



Chairman: Mr. Bruce RANKIN (Canada).

AGENDA ITEM 43

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
(continued) (A/8703/Add.1 (Part III), A/8819, A/8893,
A/C.2/L.1248/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1259, A/C.2/L.1260/
Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1267, A/C.2/L.1269, A/C.2/L.1270,
A/C.2/L.1273-1275):

- (a) Report of the Conference on its third session
(TD/178 and Add.1, TD(III)/Misc.3 and Corr.1);
- (b) Report of the Trade and Development Board
(A/8715)

1. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta), supported by Mr. KARUNATILLEKE (Sri Lanka), suggested that the Committee should, in accordance with the decision it had taken at its previous meeting, hear the introduction of the amendments to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1248/Rev.1 submitted by the United Kingdom delegation. However, it should then postpone the vote on the draft resolution until the afternoon of the following day, in order to allow time for further consultations and for delegations to contact their Governments for instructions.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would assume that the Committee agreed to that suggestion.

3. Mr. HEMANS (United Kingdom) said that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1248/Rev.1 was controversial and raised difficulties for a number of delegations. However, it was generally agreed that there was an urgent need for a universally acceptable code of conduct for liner conferences, and all delegations had undertaken to work towards that goal.

4. The essence of the draft resolution was that the General Assembly should now decide that the code of conduct should be in the form of a convention or other multilateral legally binding instrument. His delegation did not agree with that view, since such an instrument would require very lengthy negotiation, almost certainly not resulting in agreement before the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Moreover, once agreement had been reached, domestic legislation and ratification would be required to bring the instrument into force; the whole procedure seemed too complex and too slow. The purpose of the code was to govern an essentially commercial relationship in an era of rapid change in both technology and commercial practice, and flexibility was therefore an essential element. A legal instrument, once ratified, could

usually only be amended by conference decision and subsequent further legislation, which was a lengthy process hindering rather than promoting desirable change. Furthermore, a convention, however precise, would inevitably give rise to conflicting interpretations and subsequent conflicting legislation, resulting in a breakdown of stable relationships and a deterioration in liner services. To incorporate sufficient flexibility into the convention would merely serve to broaden the scope for conflicting legislation. His delegation therefore believed that the code should take the form of a resolution to be adopted by the plenipotentiary conference, and would answer the argument that such a procedure would give an insufficient guarantee of implementation by pointing out that the United Kingdom, being very heavily dependent on trade, was no less interested than the developing countries in an effective code.

5. In any case, the decision whether or not to adopt a convention or other legally binding instrument did not have to be taken at the current stage. It was to say the least unusual to determine the date of an international conference intended to finalize a convention before work on a draft had even begun, and still more so when the subject-matter was as controversial and complex as that under discussion.

6. In an effort to revert to the spirit of unanimity achieved in the fourth committee of the third session of UNCTAD at Santiago, his delegation had convened an informal working group, to which it had offered generous compromise proposals designed to leave the decision between a convention and a resolution to the plenipotentiary conference itself, which would have before it a draft of the code. Unfortunately, its suggestions had not been accepted, and an early vote had been requested by certain delegations. His delegation did not believe that such a vote would be an appropriate manner of pursuing the professed goal of a universally acceptable code. The first step away from that goal had been the adoption of resolution 66 (III) at Santiago, over the negative votes of a substantial minority, and a further step away from it now appeared imminent. In that context, his delegation would have to consider carefully its attitude towards any preparatory committee which was established, since the readiness with which its difficulties had so far been ignored did not suggest that it could expect much response in the future. His delegation was very seriously committed to the idea of a universally acceptable code, and believed that work on it should begin as early as practicable. However, current conditions did not appear favourable and, even in the absence of other problems, it appeared unlikely that much constructive work could be done much before March 1973.

7. Bearing in mind the need for a universally acceptable code, his delegation had submitted a number of amendments, circulated under the symbol A/C.2/L.1275, to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1248/Rev.1. The sole purpose of the two deletions from the first preambular paragraph was to ensure that it faithfully reflected the degree of unanimous agreement reached at Santiago. Paragraph 37 of the report of the fourth committee of UNCTAD¹ read “. . . the following conclusions emerge: (a) a universally-acceptable code of conduct for liner conferences should be prepared and implemented as a matter of urgency”. That had in fact been the extent of the unanimous agreement reached at Santiago. Accordingly, the proposed deletion of the reference to the special needs and problems of the developing countries did not in any way mean that his delegation was not fully sympathetic to those needs and problems.

8. The new versions of operative paragraphs 1 and 3 which his delegation proposed required no further elaboration at that stage; they followed naturally from his delegation's inability to accept an immediate decision that the code of conduct should take the form of a convention. In paragraph 1, the words “or as early as practicable” had been added. That was not intended to delay progress, but to ensure that the plenipotentiary conference took place only when the preparations for it were complete. If they were not, it would be a failure which would have serious consequences for future discussion of a code of conduct.

9. His delegation's last amendment added to operative paragraph 5 a reference to the “Code of Practice for Liner Conferences elaborated by the Committee of European National Shipowners' Associations (CENSA)² in order to balance the reference in operative paragraph 5 (a) to the draft code which had been annexed to resolution 66 (III).

10. His delegation believed that it was extremely important to proceed as far as possible on the basis of the unanimous agreement reached at Santiago. Although there were difficulties ahead, much could be done in areas where agreement was readily feasible, and in the circumstances it would be unwise deliberately to bring serious difficulties to the fore. His delegation hoped that its amendments would be understood in that light and that with their acceptance the draft resolution could be adopted unanimously. That would be an important contribution to the start of substantive work on the code.

11. The CHAIRMAN announced that the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1248/Rev.1.

12. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) introducing revised draft resolution A/C.2/L.1260/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the delegations of Afghanistan, Burundi and Ethiopia had joined the sponsors. The latter had felt it desirable that the General Assembly should endorse UNCTAD resolution 62 (III) and had

accordingly transferred the first preambular paragraph of the original draft resolution, with suitable modifications, to the beginning of the operative part of the draft resolution. The only other change was in operative paragraph 2—now 3—which had been amended to reflect the urgent need for practical implementation by all members of UNCTAD, and not only by the developed countries, of the relevant parts of resolution 62 (III). Indeed, their implementation by all concerned was vital. The new paragraph 3 also referred especially to developed countries, while operative paragraph 1 was aimed at the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies. Moreover, the preambular part noted the Joint Statement by the Socialist Countries on the Second Development Decade and Social Progress³, as well as the declaration made by those countries at Santiago.⁴ Thus the text covered all groups from which appropriate trade, technical assistance and financial measures were required. In view of the importance of the subject, provision was made for periodic reports, by the specialized agencies to the General Assembly and by States to the Trade and Development Board through the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. It was important that all concerned should give the situation of the least developed among the developing countries the urgent attention which it required, and his delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

13. Mr. SINGER (Uruguay), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1267, said that the listing of the delegation of Liberia as a sponsor of the draft resolution was an error. The draft was the result of consultations among many delegations and the representatives of a number of international organizations; its main purpose was to request the Trade and Development Board to undertake, through the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade, a study to solve the problems facing developing countries in the servicing of their external debt. General Assembly resolutions 2170 (XXI), 2415 (XXIII) and 2807 (XXVI) had shown the growing concern of the international community at that problem, and UNCTAD, in its resolution 59 (III), had urged effective solutions to it.

14. There were good reasons for that concern. Debt servicing was an increasing burden on the developing countries; on 31 December 1970 the external debt of 80 developing countries had exceeded \$66 thousand million, and according to the annual report of the World Bank Group which appeared on 25 September 1972, the debt-servicing costs of developing countries would exceed \$7 thousand million in 1972. Interest rates had increased from an average of slightly over 4 per cent in 1965 to over 5 per cent in 1970. Even more serious, debt servicing was absorbing an increasing percentage of the exports of developing countries—in some of them more than 25 per cent and in the vast majority a considerable amount which rendered extremely difficult the task of reaching the growth targets set in the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade. Moreover, those figures related only to the

¹ TD/161/Add.3.

² See TD/128 and Corr.1.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 42, document A/8074.

⁴ TD/154 of 26 April 1972.

publicly guaranteed debt and did not include the debt to private concerns, the payment of dividends, royalties and patent fees, capital outflow or other invisibles.

15. In his statement to the third session of UNCTAD, Mr. McNamara, the President of IBRD, had noted that since the mid-1950s, the publicly guaranteed debt had been growing at about 14 per cent a year, about twice the rate at which export earnings, from which it must be serviced, had grown over the same period. Mr. McNamara had pointed out that such a relationship could not continue indefinitely, and that with the prospect of a levelling off of official development assistance at far less than the targeted amount, and its partial replacement with financial assistance on harder terms, debt service ratios would inevitably rise.

16. That situation must be viewed in a dual context. On the one hand, the imports of developing countries were expected to increase at an annual rate of 7 per cent during the current decade, while on the other, official development assistance would, according to the President of IBRD, reach on average, by the mid-point of the decade, only half of the target of 1 per cent of gross national product set by the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)). There was therefore an urgent need for practical solutions not only to the current debt-servicing problem but to the problems of the future.

17. The situation of the developing countries with regard to debt servicing was critical, but they were also critically in need of outside capital to finance their development. His delegation did not endorse the argument that the rich nations should help poorer countries as an act of charity, nor the argument that they owed them compensation from the wealth they had derived from exploitation of their resources, nor yet the argument that the developed countries must act, in the last resort as it were, to prevent an outbreak of violence in the developing countries. In his delegation's view, all countries of the world were in the same economic situation and must work together to find harmonious solutions at the world-wide level which would unite rather than divide, and which would benefit both the international community as a whole and its individual members. The context of such solutions should be not political, but moral; the international economy must become more humane in nature and go beyond simple mathematical bookkeeping to allow broader and more varied exchange among nations and better mutual understanding.

18. From the political and economic viewpoint, it was essential to avoid the general moratorium which would be the inevitable consequence if the external debt of the developing countries reached the limit at which it led to contraction of their economies, a limit which for many of those countries was already not far off. His Government was opposed to any type of unilateral moratorium, which it believed would have profoundly negative effects on international economic relations. On the other hand, it was clear that if the economic

imbalance in the world, in which external indebtedness played an important part, continued to increase, international trade would be impaired to the detriment not only of the developing countries but also, and perhaps primarily, of the developed countries, which required new and broader markets for the goods they produced.

19. Seen in moral terms, the problem was one of translating the concept of peace from a negative notion of the absence of war into a concept involving a positive obligation towards international co-operation, in which commercial, technical, scientific and cultural exchanges would contribute to the creation of a common destiny for mankind. International economic relations must be placed on a new basis worthy of a society in which, as had already been demonstrated, the benefits of industrial, scientific and technological development could be made available to all to the detriment of none.

20. The task would be a difficult one, and draft resolution A/C.2/L.1267 represented only the beginning. His delegation had engaged in broad consultations to ensure that it was as objective as possible. It called simply for a serious study at the international level to solve the problems arising from the external indebtedness of the developing countries and to prevent new problems arising in future, and aimed at setting financial co-operation for development on a new path which would convert it from a mere business undertaking to an opportunity for fruitful encounter among peoples. That was in particular the purpose of the reference to the establishment of a special fund for financing the interest on the external debt of developing countries. The suggestion also took into account the balance of payments problems of some developed countries, which made it difficult for them to meet their international obligations fully. The fund, which would be relatively small, would ensure a continuous flow of development finance by channelling resources from all countries, which would be repaid at current market interest rates. It was for specialists in economics, working in co-operation with the representatives of Governments, to determine whether such an initiative would be feasible, or to suggest more effective alternatives. Nevertheless, in the existing difficult situation in which the world found itself, good intentions alone were not enough; they must be reflected in action, and his delegation accordingly hoped that the draft resolution would receive the unanimous support of the Committee.

21. Mr. ZAHARAN (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1269, announced that Algeria, Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yugoslavia had joined the sponsors. The developing countries attached particular importance to the preparation of a charter of the economic rights and duties of States. The sponsors were proposing the appointment of nine additional members to the Working Group established under UNCTAD resolution 45 (III) to prepare the draft charter, having recognized that the task of rapid and careful preparation would not be served by expanding the membership too widely.

22. Mr. ROUGÉ (France), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1270, announced that Afghanistan, Ghana and the Philippines had become sponsors. The draft resolution contained ideas on which all countries had long expressed agreement concerning the dissemination of information on problems of development. It recalled, *inter alia*, UNCTAD resolution 43 (III), the only resolution which had resulted from a joint initiative of members of the Group of 77 and the group of Western industrialized countries. The sponsorship of the draft resolution was similarly broad and he hoped it would be well received. The first four preambular paragraphs recalled the major texts on the subject. The fifth preambular paragraph expressed concisely a very important truth which had been amply stressed in the debate.

23. Operative paragraph 1 echoed paragraph 1 of UNCTAD resolution 43 (III). Paragraph 2 also echoed an idea expressed in that resolution and subsequently confirmed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/8893), which his delegation had criticized somewhat unjustly. Paragraphs 3, 4, 6 and 7 described the realistic course which should be followed by various United Nations bodies to give effect to paragraphs 1 and 2. It was too early to decide what should be done as a follow-up to the Secretary-General's report, since it had been distributed only recently. However, it would be too late to wait until the fifty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council, in July 1973, to determine the details of a public opinion campaign for 24 October. While the Council should play a major role, the Trade and Development Board at its fifth special session should also have a responsibility in the matter, particularly since it had been entrusted with the task of considering the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the subject and that session would be devoted to the task of review and appraisal, the major theme of the information campaign scheduled for 1973.

24. Lastly, paragraph 5 did not envisage the establishment of any new bodies or the mobilization of additional resources or staff; it sought to ensure that the United Nations, UNCTAD and the Centre for Economic and Social Information organized their work in the most effective manner possible.

25. Mr. CUBILLOS (Chile), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1273 on behalf of his own delegation, said that its objective was to ensure that the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations within the framework of GATT in 1973 took into account the interests—both with respect to trade and economic development—of the developing countries, whose share of world trade had declined from 29 per cent to 17 per cent over the past 20 years.

26. The draft resolution sought to ensure that the objectives of the developing countries in the negotiations that had not been included in the summing up by the Chairman of the Contracting Parties to GATT at its twenty-eighth session would be re-examined. The more equitable international division of labour sought in operative paragraph 3 should lead to an increased share in international trade for the developing countries and would require further diversification of production.

27. Paragraph 4 reflected the principles contained in UNCTAD resolution 82 (III). Drawing particular attention to subparagraph (a), he said that the idea that the negotiations should aim to secure additional benefits for the developing countries had not been emphasized strongly enough at the twenty-eighth session of GATT. Developing countries, members and non-members of GATT, must be able to participate in all stages of the negotiations. Paragraph 5 underscored the need for new objectives. The assistance to developing countries in preparing for the negotiations which was called for in paragraph 6 should be much more intensive than that provided in the past. The co-ordination called for in paragraph 7 was particularly important, since the Director-General of GATT would probably serve as chairman of the preparatory committee for the negotiations and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD must be able to participate effectively in that committee; both officials should play an important role in the Committee of Twenty of IMF.

28. His delegation would welcome any suggestions to improve the text and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

29. Mr. SEKULIĆ (Yugoslavia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1274 on behalf of the sponsors, drew particular attention to the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs. The General Assembly should give firm political support to follow-up action to the third session of UNCTAD, particularly with respect to multilateral trade negotiations and the international monetary situation. Operative paragraph 2 was relevant in that regard. The sponsors considered the results of the twenty-eighth session of GATT a modest improvement over some decisions already taken.

30. He also drew attention to operative paragraphs 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12. With regard to the latter two paragraphs, the sponsors felt that monetary problems should be given priority attention. Paragraph 14 indicated the areas in which intensified intergovernmental action should be continued. Paragraphs 15 and 16 endorsed important resolutions on permanent sovereignty over natural resources and special measures in favour of the least developed and landlocked developing countries.

31. The draft resolution also emphasized the role of UNCTAD in the implementation of the International Development Strategy and the importance of initiating more frequently action conducive to the conclusion of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade and development. Paragraph 20 indicated areas in which UNCTAD should initiate and continue action for integrated progress. Paragraph 21 was important because it recognized that financial resources were required to implement sound resolutions which had already been adopted.

32. A number of subjects which were of the utmost importance had not been reflected in the draft resolution since they were covered in other draft resolutions. They included special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries, shipping,

multilateral trade negotiations and the charter of the economic rights and duties of States.

33. The main purpose of the draft resolution was to promote some of the positive initiatives taken by the third session of UNCTAD and to help mobilize political will, particularly of the developed countries, in order to facilitate the finding of solutions to unresolved issues of vital importance to the developing countries and to the international community as a whole. He announced that the United Republic of Tanzania and Ghana had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters III to XI, XII (sections A to G) and XVII to XIX] (continued)* (A/8703)

OUTFLOW OF TRAINED PERSONNEL FROM DEVELOPING TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (A/C.2/L.1271)

34. Mr. MORENO (Cuba), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1271, said that the developing countries could not benefit from the transfer of technology unless they had highly qualified personnel who were capable of using it. Such personnel were essential if the developing countries were to be able to tear down anachronistic structures and extricate themselves from the morass of poverty.

35. Many studies had been made of the problem of the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries, which was recognized to have dangerous consequences for the former. However, no way had yet been found to eliminate those consequences; the operative part of the draft resolution therefore called for additional studies and for efforts to seek truly positive solutions.

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (E/5170, A/C.2/L.1272)

36. Mr. KRÖYER (Iceland) recalled, with reference to the draft resolution, that a large number of foreign ministers had dwelt at length on the question of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources in their statements at the current session of the General Assembly and had emphasized its importance. His delegation and the other sponsors had attempted to reflect that emphasis in draft resolution A/C.2/L.1272.

37. The wording of the operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution represented an attempt to show more clearly than in previous resolutions that the right of States to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources was applicable not only to resources on land and in the areas of the sea-bed within national jurisdiction but also to the living resources in coastal waters. Such a right was inherent in the principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources.

* Resumed from the 1497th meeting.

The sponsors had, however, carefully refrained from touching upon the legal issue of the delimitation of the area of national jurisdiction; that question could only properly be solved by the forthcoming conference on the law of the sea.

38. Operative paragraph 2 referred to a most important principle contained in the Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV)). Operative paragraph 3 sought to establish another important principle, according to which any attempt to place pressure on States exercising their sovereign rights over their natural resources would be recognized as being in violation of the United Nations Charter, of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States and of the aims and policy of the International Development Strategy.

39. The remaining operative paragraphs concerned the action to be taken to implement the principles reaffirmed in the resolution. In that connexion, he recalled that his country had recently extended its fishery limits to a distance of 50 nautical miles from base lines. It had done so to safeguard its permanent sovereignty over the marine resources in its coastal areas, which were vital for the viability of Iceland as an independent State. A report would shortly be issued by his Government on that action, in pursuance of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2692 (XXV). A digest of or reference to that report and similar action by other Governments could usefully be incorporated in the supplement to the Secretary-General's report called for in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution.

40. The CHAIRMAN announced that Morocco had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 46

Operational activities for development: reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (continued)* (A/8703, chap. VII, sect. A, B and C; E/5092, E/5185/Rev.1):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (A/8648, A/C.2/L.1256, A/C.2/L.1262/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1263, A/C.2/L.1264, A/C.2/L.1266);
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund;
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General;
- (d) United Nations Volunteers programme (E/5146)

41. Mr. AL JABER (Jordan) said that there had been extensive consultations within the last few days with a view to accommodating the objections raised to the original draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1262.

42. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1262/Rev.1 had frequently expressed their full support for the special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries referred to in such resolutions as UNCTAD resolution 62 (III).

* Resumed from the 1497th meeting.

They were convinced that it was essential to avoid any possible misunderstanding, since all the developing countries shared the same problems and the same aspirations. That being so, all the amendments contained in document A/C.2/L.1266 had been incorporated in the revised draft resolution now before the Committee.

43. The name of Kuwait should be added to the list of sponsors of the revised draft resolution, which, he hoped, would be adopted by consensus.

44. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) thanked the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1262/Rev.1 for having taken note of the comments made concerning their original draft resolution. The revised text was far more acceptable. In consequence, he withdrew document A/C.2/L.1266 submitted by his own delegation and that of Afghanistan, both of whom would be able to vote for the revised draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 48

Question of the establishment of an international university (A/8510 and Add.1/Rev.1, A/8703/Add.1 (Part I), A/8898, E/5155 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.1268, A/C.2/L.1278)

45. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Under-Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet) observed that the Committee had before it documents which reflected the results of the extensive studies and consultations which UNESCO and the Panel of Experts on the Establishment of an International University had undertaken during the last two years on the question. It also had available information on the attitude of the Economic and Social Council and the UNESCO General Conference to the question.

46. In his report submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly (A/8510 and Add.1/Rev.1), the Secretary-General had noted the considerable evolution of the concept of a United Nations university since it had first been proposed and also the wide support for such a university. In the letter of transmittal accompanying the last report of the Panel of Experts on its third session (E/5155), the Secretary-General had endorsed the views and recommendations it contained. The Secretary-General had also been particularly pleased that at its third session, which he, the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of UNITAR had attended, the Panel of Experts had been able to reach a consensus on a number of questions concerning the proposed university raised by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. It was gratifying that the Economic and Social Council had recently recommended, by its resolution 1731 (LIII) of 15 September 1972, that the General Assembly at its current session should take a decision on the establishment of the university and also take practical steps to implement such a decision, including the creation of a founding committee charged with drafting the charter of the university. He was also pleased that the UNESCO General Conference had confirmed a decision by its Executive Board and issued similar recommendations in its resolution 1.322, adopted on 17 November.

47. In its existing form, the proposal for the establishment of an international university called for the creation of a decentralized network of institutions for post-graduate students. Those institutions would promote and undertake research and training with regard to urgent questions affecting the whole of mankind, such as those of peaceful coexistence, human rights, development and the global implications of science and technology. Such a university system should serve to facilitate contacts and exchanges among scholars from different countries and stimulate efforts by academic institutions to implement the principles of the United Nations Charter. Those efforts would be co-ordinated by a high-level centre for programming and co-ordination.

48. The status of the university would be that of an autonomous academic institution under the auspices of the United Nations. Both UNESCO and UNITAR would have an important role to play in the proposed system, which would in no way duplicate functions performed by any of the existing bodies within the United Nations system. Nor was it intended to supplant the research and training programmes of national academic institutions, but rather to supplement them as necessary when they related to problems transcending national boundaries. The university itself would comprise both existing and new institutes and would be willing to form links with or affiliate with national university centres and similar bodies. Emphasis would be laid on promoting exchange of information and personnel among affiliated institutes, with a minimum of administrative structure. An important subsidiary function of the university would be to train highly qualified specialists from all countries, particularly the developing countries. It would also give them the opportunity to break away from the intellectual isolation and enhance their professional skills through periodic contacts with other academic personnel.

49. The Secretary-General felt that the university system should be financed through voluntary contributions and that it was not realistic to expect to be able to use the United Nations regular budget for that purpose. A number of Governments had already indicated their willingness to host or otherwise support the institutes which would come within the proposed system.

50. Once the proposal to establish the university had been adopted, the Secretary-General, working in close co-operation with UNESCO and the other agencies concerned, including UNITAR, would, of course, do everything possible to implement it. At the same time, the proposed founding committee, in which the world's major educational and cultural systems would be represented, would devote itself to the further elaboration of the objectives and principles of the university with a view to preparing a draft charter. That charter would, after comments by the Executive Board of UNESCO, be submitted to the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly through the intermediary of the Economic and Social Council.

51. After extensive consultations with the world academic community and with the fullest co-operation

of UNESCO, UNITAR and the other agencies concerned, a distinguished and devoted body of experts had agreed on the main characteristics of the United Nations university. As he had already said, the value of such an institution to the international community had been recognized by the Economic and Social Council, the UNESCO General Conference and the Secretary-General. He hoped the members of the Committee would share their opinion.

52. Mr. SPAULDING (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the general impression created by discussions at the seventeenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO was that the proposal to establish a United Nations university was a good one, whose time had come. Both the General Conference and the Executive Board of UNESCO had stressed the need to ensure that the new institution was an academic, rather than an inter-governmental organization. It was very important that the faculty and students of the university should have academic freedom and become closely involved in the governance of the university. It would, indeed, be quite impossible to legislate beyond the general principles and objectives which would appear in the university's charter. The faculty and students, rather than any outside body, should be responsible for decisions affecting the research and teaching goals and the general atmosphere of the university.

53. The studies undertaken by UNESCO in connexion with the proposed university have shown that there was particular interest in the proposal among academic personnel in the developing countries. They sometimes felt a sense of intellectual isolation; but in the new university they and their students would be able to make contact with persons of similar interests from all parts of the world.

54. Much emphasis had been placed on the need to involve young people in the work of the institution. That, indeed, was at the core of the concept of the university. Younger and older scholars would work together in a learning environment which would be unique in a university and both groups would learn from each other.

55. Should the General Assembly decide at its current session to establish a founding committee, the Director-General of UNESCO would propose to the Secretary-General that he establish a small secretariat to work with that committee. UNESCO hoped that, during 1973, it would be possible not only to draft a charter to be presented to the UNESCO Executive Board and the General Assembly, but that progress could also be made towards final decisions on the form, location and financing of the first units of the university. He hoped the various Governments and institutions which had expressed an interest in collaborating in the project would work closely with UNESCO during the year in order that rapid progress could be made once the charter had been approved by the General Assembly.

56. The governing bodies of UNESCO had stressed repeatedly that UNESCO, as the educational agency of the United Nations system, had prime responsibility with regard to the university. However, they also recognized the need to involve the various appropriate United Nations agencies in the planning and establishment of the university. They also hoped to maintain the existing close working relationship with the United Nations Secretariat, which would continue to handle matters affecting over-all United Nations policy, while UNESCO would deal with those of educational or academic import.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.