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AGENDA ITEMS 12, 28, 29 AND 30

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(b) Main trends of inquiry in the natural sciences, dissemination of scientific knowledge and application of such knowledge for peaceful ends: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/4898)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.2/L.554/REV.2) (continued)

1. Mr. RAMAHOIMIHASO (Madagascar), replying to the observations made by the representative of the Soviet Union (764th meeting), said that the sponsors of the draft resolution concerning the United Nations Development Decade (A/C.2/L.554/Rev.2) had taken into account all the proposals that had been made and had adopted all those which were constructive and of direct relevance to economic matters. Some representatives wanted the resolution to mention all the specific problems involved in development instead of confining itself to generalities, but such a course was apt to expand the text of the resolution inordinately with the result that the Committee would itself be drafting the programme for the Decade. That was certainly not its role. The best procedure would be to make general recommendations in the draft and to annex to it a document listing all the specific problems which had been mentioned. If the sponsors of the various amendments (A/C.2/L.587-598) could agree in each case on a single text, the combined texts

could be communicated to the Secretary-General, who would in turn transmit them to Governments for their comments.

2. Mr. BOIKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation maintained its amendments (A/C.2/L.588) because the revised text still had a serious omission. That was the fact that it still tended to preclude States from participating from the outset in the preparation of the proposed programme for the Decade, for the consultations provided for in operative paragraph 4 would be merely incidental. He wondered, moreover, whether one of the reasons why the sponsors wished to exclude nations from the preparatory work was not that a large number of them were members of the Economic and Social Council. In any event, his country thought it preferable for the Council to be guided by the general views of Governments when considering the Secretary-General's recommendations, and it therefore felt that all relevant documents should be transmitted to Governments. The suggestion that the documents were too numerous was pointless in view of the volume of documentation which the United Nations did not hesitate to send daily to all delegations.

3. States should also be able to orient the ten-year programme in the direction they deemed desirable in the light of their own development programmes. For that reason, his country favoured the Mauritanian amendment (A/C.2/L.591). Furthermore, it did not seem likely that the Secretariat would be able to formulate its proposals in three months in view of the fact that it had taken two years to prepare a much simpler five-year programme of United Nations action. Governments too should be given the necessary time to study the matter. It was therefore perfectly justifiable to request that the Economic and Social Council should be called upon to consider the problem at its summer session and not at its spring session. The haste of the sponsors of the draft was all the more difficult to understand because they had waited until the end of 1961 to proclaim the decade of the sixties and because the programme proposed for that decade could not be implemented before the end of 1962. He wondered whether it would not be preferable to state that the Decade would commence in 1963. If the objective was to accomplish something constructive instead of being content with slogans, then serious preparation was essential.

4. His country approved the amendments submitted by several delegations, including those put forward by Iraq and four other countries (A/C.2/L.587), the Soviet Union (A/C.2/L.593-595) and Japan (A/C.2/L.597). It also considered it very useful to indicate a specific objective in operative paragraph 1, as proposed by Nigeria and seventeen other countries (A/C.2/L.596 and Add.1 and 2). Operative paragraph 4 should be clarified, as it was difficult to see what was meant by the words "such measures". In addition, in operative paragraph 3 (a), the word "sector" should be replaced by "production" and, in operative paragraph 3 (d), the word "work" should be inserted before the word "productivity".

5. Mr. EL-MUTWALLI (Iraq) regretted the lack of a formula acceptable both to the sponsors of the draft resolution and to the sponsors of the amendments contained in document A/C.2/L.587.

Consequently, the latter, who had been joined by Cameroun, Ghana, Indonesia, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and the United Arab Republic, maintained their first amendment—which now appeared in document A/C.2/L.587/Rev.1—and hoped that it would eventually be accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution. Owing to the various revisions in the text of the draft resolution, the proposed addition should now be made to operative paragraph 2 (a).

6. Mr. LYCHOWSKI (Poland) noted that the third preambular paragraph of the second revised version of the draft corresponded more or less to his delegation's idea that one of the principal problems arose from the gap between the rate of growth of the developed countries and that of the under-developed countries. His delegation therefore withdrew its first amendment (A/C.2/L.589). It also withdrew its second amendment, as the utilization of resources released by disarmament was mentioned in a new operative paragraph 3 (i). The first part of his delegation's third amendment no longer served any useful purpose, because, in the revised text of operative paragraph 5, the General Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council to accelerate its examination of and decision on principles of international economic co-operation. As, however, the General Assembly did not place sufficient emphasis on the need for such principles, his delegation, without in any way prejudging the nature of the principles, maintained the idea contained in its third amendment and hence proposed that the words "the adoption of which should foster the improvement of world economic relations and stimulate international co-operation in the interests of the developing countries" (A/C.2/L.589/Rev.1) should be added at the end of operative paragraph 5. It hoped that that proposal would be received favourably by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. Mr. LOKMAN (Mauritania) said that the second revised version of operative paragraph 4, which reproduced in a different form the idea which his delegation had proposed for inclusion in the draft resolution, was acceptable to his delegation, and it therefore withdrew its amendment (A/C.2/L.591). His delegation would vote in favour of the very important amendments in document A/C.2/L.596.

8. Mr. CALAMARI (Panama) commended the sponsors of the draft resolution for their spirit of compromise in accepting various suggestions which had made their new text more comprehensive than their initial draft. His delegation was satisfied with the manner in which its proposals had been incorporated and therefore withdrew its amendments (A/C.2/L.592). However, it considered that a slight change was needed in the text of operative paragraph 3 (e), at least in its Spanish version, which should refer to "formación profesional" and not to "formación de profesionales", an expression that might be construed as referring to the liberal professions rather than to skilled workers. That was an extremely important point, as Latin America needed skilled workers and now had to turn to certain European countries in order to find them. The new text of operative paragraph 3 (e) met his delegation's objections in so far as improved use of international institutions presumably included improvement of the procedures of such institutions. On the other hand, merely to seek to "alleviate hunger", as was stated

in paragraph 3 (d), constituted a very timid approach. What was needed was to "combat hunger" or, better still, to "ensure the eradication of hunger and disease", because hunger, like disease, lowered the productivity of the inhabitants of the under-developed countries.

9. Mr. NESTEROVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation was in favour of the proclamation of a United Nations Development Decade and that it had already taken the opportunity during the general debate (736th meeting) of explaining its ideas on the direction such a plan should take. There was nothing new in the idea of a long-term plan for accelerating the development of the under-developed countries, as could be seen from the memorandum submitted by the Soviet Union to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session, and transmitted to the members of the Second Committee (A/C.2/L.590). The Byelorussian SSR was not a member of the Council but had taken great interest in that document which put forward a number of positive proposals, in particular, in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5. The memorandum should help the Committee to adopt a constructive plan and should be of assistance later in the drafting of a programme that would make a genuine contribution towards accelerating economic development during the ten years under consideration. The principles set out in that memorandum were to be found in the amendments submitted by the Soviet Union (A/C.2/L.593-595), which the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR fully endorsed.

10. It was to be regretted that the sponsors of the draft resolution had not included in their text the proposal of the representative of Iraq, which would enable the under-developed countries to secure an increased share of the profits resulting from the exploitation and marketing of their natural resources by foreign capital. The Byelorussian SSR had frequently stressed that point because it considered that those profits should be one of the main sources for financing the expansion of the under-developed countries and was glad to note that many countries had associated themselves with the sponsors of the amendment in document A/C.2/L.587/Rev.1.

11. He felt some doubt with respect to operative paragraph 3, which appeared to give to the Secretary-General and to the heads of the organizations mentioned the right to proceed according to their own ideas in interpreting the resolution and in drawing up the programmes to be carried out during the Decade. In spite of all the experts at its disposal, the Secretariat was not in a position to solve those problems better than the Governments themselves. He therefore supported the amendments submitted by the Ukrainian SSR (A/C.2/L.588), which reflected the opinions of a number of delegations. He trusted that the sponsors of the draft resolution would, in a spirit of co-operation, accept the amendments that had been proposed with a view to making the draft more constructive.

12. Mr. CVOROVIC (Yugoslavia) recalled that his delegation had already pointed out during the general debate (719th meeting) that the international community should make a concerted effort towards a better utilization of all available resources in order to improve the situation of the under-developed countries. For that reason his delegation had noted

with satisfaction the steps proposed by the United States delegation. It was nevertheless of the opinion that to recognize the need to improve the level of living of the whole of mankind by reducing the gap between the rate of expansion of the developed and of the under-developed countries was not enough and that a precise definition of the fundamental aims of the United Nations Development Decade and the means of achieving them was indispensable. Those aims could be fixed globally by determining in a precise manner what the per caput increase in income must be, or selectively by determining, for example, the necessary rate of increase in investments.

13. It was no longer a matter of studying the possible solutions for the problems of the under-developed countries but of applying decisions that had already been made. Thus it was necessary to set up the United Nations capital development fund, to increase the flow of capital towards the under-developed countries up to 1 per cent of their national income and to establish a development insurance fund in order to compensate for the market fluctuations of primary commodities. He hoped that the draft resolution on international trade which the Committee had just adopted (A/C.2/L.583) would bear fruit because it was essential to modify the structure of international trade, to put an end to protectionist practices restricting the importation of primary commodities and preferential treatment opposed to the importation of certain manufactured products, and to obviate the baneful effects that might result from the constitution of regional economic groupings. The moment had arrived for the United Nations to take steps in that direction and also to help in industrialization and the training of national technical and professional personnel. The proclamation of a United Nations Development Decade was in exact accord with Yugoslavia's views on the necessity of accelerating the development of the under-developed countries and of strengthening the prestige of the United Nations.

14. He thought that the second revised text of the draft resolution was a considerable improvement on the initial draft. He appealed to the sponsors to make a fresh effort to incorporate into their text the amendments which they had not accepted so that the draft resolution could be adopted unanimously.

15. Mr. SERAFIMOV (Bulgaria) said that if the United Nations desired to give a genuine impetus to the Development Decade, it must make certain that the important principles which had already been adopted would be put into effect. It was with that in mind that the Bulgarian delegation was submitting its amendments (A/C.2/L.598). The first amendment stressed the importance of the principle of economic independence. The aim of the second, which referred to the principle of universality, was to allow all countries, whether or not Members of the United Nations, to have a share in the realization of the United Nations Development Decade. He thought that that had also been the intention of the United States delegation. He pointed out that the French and Russian versions of the beginning of operative paragraph 1 were not clear because it was not stated who was to mobilize and to sustain support for the measures required. The third amendment proposed that resolutions 1421 (XIV) and 1519 (XV) should be mentioned in the operative part of the draft resolution because in those resolutions

the General Assembly had recognized the value of the principles of equality, of reciprocal benefits and of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries and had provided that trade should be developed without discrimination between States irrespective of their social and economic systems. He thought that it might also be useful to mention resolution 1521 (XV), in which the establishment of a United Nations capital development fund had been decided upon, because the resources of such a fund might help to finance the Decade. He hoped that the sponsors of the draft resolution would receive his proposals favourably.

16. The Bulgarian delegation supported the amendments contained in documents A/C.2/L.587/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.588 and A/C.2/L.593-596.

17. Mr. CRITCHLEY (Australia) said that he associated himself with the delegations that had congratulated the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.554/Rev.2 providing for the proclamation of the United Nations Development Decade. The purpose of the resolution was to dramatize the importance of development and to galvanize energies with a view to speeding economic and social progress. It was accordingly desirable that the draft resolution should be adopted unanimously. However, from what had been said during the debate that might not be possible unless it were drawn up in general terms. His delegation could not accept the revised text of the draft resolution, which sought to reflect the consensus of opinions expressed in the Committee, but he nevertheless thought that there was already too much detail in the draft. The basic requirements for development could be expressed very simply. Those were the need for capital which embraced problems of aid, trade and investment; the need for trained men including effective administration; and the need for scientific and technological knowledge. Details under the three broad headings could encompass the whole field of the Committee's work. Probably all delegations had their own ideas on which special subjects should receive priority. Australia, for example, had felt that in the past questions of science and technology were too often neglected. His Government hoped that the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less Developed Areas would be followed by a series of small specialized conferences at each of which perhaps only one subject might be discussed. In his opinion the colonial problem was due to a great extent to the fact that for many centuries technological advances had been virtually limited to a relatively small section of the world.

18. He recalled that 1961 marked the tenth anniversary of the Colombo Plan, the achievements of which, after modest beginnings, had exceeded expectations. He trusted that the United Nations Development Decade would similarly gather momentum and in ten years' time would succeed in accelerating economic and social progress beyond the Committee's present expectations.

19. Mr. SINU (Romania) said that the length of the discussion and the number of amendments were evidence of the interest in the subject and of the great shortcomings which had become apparent in the draft resolution. The subject was a long-term programme, which could be drafted and carried out only by virtue of the collective efforts of all

Member States and of all the organs of the United Nations. Despite previous efforts and owing to the effects of negative forces, the economic and social gap between countries in process of development and developed countries had widened, and the economic subordination of the young States threatened their political independence. In order to destroy those negative forces, the draft resolution must be made more specific and must be supplemented in particular by the adoption of the amendments. In revising the draft resolution, account should also be taken of the memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Soviet Union on measures to promote the speediest possible liquidation of the economic consequences of colonialism and the creation of conditions for the rapid growth of the national economies of the less developed countries (A/C.2/L.590). For that purpose, the preamble should recall that the economic and social consequences of colonialism hindered the development of the under-developed countries and should refer to resolution 1514 (XV) containing the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. It likewise seemed appropriate to recommend that States should respect the sovereign right of every people to dispose of its own natural wealth and resources.

20. In drawing up any effective programme for economic development during the next ten years, it would be most advisable to consult the various Governments beforehand. If that task was left to the Secretariat alone, there would be a danger of its not being completed. The Romanian delegation was therefore in favour of Governments being consulted beforehand and of a group of experts being appointed for that purpose on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical representation, recommendations concerning which would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session and to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session. Operative paragraphs 6 and 7 should be expanded along those lines.

21. Mr. LINGAM (India) said that the approach towards the development of the under-developed countries had gradually changed during the past ten years, with the institution of the Colombo Plan, the creation of regional organizations for development of economically under-developed areas, the announcement of the "Alliance for Progress", the establishment of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, etc. The time had come for the General Assembly, concerned as it was with various aspects of man's economic and social emancipation, to look at the problem on the basis of fairly long-term projections into the future. India, whose first steps on the road to development had begun two decades previously, viewed the matter in the very broad perspective necessitated, as it believed, by the stupendous rise in the world's population, which was expected almost to double by the end of the century. It was because of that prospect that the President of IBRD had expressed the view that world stability was endangered less by the cold war than by the growing disparity between the developed and the under-developed countries.

22. The sponsors of the draft resolution had wanted, in the preamble, to emphasize the need for ensuring rapid growth in the under-developed countries and, in the operative part, to take account of all

viewpoints expressed during the discussion. In the second revised version (A/C.2/L.554/Rev.2), they had mingled references to objectives and to resources and methods for their attainment in such a way that justice was done to none of them. There was no need to speak, as the USSR representative had done, of a debt contracted by the developed countries towards their former colonies, even though the industrial revolution of the last century had undoubtedly owed its success largely to the use made of the riches of the colonial territories; on the other hand, the developed countries ought to recognize that they should spare no effort to help the less favoured countries. It was because the time had come for setting in motion a vast, co-ordinated plan for over-all development that the decade should be designated the "United Nations Decade for Development and International Co-operation".

23. He agreed with the representative of France that development should mean, not merely aid to the under-developed countries, but expansion throughout the world and the combating of ignorance. In its struggle for development, India was fortunate in having a stable political régime, dedicated leaders and qualified technicians, and it was straining every nerve to reform its agrarian structure and educate its people.

24. He thought that there was little point in referring, in the draft resolution, to world resources and the efforts to be made by each country. Rather should it contain the outline of a world plan, based on the experience gained within and outside the United Nations and on the prospects which were opening up for the whole of the last part of the twentieth century.

25. The United States, to which the merit for initiating the project was due, had recognized the difficulty of combining the announcement of the Decade's objectives with a statement of the measures for their attainment. The second draft resolution on the United Nations Development Decade (A/C.2/L.555 and Add.1-3) was therefore more particularly concerned with practical measures, although it stated them in somewhat summary form. India would propose that all measures relating to the resources to be used for the programme's implementation should be comprised in the second draft resolution. Its sponsors had already taken many suggestions into account and had thus improved the scope of their text. If they were not yet ready to proceed to the next stage, i.e., to find the resources required and to set up machinery for implementation, the reactions of Member States, enabling a more exact idea of available resources to be gained, should be awaited. In that connexion, it was essential that Member States should be consulted before a practical programme was formulated, since the resolution would remain a dead letter unless they were ready to collaborate unreservedly in the project. United Nations organs, as at present constituted, were inadequate for the task and their possible expansion would depend essentially on the attitude adopted by Member States.

26. It was not India's intention to enter into point-less details. India was convinced of the need to work out a comprehensive plan for mankind's economic, cultural and spiritual advancement. The plan should mobilize every possible resource, not ma-

terial resources alone; nature was still rich in unsuspected resources, but obviously a beginning would have to be made with those at hand. Lastly, the programme of development and co-operation was of such importance that the Committee should do its utmost to approve it unanimously; in that way it would be genuinely expressing the general will and evolving the charter which, in a spirit of universality, would be the foundation for the Organization's great enterprise.

27. Mr. BOIKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) explained that in speaking of implementation as from 1963 he was not, in his view, at odds with the sponsors of the draft resolution. The sponsors envisaged a final decision by the General Assembly at its seventeenth session, i.e., towards the end of 1962; thus the decade under consideration could begin in 1963. Indeed, no other course was open, since to reckon it as beginning in 1961 would imply that it had been instituted before the General Assembly had pronounced itself with regard to it.

28. Furthermore, since it was proposed that the Secretary-General should consult Member States, it was logical that he should take their views into account. His delegation was convinced that the year's interval before the seventeenth session of the General Assembly would give ample time for Governments to form their opinions, without in any way impeding the evolving of the programme for the Decade. The Ukrainian delegation had accordingly decided to alter its amendment, with a view to Governments being asked to transmit their replies by April 1962 (A/C.2/L.588/Rev.1). Governments which had not answered by that date would be able to do so later, but the Secretary-General would not be required to delay the preparation of the proposals which he was to submit to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

29. Mr. KAKITSUBO (Japan) noted that the importance of expanding the international trade in primary commodities was recognized in the draft resolution's operative paragraph 2 (a); but the developing countries would be able to achieve their objectives only by diversifying their economies through industrialization, and it was satisfactory that operative paragraph 3 (a) admitted that fact. Industrialization in itself, however, was not enough without markets and outlets. The *Economic Survey of Europe in 1960* (E/ECE/419) indicated that, in the period up to 1980, the under-developed countries would have to increase their total exports by 150 per cent, and their exports of manufactured goods from 10 to 30-35 per cent of total exports. To that end it was essential that the advanced countries should liberalize their trade policies and abrogate the restrictive measures on imports which were still in force. In the course of the general debate many delegations, including that of Japan, had emphasized the importance of the export of manufactured or semi-processed goods from the less developed countries. That was the consideration prompting Japan to submit its amendment (A/C.2/L.597). He thanked the Ukrainian delegation for its support of the amendment in question, and expressed the hoped that the sponsors of the draft resolution would be able to take it into account.

30. Miss SALT (United Kingdom) endorsed in principle the amendments submitted by Nigeria (A/C.2/L.596 and Add.1 and 2). Explaining the United

Kingdom's position with regard to the amendment submitted by Iraq and several other countries (A/C.2/L.587/Rev.1), she said that the principle of equity must be safeguarded in the matter of shares in profits; any new formula should be the result of free negotiations. That was, incidentally, the aim of operative paragraph 2 (b) of the revised draft resolution, but the United Kingdom was ready to support any other wording which would ensure respect for that principle. The provision contained in document A/C.2/L.587/Rev.1 did not appear to meet that requirement, and she hoped its sponsors would be able to recast it. The Japanese proposal seemed eminently constructive and sensible, and the United Kingdom delegation hoped that it would be accepted.

31. Mr. BERNARDO (Argentina) thought that the United Nations Development Decade would be coming after what might be termed the technical assistance decade. The programmes to which effect had been given during the past ten years had been of great importance. Nevertheless, there had been two serious shortcomings in United Nations action—first in the sphere of financing, and secondly in the field of trade relations.

32. Practically speaking, there had been no United Nations action in the sphere of financing. The role of the Special Fund was in practice limited to pre-investment activities; and IBRD was not a specialized agency in the true sense, any more than was IDA, its subsidiary. Moreover it was only very recently that the Bank had begun to concern itself with the under-developed countries, and so far its work in that connexion left much to be desired. It was therefore essential that new sources of long-term and low-interest capital should be found; unhappily, the United Nations development fund had still not been set up.

33. In the field of international trade, the Commission on International Commodity Trade could have no effective influence because of the limitations imposed on it by its terms of reference. As for GATT, that was not a United Nations body; furthermore, not all territories were represented on it, and it did not deal with all the problems requiring a solution in the field of trade relations. The initiative taken by the United States of America with a view to accelerating the economic and social advancement of the developing countries therefore had the enthusiastic support of Argentina, which was sure that it was not designed to serve the interests of propaganda or political domination.

34. The first difficulty arising in connexion with a Development Decade was that of defining the goals of such a programme. That involved much controversy, and in order not to reopen the debate it would be wise to have regard to the decisions already taken by the General Assembly. Another difficulty was the uncertainty about the steps to be taken to achieve the Decade's general objectives. Nevertheless, many delegations had made constructive suggestions and the sponsors of the original draft resolution had given proof of a co-operative spirit by incorporating many of them in the second revised version of their text. Argentina welcomed the fact that the views expressed by the Argentine and other Latin American delegations had been taken into account, for instance in operative paragraph 1.

35. Co-ordination must be ensured in the way desired by Member States, not on the basis of the Secretary-General's proposals; but the second revised text of the draft resolution seemed to provide for autonomy in that regard. Furthermore, the planning of the programme was something separate from implementation, the latter being a political function which lay within the exclusive competence of Governments.

36. It was always difficult to formulate a resolution laying down principles for action, for it was not easy to find a formula which was both logical and coherent. For instance, the position of operative paragraph 2 made it ambiguous; if it stated a goal, it ought to be part of operative paragraph 1; if it stated a guiding principle, it should form part of operative paragraph 3. He could not see why that question, which was perhaps the most important of all, should be the subject only of a recommendation to Member States; the resolutions already adopted in those fields might also have been mentioned, in the fourth paragraph of the preamble. Those were not major objections; he would however prefer the words "with particular reference to", in the introductory part of operative paragraph 3, to be replaced by the words "inter alia", so as to make it clear that the list which followed was not exhaustive but merely an indication.

37. Argentina regretted that the sponsors had not taken account of the suggestions that the United Nations bodies should be responsible for co-ordination—which would have helped to make the action taken by the Organization more effective. It would also have been better to defer until 1970 the appraisal of the scope, trends and cost of the United Nations programmes, for that would have facilitated Member States' consideration of the proposals which the Secretary-General was to present to the next session. However, he would not press that point, for he did not wish to make any proposals which might prevent the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution.

38. Referring to the amendments, he congratulated Czechoslovakia on having withdrawn its proposals (A/C.2/L.586); some of them were, of course, included in document A/C.2/L.587/Rev.1, which he supported in principle, although he understood why the sponsors of the draft resolution found some difficulty in accepting it in its present form. As for the first Ukrainian amendment, as modified (A/C.2/L.588/Rev.1), he said that in its essentials it was incorporated in operative paragraph 4. The establishment of a group of experts would involve expenses which Argentina could not help to defray. Turning to the Polish amendments (A/C.2/L.589), he regretted that the third had been retained; he could not support that amendment, because it prejudged a question which was still being discussed by the Economic and Social Council.

39. With regard to the amendments submitted by the USSR (A/C.2/L.593-595), the Argentine delegation could not support the proposed change in the title of the Decade, in view of the political implications of such a change, which were foreign to the work of the Second Committee. The same could be said of the amendment proposed in document A/C.2/L.594.

40. As for the amendment submitted by Nigeria and seventeen other countries A/C.2/L.596 and Add.1 and 2), it did not seem advisable to lay down a target of a minimum annual rate of growth of net national income of 5 per cent; each country should define its own target. He had nothing against the figure itself, but he felt that no limit should be set for the results to be achieved.

41. The Argentine delegation considered that, subject to the comments he had made, the draft resolution in its second revised form deserved the support of all countries which were desirous of improving the level of living and accelerating the development of the under-developed countries; Argentina would, therefore, vote for it.

42. Mr. NYLANDER (Ghana) congratulated the sponsors of the draft resolution on an epoch-making and far-reaching idea. The problem of economic and social development was one of the most pressing of the day, particularly in the under-developed countries. The different aspects of the problem varied in degree and in complexity from region to region and from country to country. In order to take that complexity into account, the draft resolution should be complemented and made clearer. It was necessary to lay down measurable goals and objectives. The Nigerian representative had suggested that the goal should be a 5 per cent rate of growth of the net national income of all the developing countries during the Decade. That idea should be incorporated in the text, as proposed in the second amendment co-sponsored by Ghana (A/C.2/L.596 and Add.1 and 2), which provided for the addition of the following wording to operative paragraph 1: "so as to attain in all under-developed countries, to the extent consistent with the plans of individual countries, the target of a minimum annual rate of growth of aggregate net national income of 5 per cent at the end of the decade;". That was a reasonable goal within the reach of all the countries concerned, as experience in Ghana had shown.

43. Ghana had also co-sponsored the amendment to operative paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (a) (A/C.2/L.587/Rev.1), the aim of which was to enable the less developed countries that were dependent on the export of a small range of primary products "to secure an increased share of the profit resulting from the exploitation and marketing of their natural resources by foreign capital which match a generally accepted reasonable earning on invested capital." That would help to achieve the goals of the Development Decade. It was important to measure the progress made towards those goals. One

way of doing so would be to include, in the draft resolution, a provision for the submission to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of periodic reports—every two years, for instance, on the progress towards the goals fixed for the Decade.

44. Mr. AYARI (Tunisia), referring to the Ukrainian amendment relating to consultation with Member States (A/C.2/L.588/Rev.1), explained that the draft resolution merely requested the Secretary-General to ask for information which would help him to prepare his report in the light of the views expressed by Governments. The ambiguity arose from the provision relating to the assistance of a group of experts which would function as an intermediary between Member States and the Secretariat. The following new text of operative paragraph 4 might remove that ambiguity:

"Requests the Secretary-General:

"(a) To circulate to the Governments of Member States any material useful for the examination and implementation of this resolution and to invite them, if possible, to make proposals concerning the contents of a plan of United Nations action in connexion with the Development Decade and the application of such measures in their respective plans;

"(b) To develop in the light of the ideas expressed by the Governments of Member States, and to present to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session, proposals for the intensification of action in the fields of economic and social development by the United Nations system of organizations with particular reference to...".

45. Many countries, particularly in Africa, would probably not be able to form an opinion in time on a question which presupposed the forecasting of over-all economic development during the next ten years. However, the Secretariat could begin its report before receiving all the relevant observations.

46. Mr. LAVRICHENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) concurred in the views expressed by the United Kingdom representative regarding the amendments in document A/C.2/L.596, in particular the amendment setting a target of a 5 per cent rate of growth of the net national income, which he urged the sponsors of the draft resolution to include in their text. He also expressed the hope that they would accept the amendment in document A/C.2/L.587/Rev.1, in accordance with the democratic consideration of majority opinion.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.