



Chairman: Mr. Walter GUEVARA ARZE (Bolivia).

AGENDA ITEM 42

**Second United Nations Development Decade (continued)
(A/8003 and Corr.1, chaps. I, VII, VIII, sect. B and XI,
sect. L)**

1. Mr. HALL (Jamaica) said that he attached special importance to the question of the procedure for review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the international development strategy because in the absence of a dynamic approach the strategy would have no meaning.

2. Referring to paragraph 79 of the international development strategy, he said that it would be premature to discuss the establishment of any intergovernmental body for review and appraisal before the first biennial review, which would show how far the existing machinery had been adapted to carrying out the work, and whether or not any additional machinery was needed.

3. Referring to paragraphs 81, 82 and 83, he said that the normal procedure was for the various regional and international organizations in the United Nations to submit reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, and consequently the Council could make a useful contribution to the review and appraisal by coordinating the work of those bodies and taking an over-all view of the situation on the basis of the documents submitted to it. The Council could sift through the documents and present a synthesis to the Second Committee, which would then be relieved of a heavy burden of work, while at the same time still having all the material concerned available to it. That did not mean that the Council would give detailed consideration to the specific questions that were within the competence of the various international organizations. The Committee would be free to examine any particular aspect in detail, or to disagree with any of the Council's recommendations to the General Assembly.

4. The basic element in the review and appraisal machinery was its operation at the national level. The existing United Nations machinery was designed to pinpoint the problems of the developing countries, but in the present context it was important that the review and appraisal machinery should put equal emphasis on progress by the developed and developing countries in implementing the strategy. The developing countries would not react favourably if attention were focused only on what they were doing. If the review and appraisal were to be effective, it could not be one-sided.

5. He agreed with the Tunisian representative (see 1316th meeting, para. 6) that the Committee should now endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX), so that the Council could begin work on the detailed procedure for over-all review and appraisal.

6. Mr. BARTHEL-ROSA (Brazil) said that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had given a clear picture of the reviewing procedure at the preceding meeting. The Committee must now consider certain basic questions of principle and definition.

7. The first question was how the reviewing procedure was to be conceived. A dynamic approach had been adopted to the Second United Nations Development Decade; a number of policy measures and targets had been put forward that it was hoped would be achieved during the Decade, but there must still be negotiation concerning areas of disagreement. Thus, there would be an ever-changing picture, and the review must be a continuing process in order to keep up with it. Consequently the review procedure must be closely connected with the negotiating procedure that would continue during the Decade.

8. Secondly, it was important to avoid any duplication in the continuing negotiations, the reviewing procedures, and the policies adopted.

9. Thirdly, various United Nations bodies would have the task of implementing the policy measures, and hence of conducting the negotiations. They should therefore be given full responsibility in their own particular spheres for review and appraisal procedures. The main concern should be the early part of the evaluation process, at the base of the pyramid, and not with what happened later at the General Assembly level. Some organizations, such as UNCTAD, would play an important negotiating role. Many important policy measures in the economic field related to trade and development, financing for development, and the transfer of technology, and must therefore be considered in the context of UNCTAD's work. The various interpretations and reservations concerned measures connected with UNCTAD's activities, and within the next few years, when agreement would have to be reached on difficult issues, UNCTAD would have a crucial role. Clearly, then, review and appraisal must be at the level of negotiation.

10. There were also some basic principles that should cover the final review at the global level.

11. First, the General Assembly, when considering the financial implications of reviewing procedures for the Second United Nations Development Decade, must remember to take account of requirements at the sectoral level.

12. Secondly, once the principle of avoiding duplication was accepted, it followed that there should be no far-reaching changes in the normal United Nations procedure for recommendations, studies and documents, which were initiated at the sectoral level and then travelled upwards. He was not convinced that any new institutional arrangements were required at the global level, particularly since in 1972 UNCTAD was to hold its third session, which would no doubt produce important policy decisions and have an important bearing on the Second Development Decade. Obviously, no institutional arrangements were needed to channel UNCTAD's decisions to the General Assembly.

13. Thirdly, if no immediate changes were needed, and duplication was to be avoided in the final global appraisal, then the biennial review by the General Assembly could be made in the light of the findings of the various organizations according to existing procedures.

14. The Indian representative had suggested (see 1316th meeting, para. 44) that the Second Committee should consider establishing an intergovernmental group to carry out the global review at the General Assembly level. That was an interesting idea, and could perhaps be considered at the appropriate time.

15. The Brazilian delegation was concerned above all with ensuring that the review and appraisal was carried out at the same level as negotiation. If those two operations were separated, or if there was any interference with activities at the sectoral level, efforts to implement the policies for the Second Development Decade would be impeded. Consequently, the Second Committee should give firm guidelines on that point. The global review would be carried out by the General Assembly, and at that level the Second Committee would organize its own work as it deemed fit.

16. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) supported the views expressed by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs at the preceding meeting. Clearly, the bodies responsible for evaluation and supervision at the national, regional, sectoral and global levels must have clear terms of reference. They must produce something more than a mere diagnosis. They must adopt a dynamic approach towards the objectives of the Decade putting forward recommendations and suggestions for corrective measures. The Under-Secretary-General had been right in advocating flexible terms of reference for the reviewing bodies. Much needed to be done to improve statistics and research programmes in the various spheres of development and the developing countries would naturally seek international aid to supplement their national programming and statistical services.

17. He supported the Tunisian proposal that the Second Committee should adopt a resolution endorsing Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX) and that the Secretary-General should be invited to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session. That would coincide with the suggestion by India and allow the Second Committee to see how the system established was working and to introduce new ideas as appropriate. The draft resolution would also refer to the important role that the organizations of the United Nations family could play in their fields of competence and in the task of co-ordinating national and regional evaluation efforts.

18. Mr. TODOROV (Bulgaria) said that evaluation and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the international development strategy would make it possible to see how far goals were being achieved and to introduce any necessary corrective measures. He agreed with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs that the review procedure was a complex problem requiring detailed analysis. He supported the Tunisian proposal that the Second Committee should adopt a resolution endorsing Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX).

19. In considering the review and appraisal procedure, the Committee should be guided by the desirability of preserving the existing United Nations machinery. New machinery should be established only if it was clear that the existing bodies could not perform their task. The Economic and Social Council was the appropriate organ to review and appraise progress in implementing the international development strategy. It was called on not only to co-ordinate the work of United Nations organs in that field, but also to develop the Organization's economic and social policy. For a number of years it had been concerned with the preparation and discussion of the *World Economic Survey*. Furthermore, in resolution 1556 B (XLIX), it had expressed its readiness to assist the General Assembly in the over-all review and appraisal of progress.

20. As stated in paragraph 81 of the international development strategy, the regional economic commissions must also play an important part, since they were familiar with local conditions. Another reason for associating them with the review and appraisal procedure was that the Council had established subregional teams to help countries prepare and evaluate their national plans. The strategy must first be reviewed at the national level in order to permit judgement of the results, particularly in the developing countries. The various international bodies could all make their contribution, and so could the United Nations Secretariat in its preparation of the *World Economic Survey*. The Committee for Development Planning could also be of great assistance to the Economic and Social Council in the work of review and appraisal.

21. Under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council, the existing machinery and procedures were quite capable of dealing with the review and appraisal of progress in implementing the international development strategy. Any attempt to exclude the Council from that work would be to deprive it of its main function and would conflict with the Charter.

22. Mr. AL-ATRACHE (Syria) said that the Committee had to consider two basic questions: identification of the proper organizations to be charged with the task of review and appraisal, and the scope of the review. With regard to the first question, he felt that the various organizations of the United Nations system should participate within their respective spheres of competence; their assessments would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council, which would in turn transmit them to the General Assembly with appropriate comments. His delegation therefore saw no need to establish, at that stage, any new body to undertake the work of appraisal, although it saw great merit in the proposal by the Indian representative (*ibid.*) to the effect that the Committee should, at its 1971 session, establish a working group to study the appraisal reports.

23. Turning to the question of the scope of the review, he said that if the appraisal were to be meaningful as far as identification of shortfalls was concerned, it should be undertaken on a country-by-country basis, although a substantial volume of additional work would be involved. The evaluation machinery could be considerably assisted if the UNDP country programming system and the IBRD and IMF annual country reports were taken into account. Nevertheless, certain success indicators should be devised to make it possible to gauge the efforts made by national Governments to achieve the goals of the Decade. The task of evaluation would be more difficult in the case of developing countries, because the appraisal would have to take into consideration the whole complex of their economic and social policies and examine their effects, not only on growth, but also on the achievement of certain desirable social objectives, such as an equitable distribution of income.

24. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) welcomed the adoption of the international development strategy, which was in full accord with the provisions of the Charter which empowered the United Nations and its subsidiary organs to take measures for the economic and social advancement of mankind. The purpose of review and appraisal was clearly indicated in paragraph 20 of the strategy. With regard to the basis for review and appraisal, covered by Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIV) and by the international development strategy itself, he drew attention to the importance of establishing national bodies to consolidate and co-ordinate the efforts made by individual Governments to implement the strategy. Material could be submitted at the regional level by the regional economic commissions, by the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut and by the regional development banks and subregional groupings, and at the sectoral level by the specialized agencies. The third session of UNCTAD to be held in the spring of 1972 would provide an opportunity for progress to be reviewed, while UNIDO would have an opportunity, at its first international conference in 1971, of examining its role and the contributions of developed and developing countries. A major source of material would be the reports and documentation prepared by the Secretary-General, but it would be helpful if members who had participated in preparing Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX) could explain exactly what was included in the documentation referred to in paragraph 1 of that resolution.

25. Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX) and the development strategy also dealt with the machinery for review and appraisal, with a specific reference to the Committee for Development Planning. He hoped that the suggestion made at the previous meeting by the Indian representative, to the effect that the Committee might consider the advisability of establishing, at its 1971 session, a working group to deal with the question of review and appraisal, would be formally placed before the Committee for consideration.

26. The Committee had two immediate tasks: to take initial action regarding the machinery for review and appraisal, and to ensure that an effective review would be carried out at the first biennial appraisal scheduled for 1973. Any draft resolution on the item should incorporate

a section dealing with the need for the unified approach stressed by the Swedish representative (see 1316th meeting) and a section on the machinery of review and appraisal.

27. Mr. LOUYA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that section D on review and appraisal was one of the most important parts of the strategy, and he hoped that it would enable the United Nations to assess progress towards the objectives of the Second Development Decade at the national, regional and sectoral levels. He shared the view that national statistical and other departments should take the necessary steps to provide the Secretariat with material to facilitate its task of collecting data.

28. The basic role of co-ordinating the work of the international organizations should be played by the Economic and Social Council, as provided for in the Charter, but the Council should be assisted by the Committee for Development Planning, UNIDO and UNCTAD, which were familiar with the needs of the developing countries and with the measures required to solve their problems. He supported the Tunisian suggestion that the Committee should endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX) and agreed with the Sudanese representative that the Committee's resolution should mention all the organs which would be called upon to co-operate.

29. Mr. RUTTEN (Netherlands) felt that it would be unwise for the Committee to take up any official position regarding the machinery of review and appraisal before the international development strategy was adopted by the General Assembly in plenary meeting. The strategy was a very delicate structure and the result of much compromise; the introduction of any new elements might jeopardize the results thus far achieved. Many of the proposals made were interesting and deserved further study, but the Committee should not adopt any definite position on them, particularly since many of the arguments currently advanced had already been put forward during the discussions in the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade, where there had been great difficulty in reaching agreement on paragraphs 79 to 83 of the present text of the strategy.

30. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had rightly drawn attention to some of the unsolved problems connected with section D of the strategy, such as the fashioning of instruments to make review and appraisal really effective, the development of reliable indicators and the collection and harmonization of reliable statistics; they were all very important questions which should be dealt with as soon as possible, but not at the current session of the General Assembly.

31. He agreed with the French representative (see 1316th meeting, para. 20) that no increase in personnel was necessarily involved, although the question of placing increased means at the disposal of the Secretary-General to help him prepare the reports would have to be considered; he endorsed the views expressed by the Under-Secretary-General in that connexion.

32. He supported the Tunisian representative's view that it was important for the Committee to adopt a resolution which endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution

1556 B (XLIX) and which, at the same time, drew the attention of the regional economic commissions and specialized agencies to the need for them to prepare their contributions to the review process in time for consideration by the Council at its summer session in 1973, the year of the first biennial appraisal. He agreed with the Chilean representative (see 1316th meeting, para. 29) that the task of drawing final conclusions concerning the operation of the strategy and the progress towards the implementation of its goals, as well as the task of formulating any new goals and objectives, would have to be undertaken by the General Assembly, but the Economic and Social Council would be responsible for co-ordination and for presenting the material, including the contributions of specialized bodies, such as UNCTAD, to the General Assembly in appropriate form. In that work it would be assisted by the Secretariat, while valuable assistance in analysing the material could be supplied by the Committee for Development Planning. Any draft resolution placed before the Committee should therefore endorse Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX), invite the regional economic commissions and specialized agencies to prepare their work in good time, and, in view of the importance of many of the problems mentioned by the Under-Secretary-General, invite the Secretary-General to study the technical problems which might arise and to submit a report on them.

33. Mr. KANKA (Czechoslovakia) said that the action programme during the Second United Nations Development Decade should be based primarily on the mobilization of the domestic resources of each country while simultaneously utilizing the machinery of international economic co-operation. Therefore, each country had to evaluate its own national economic development plan; only by adopting such an approach would the sovereignty and national interests of every State be respected.

34. The function of the organizations within the United Nations system would be to support the international efforts to implement the strategy for the Second Development Decade, to detect problems and to determine how they could be solved. The specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNCTAD and UNIDO should render assistance within their respective fields of competence. The potential of the regional economic commissions should also be fully utilized. Responsibility for co-ordination should devolve upon the Economic and Social Council; although the activities of the Council could be improved, it was the appropriate organ to deal with economic and social development affairs. His delegation therefore endorsed Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX).

35. Mr. CAPRILES (Bolivia) noted that, according to paragraph 79 of the international development strategy, appropriate arrangements were necessary both to identify shortfalls in the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Development Decade and to recommend positive measures, including new goals and policies as needed. The Committee was therefore confronted not only with the need to establish a more or less complex technical and economic system for review and appraisal, but also with the much more important task of studying new measures. The dynamic aspect of the strategy which had frequently been referred to would gain meaning and support through such study. The final appraisal must therefore take place at the

level of the General Assembly, through the Second Committee, without prejudice to the execution of the actual review process at the sectoral, national, regional and international levels. In that process, the international organizations of the United Nations family, in particular UNCTAD and UNIDO, would have an important role to play.

36. The review studies should cover not only progress made at the sectoral, national, regional and international levels, but also the forms and conditions of the important support provided by the developed countries towards meeting the goals and objectives of the strategy. If that support was given on the conditions hoped for, the development strategy would make progress, but if not, it might well be necessary to ask what was being evaluated.

37. Various important technical matters remained to be settled, including the adoption of indicators, the determination of review methods and the improvement of standardization of statistics. Progress on those subjects would be made as the study of them continued, and, in his delegation's view, that required not only discussions by the Committee but a study by the Secretariat in co-operation with the international organizations concerned. His delegation believed that the question should remain on the agenda of the Second Committee for the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

38. Mr. KELSO (Australia) said his delegation wished to endorse the comments of the representative of Japan (see 1316th meeting, para. 25) with regard to the possibility of adapting the *World Economy Survey* to the purposes of review and appraisal. Care must be taken by the secretariats within the United Nations system that the concepts and approaches used in the appraisal were not so abstract as to deprive them of any real meaning for the Governments and international organizations concerned.

39. Mr. KASPRZYK (Poland) said that his delegation fully appreciated the importance of review and appraisal as a basic condition for the real success of the international development strategy. It shared the view that the process should be based on existing resolutions, in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX). The fullest possible use should be made of all existing United Nations organs dealing with economic and social affairs, and the specialized agencies and regional economic commissions also had a very important role to play. The sovereign right of all countries to conduct their own national evaluations must be respected.

40. His delegation supported the proposal of the representative of Tunisia that Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX) should be endorsed by the Committee, and agreed that under the Charter the Council must play the central role in any review and appraisal. An additional reason was that it was the only organ in the United Nations responsible for both economic and social affairs, which both played their part in the strategy. The procedure should therefore be that the specialized agencies and other international organs concerned should submit their reports through the Council to the General Assembly.

41. Mr. SULEIMAN (Libya) said that a number of suggestions meriting consideration had been made at the

1316th meeting, including the Swedish suggestion that the Secretary-General prepare a report to identify the various aspects of the question of review and appraisal, the comments by Chile on the importance of sectoral evaluation and the Indian suggestion regarding an inter-governmental group. It was of the greatest importance at the outset to find a dynamic approach to the question of review and appraisal, which was a very important means of ensuring that the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade were attained. Every care should be taken not to approve any hasty action which might constitute an obstacle to subsequent work on the subject.

42. His delegation therefore believed that it was not appropriate at the current stage to reach final agreement on the type of machinery which would be involved, since such agreement must depend on consultations between the different organs of the United Nations system over the next two years and on the materials for review and appraisal which they prepared. Such organs as UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNDP, the Committee for Development Planning, the Commission for Social Development and the regional economic commissions should be allowed time for consultations in order that they could play a constructive role in submitting specific proposals. The individual members of the family of nations should also be given time to consider what action they would take. All those various efforts should be periodically reviewed and co-ordinated by the Economic and Social Council, which would submit proposals for discussion and approval by the Second Committee. On that understanding, his delegation had no difficulty in endorsing Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX), especially since paragraph 83 of the international development strategy stated that over-all appraisal of the progress in implementing the strategy would be made by the General Assembly, through the Council.

43. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said his delegation's position stemmed from the fact that it had co-sponsored both Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX) and the international development strategy. The existing machinery was fully capable of performing the task of review and appraisal, and should therefore be used. It was clear from the provisions of the Charter that the Economic and Social Council should play a central role. Obviously, the regional economic commissions would have an important part to play in regional evaluation, and UNCTAD and UNIDO, as well as the specialized agencies including IBRD, would have a task of fundamental importance. The views and reports of such organizations must be channelled through the Council rather than submitted direct to the General Assembly, which would be contrary to the Charter.

That would in no way undermine the responsibility of the General Assembly, through the Second Committee, for the final political evaluation, which could clearly not be performed by any other body.

44. The CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that there appeared to be at least two points which it was generally agreed should be included in a draft resolution for the General Assembly. In the first place, it should take note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX) of 31 July 1970 on the procedure for review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the international development strategy, and it should request the organizations within the United Nations system, including UNCTAD, UNIDO, the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, to consider, at an early date, the procedures necessary for examining the progress made within their respective spheres of competence.

45. It might also be desirable to add to the draft resolution a third paragraph requesting the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the measures taken by the organizations within the United Nations system, to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council as soon as possible in order to enable it to work out the detailed procedure for the review and appraisal, for discussion by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

46. Mr. BARTHEL-ROSA (Brazil) said that, although he did not disagree with the Chairman's summing up, he felt that further consultation was necessary before the Committee took any decision, and would therefore favour the view of the representative of India that informal consultations should be held among the delegations concerned.

47. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said that any decision which the Committee took should be clearly related to the relevant paragraphs of the international development strategy, which should be linked to the Economic and Social Council resolution 1556 B (XLIX). As there was no immediate urgency, since the strategy had not yet officially been adopted by the General Assembly, he wished to propose that the Committee postpone its decision on the subject in order to allow time for informal consultations leading to the preparation either of a short draft resolution or of a summary statement by the Chairman which could be accepted by all members.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.