman (A/C.3/L.665), as already amended by the Committee, would be considered as adopted.

The Moroccan proposal was rejected by 28 votes to 24, with 10 abstentions.

51. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) asked the Chairman and the Committee's secretariat to see that the number of meetings allotted to items 33 and 35 was not reduced on any pretext.

52. The CHAIRMAN said she was certain that all representatives attached the same importance to all the items on the agenda and that no one had any intention of reducing the number of meetings allotted to each.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.