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Chairman: Mr. Costa P. CARANICAS (Greece).

AGENDA ITEM 97

**Development of tourism (A/7603, chap. XI, sect. G;
A/7603/Add.1, chap. V; A/7800, E/4653 and Add.1,
Add.2 and Corr.1, Add.3 and Add.4, E/4750 and Add.1)**

1. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) outlined the developments leading to the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of resolution 1471 (XLVII) on the establishment of an intergovernmental tourism organization. At the twentieth session of the General Assembly of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO), held in Tokyo in October 1967, the Union had expressed the desire to reform its structure and had endorsed the establishment of a fully responsible world-wide intergovernmental organization to deal with problems relating to the development of tourism and had decided, as an independent organization, to establish the necessary co-operation with all other competent bodies, particularly the United Nations family. It had instructed its Executive Committee to draw up a draft convention for that purpose. At its meeting at Cairo in March 1969, however, the Executive Committee had decided that there were drawbacks to drafting a convention on the subject without the participation of international organizations with more general interests and had resolved to invite the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism, scheduled to meet at Sofia in May 1969, to consider solutions which might satisfy world tourism needs. It was in those circumstances that the Intergovernmental Conference had adopted the resolution contained in the annex to its final report (see E/4653/Add.1). That resolution had later been referred to the Council at its forty-seventh session. The Council had adopted resolution 1449 (XLVII) on the matter and, in response, the report of the Secretary-General (E/4750 and Add.1) had been submitted to the Council at its resumed forty-seventh session and to the Second Committee at the current session of the Assembly. At its resumed forty-

seventh session, the Council had adopted resolution 1471 (XLVII) which contained a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly and which was before the Committee (see A/7800). His delegation hoped that the Committee would be able to reach an early decision in the matter.

2. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) said that Yugoslavia's south Adriatic region had many tourist attractions, but its development had been hampered by the lack of facilities and services. His Government had therefore approached UNDP for help in formulating a physical plan for development of the region. The United Nations was the executing agency for the south Adriatic project. It was expected that between \$1,500 million and \$2,000 million would be spent on developing the region in the next two decades. During the Second United Nations Development Decade, the developing countries should make determined efforts to build up their tourist trade because it provided an important source of revenue and at present 80 per cent of earnings from tourism went to the industrialized countries.

3. The reasons for establishing an intergovernmental organization for tourism were explained in the reports of the Secretary-General (see E/4653 and E/4750). A final decision concerning IUOTO's resolution XXI/5 on the adaptation of the Union to its present and future responsibilities (see E/4750/Add.1), which was adopted at the twenty-first session of IUOTO's General Assembly in November 1969, could be taken in the light of future experience in the matter. It would be necessary to study the relationship of the transformed IUOTO to the organizations having an interest in tourism which were listed in the report of the Secretary-General (E/4653/Add.2 and Corr.1). The best course would seem to be to accept the draft resolution recommended in Council resolution 1471 (XLVII) (see A/7800). Implementation of that draft resolution would help to promote tourism and stimulate employment and prosperity, particularly in the developing countries. In addition to its economic benefits, tourism was an important way of fostering understanding between individuals and nations.

4. Mr. GUELEV (Bulgaria) said that international tourism could contribute considerably to improving understanding between peoples, strengthening peace, raising living levels, particularly in the developing countries, and to economic, social and cultural progress.

5. As a result of the wide-ranging discussion on the subject at the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism, held at Sofia in May 1969, it was almost unanimously agreed that tourism must be given its own international instrument and that IUOTO must be transformed, since it was constitu-

tionally ill adapted to meet its responsibilities as a non-governmental organization. Representatives at the Intergovernmental Conference had expressed the desire to establish an intergovernmental organization capable of meeting the needs of tourism and of co-ordinating activities (see E/4653/Add.1, annex). It was on those two important aspects that attention had been concentrated at the twenty-first session of IUOTO's General Assembly, held at Dublin from 28 October to 5 November 1969, when agreement had been reached on certain guiding principles which would facilitate subsequent work on the development of international tourism. It would perhaps be premature to take a decision, during the current debate, on the legal problems deriving from the establishment of a new intergovernmental tourism organization or on the constitutional, organizational and financial implications of the establishment of such an organization described in the report of the Secretary-General (see E/4750). Some of those points had been discussed by the General Assembly of IUOTO at its twenty-first session and by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session, and it was as a result of discussions in the Council that resolution 1471 (XLVII) had been prepared and adopted. That resolution contained all the elements necessary to enable IUOTO, the Council and the General Assembly to find the best solutions. As agreed at the Intergovernmental Conference, the new organization should be based on the principle of universality.

6. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his Government attached great importance to the development of international tourism as a means of fostering international understanding and the economic, social and cultural progress of mankind. Provision for the continuing development of tourism was made in the Ukraine's national plans for development. IUOTO should be transformed into an intergovernmental organization, for it would thus be in a better position to deal with obstacles impeding the development of tourism, particularly in the developing countries. He emphasized, however, that the proposed intergovernmental organization would be able to work properly only if the principle of the universality of its membership was respected. His delegation attached great importance to the principles laid down by the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism held in May 1969 (see E/4653/Add.1, annex). It was on the understanding that the General Assembly would adopt the same principles that his delegation supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1471 (XLVII).

7. Mr. CORREA (Chile), supported by Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina), proposed that the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1471 (XLVII) for adoption by the General Assembly (see A/7800) should be put to the vote immediately.

8. Mr. BILIMATISIS (Greece) said that, inspired by their age-old tradition of hospitality, contemporary Greeks were tourist conscious. His Government had undertaken an extensive infrastructural programme, as a result of which hitherto isolated areas had become accessible to tourists. Since the increase in tourism depended on the provision of adequate facilities, the Government, through the National Tourist Association, had provided the industry with direct

financial aid or other similar incentives. It was estimated that, during the next four years, \$500 million would be allocated for construction work designed to promote the development of tourism. That figure included government expenditure on the provision of new roads, power, improved communications and water supplies. Realizing that the human element was of primary importance in the development of tourism, Greece had embarked on an ambitious programme for training young people to work in the tourist industry. Greece hoped that, as a result of its efforts to improve its tourist industry, its foreign exchange earnings would increase.

9. His delegation, which had consistently expressed the view that the interests of world tourism would be better served by a strengthened but independent IUOTO, expressed its satisfaction with Economic and Social Council resolution 1471 (XLVII). The new form of organization suggested in it would enable IUOTO to retain its independence and flexibility while, through new ties with organizations of the United Nations system, particularly UNDP, developing a role more relevant to the promotion of tourism, particularly in the developing countries. Greece looked forward to receiving the report mentioned in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution which was recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1471 (XLVII) (see A/7800) and would support any move to enhance the co-operation between the new IUOTO and UNDP, particularly in technical assistance and pre-investment projects. During the forthcoming General Assembly of IUOTO, Greece would vote in favour of those revisions in IUOTO's charter which would make possible its transformation into an intergovernmental organization.

10. Mr. N'DIAYE (Senegal) said that tourism was a source of foreign currency and employment, helped to expand the consumer market and hence to develop handicrafts and arts and was a means of fostering human and cultural exchanges. Geographically, Senegal was well placed to receive tourists from Europe and America and could offer examples of African flora and fauna. It had therefore decided to avail itself of the advantages of the expanding tourist trade and was concentrating on de luxe tourism and popular tourism. Basing itself on figures which proved that the tourist industry had already begun to expand considerably in Senegal, the Government was taking steps to improve and strengthen the tourist infrastructure in the region of Cap-Vert and to develop sites of interest in the hinterland. Efforts were also being made to train personnel working in all branches of the industry and to simplify the administrative formalities to be complied with by foreign visitors. The forthcoming United Nations/African Development Bank study on tourism possibilities in West Africa should provide the basis for specific action in the region. IBRD's decision to pay particular attention to tourism projects should be implemented with flexibility. Countries with real tourist attractions should be helped to develop the necessary infrastructure. That was why IBRD should clearly define its policy in the matter. The International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association could also assist in the drive to promote tourism, for the reduction of air fares and the safety of aircraft could be decisive elements.

11. Senegal welcomed the proposal to transform IUOTO into an intergovernmental organization. The transformation

was justified, first because tourism had become an industry which could make a real contribution to the development of the developing countries and, secondly, because there was need for an organization, other than the Council, to co-ordinate tourism activities. Since IUOTO was already well established, the transformation should not involve excessive expenditure.

12. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that all the comments and reservations on Economic and Social Council resolution 1471 (XLVII) made by his delegation at the Council¹ were still valid.

13. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) said that tourism was undoubtedly an important source of revenue. Governments should remember, however, that it was also a means of stimulating interest in their countries' cultural and spiritual heritages and of fostering understanding among peoples. Iran approved of Economic and Social Council resolution 1471 (XLVII) and would vote for the draft resolution recommended in it (see A/7800). Care must be taken, however, to ensure that the budget of the transformed IUOTO remained within reasonable limits; the purpose of the draft resolution was to develop tourism, not another international organization. Consideration should also be given to the possibility of making the transformed organization responsible for co-ordinating tourism activities.

14. Mr. CONSTANTIN (Romania) said that the Committee's discussions and the recommendations it was about to make marked an important step forward in the development of tourism as a sector in each country's economic and social life and in the development of international co-operation through an intergovernmental organization linked with organizations of the United Nations system. Economic and Social Council resolution 1471 (XLVII) gave expression to recent efforts to institutionalize tourism. Romania had been represented at the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism, held at Sophia in May 1969, and at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly of IUOTO, held at Dublin from 28 October to 5 November 1969, at which the bases for an intergovernmental tourism organization had been laid. The transformation of IUOTO must be effected in accordance with the principles laid down at Dublin and Sophia and membership of the new organization must be open to all countries.

15. Mr. VISESSURAKARN (Thailand) said that tourism could make a useful contribution to national economies by increasing foreign exchange earnings and stimulating international trade. Moreover, by helping to promote international understanding it could help to preserve world peace. Particular attention ought to be paid to assisting the developing countries in their efforts to establish or modernize travel services and develop their tourist resources through the provision of funds and technical knowledge.

16. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had stated, at the 1649th meeting of the resumed forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council, that 80 per cent of the earnings from total world tourism went to the industrial countries; that showed how far the

developing countries still had to go. Nevertheless, their tourist trade had been expanding somewhat faster in recent years, and most of them had taken advantage of the great expansion in tourist traffic after the Second World War.

17. Thailand considered that tourism was a two-way traffic, conferring benefits on both the visitor and the visited. Sixteen years before there had been no tourist industry in Thailand; there had been only 500 hotel rooms in Bangkok meeting international standards and foreign visitors had rarely ventured outside the capital. In 1959, the Tourist Organization of Thailand had been established. In the past ten years the number of hotel rooms at Bangkok had risen to nearly 9,000 and hotel construction had become a major industry in which both foreign and local capital was invested. In 1967, over 300,000 foreign visitors had come to Thailand and had spent about \$50 million, whereas ten years earlier the figures had been 55,000 visitors and \$5 million.

18. The United Nations and its specialized agencies had played a useful part in developing tourism, but more funds and facilities were needed to meet all the needs of the developing countries. Consequently Thailand supported the proposal to give a more important role to IUOTO and transform it into an intergovernmental body. It had voted at the Intergovernmental Conference held at Sofia in favour of the resolution (see E/4653/Add.1, annex) on the establishment of an intergovernmental tourism organization within the United Nations system and had also supported resolution XXI/5 adopted at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly of IUOTO at Dublin (see E/4750/Add.1). Consequently it strongly supported the draft resolution reproduced in document A/7800. It was to be hoped that once IUOTO became an intergovernmental body, it would play the central role in tourism and maintain effective co-operation with the United Nations. It should also become an executing agency for UNDP projects through an appropriate agreement.

19. Mr. GOBBA (United Arab Republic) said that his country's interest in tourism was illustrated by the fact that there was a special Ministry devoted to the subject. His delegation was conscious of the need to transform IUOTO into an intergovernmental organization and had voted in favour of that proposal at the Sofia Conference (see E/4653/Add.1, annex) and also during the resumed forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council. It supported the draft resolution recommended by the Council in its resolution 1471 (XLVII), the text of which was reproduced in document A/7800, and was convinced that the report by the Secretary-General, referred to in operative paragraph 6, would reflect the spirit of the discussions of the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism at Sofia and the Executive Committee of IUOTO at Cairo.

20. Mr. AMADO DE FREITAS (Portugal) said that tourism was an important sector in Portugal's economy and consequently his delegation had followed the discussions at Sofia with keen interest. Although Portugal would have preferred to strengthen IUOTO, it had supported the proposal (see E/4653/Add.1, annex) to transform it into an intergovernmental organization. Nevertheless, it was not yet clear what advantages would result. Co-operation with the

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-seventh Session, 1649th meeting.*

United Nations was a matter for IUOTO to determine. Consequently, although he supported the proposal to transform IUOTO into an official intergovernmental organization, the Portuguese view on future relations with the United Nations remained unchanged.

21. Mr. ALI (Iraq) said that the main benefits of the tourist trade went to those countries which could provide suitable services for large numbers of tourists in terms of transport, hotel accommodation, etc. Thus there was a correlation between the ability to attract tourists and economic development. Those countries that were able to project their cultural heritage, natural beauties and various facilities through communication media were also at an advantage. If the developing countries were to obtain their fair share of the tourist trade, international action was required. In Iraq the Directorate General of tourism was very active in providing information for tourists about the country's spiritual and cultural heritage and in providing facilities for visitors to see shrines and historic sites. Iraq would support the draft resolution proposed in document A/7800.

22. Mr. ABDELMOUTI (Chad) said that tourism was an important economic activity, providing both employment and revenue, and an instrument for international co-operation and cultural exchange. There were great potentialities for tourism in Chad, but lack of funds and other difficulties had hampered the execution of plans for developing it. Consequently Chad hoped that the transformation of IUOTO into an intergovernmental organization would greatly help the developing countries. In many cases, the infrastructure must be built up before they could hope to benefit much from tourism. The activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies must be co-ordinated in order to avoid duplication and permit full use of resources to aid the developing countries.

23. Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the Byelorussian SSR had not participated in the discussions on tourism in the Economic and Social Council, though it supported the draft resolution recommended by the Council in its resolution 1471 (XLVII) which was before the Committee.

24. He assumed that, in the new intergovernmental organization dealing with tourism, the principle of universality, as envisaged at the Sofia Conference, would be applied. He hoped that the activities of the future intergovernmental tourist organization would be well co-ordinated with those of other organizations in order to avoid duplication.

25. Mr. SULEIMAN (Libya) said that Libya had contributed to the discussions on tourism at the resumed forty-seventh session of the Council. Unfortunately, his delegation had not been able to support the draft resolution recommended by the Council (see Council resolution 1471 (XLVII)) on that occasion; the reason for its abstention was still valid and consequently it would also abstain when the draft resolution was put to the vote in the Second Committee.

26. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that the Philippines attached great importance to tourism and was aware of the contribution it could make to economic development and

to understanding among peoples. At the discussions in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, his delegation had been ready to agree to the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee to promote tourism. However, now that the Economic and Social Council had adopted a resolution on the subject (Council resolution 1471 (XLVII)), he was prepared to support it. The establishment of an intergovernmental tourist organization was long overdue. There were already several specialized agencies and United Nations bodies concerned with tourism and greater co-ordination was needed. He was glad to note that the draft resolution recommended by the Council (see A/7800) emphasized the function of the transformed IUOTO in helping the developing countries. Since it appeared that the developed countries reaped 80 per cent of the total earnings from world tourism, it was high time that the developing countries received some help in promoting their tourist trade. He noted that, at the Conference of the International Air Transport Association, held at Caracas in November 1969, an agreement had been reached to reduce air fares between North America and Europe. He hoped that IUOTO would be able to arrange similar cuts in fares in other parts of the world, particularly Asia, Africa and Latin America. He noted that the draft resolution provided that the transformed Union should play a central role in world tourism in co-operation with the existing United Nations machinery. That was a function of major importance; he was also pleased to note the proposal that the transformed Union should function as an executing agency of UNDP. He looked forward with interest to the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, as indicated in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution.

27. Mr. STELLINI (Malta) said that during the preceding ten years tourism had become one of the major industries in Malta's fight for economic viability. In 1959, the tourist trade had been insignificant, but in 1969 the target figure of 170,000 tourists had been easily surpassed. Consequently, Malta was fully convinced of the important role that tourism could play in economic development. However, success in the tourist trade required hard work and planning, and IUOTO could play a useful part in helping the developing countries in that respect. The draft resolution contained in document A/7800 was a step in the right direction, which his delegation fully supported.

28. Mr. WOLTE (Austria) said that in Austria the tourist industry was vitally important to economic growth and had had a great impact on the economic and social structure. Austria had endeavoured to make its experience available to other countries, under multilateral and bilateral technical assistance programmes. One example was that the Austrian Institute for Tourism and Hotel Management trained participants from the developing countries. His delegation believed that the Secretary-General's report (E/4750) provided valuable guidelines for future action and agreed that in the circumstances the best solution was to transform IUOTO into an intergovernmental organization through the revision of its statutes. Consequently, Austria would support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council (see A/7800). However, if the proposed solution involved the transformation of a non-governmental organization into an intergovernmental organization, certain constitutional problems of principle would be raised that needed further clarification at the national level. The

results of any future discussion of the matter, especially of the specific nature of the transformation of IUOTO, would be taken into account by his Government.

29. Mr. NYIRABU (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution contained in document A/7800, as it had already voted for Economic and Social Council resolution 1471 (XLVII), in which the draft was proposed. His country was in one of the main centres of tourist attractions and consequently was keenly interested in a new effort to co-ordinate tourist activities in the United Nations. It was important to build up the infrastructure needed for the tourist trade in the developing countries. His delegation welcomed the move to transform IUOTO into an international tourist organization that could provide financial and technical assistance for developing countries. He was pleased to note that that transformation would have the effect of excluding entities such as Southern Rhodesia which were not States.

30. Mr. AYOUB (Tunisia) said that his delegation was particularly interested in the item under discussion, since tourism was one of the main sources of Tunisia's foreign exchange earnings, and welcomed the establishment of an intergovernmental organization, which could do much to promote tourism in the developing countries. In the past, other members of the United Nations system, notably UNESCO, the ILO and IBRD, had helped Tunisia, but an international organization wholly devoted to the subject could obviously do more to promote tourism, as well as co-ordinating the action of other bodies. His delegation would vote for the draft resolution.

31. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia was making every effort to develop its tourist trade and would support the draft resolution in document A/7800.

32. Mr. LUGO (Nicaragua) said that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution.

33. Mr. ESTABLIE (France) said that his delegation had participated in the discussions on tourism in the Economic and Social Council. He believed that the Secretary-General's report (E/4750) was on the same lines as resolution XXI/5 of IUOTO adopted at Dublin (see E/4750/Add.1). However, his delegation was rather concerned about the question of co-ordination and thought that that concern might be better reflected if operative paragraph 5 (a) of the draft resolution recommended by the Council (see A/7800) concluded with the words "existing machinery within the United Nations system;".

34. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he would prefer to maintain the original wording. The text of the draft resolution had been adopted almost unanimously by the Economic and Social Council when it adopted its resolution 1471 (XLVII). Moreover, it had been worked out with great care by all concerned and every word had been so carefully considered that the addition at the present stage of even a single comma might upset the balance and give rise to difficulties for many delegations, including his own. He therefore appealed to the French representative not to press his proposal.

35. Mr. ESTABLIE (France) said that his suggestion had been put forward only in the hope that the Committee

might agree to it; it was not a formal proposal and consequently there was no need for him to withdraw it.

36. Mr. NAJA (Lebanon) supported the draft resolution.

37. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution that the Economic and Social Council had recommended in its resolution 1471 (XLVII) for adoption by the General Assembly (see A/7800).

The draft resolution was adopted by 88 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

38. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that, in the Economic and Social Council,² he had explained his reasons for abstaining on the draft resolution. The main reason was that he considered that it failed to distinguish clearly between two separate ideas. The first was that IUOTO should be transformed into an organization which could include governmental members as well as tourist organizations. The United Kingdom found that acceptable. The second was that an intergovernmental organization should be established, and that idea the United Kingdom did not find acceptable. Some paragraphs permitted giving IUOTO an intergovernmental character, while others implied the transformation of that organization into a completely intergovernmental body. His delegation was particularly concerned about the end of operative paragraph 2 regarding the possible adoption by IUOTO of the statutes of an intergovernmental organization. The wording was the same as that in paragraph 9 (d) of resolution XXI/5 of IUOTO (see E/4750/Add.1), against which the United Kingdom had voted at Dublin together with eighteen other members. He reserved the freedom of his delegation to put forward its views in all the discussions and negotiations referred to in operative paragraph 2.

39. Furthermore, some of the possibilities contemplated in operative paragraphs 1 and 5 conflicted with the field of competence of IUOTO envisaged in paragraph 6 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/4750). The last sentence of that paragraph assumed that the major problems of the development of tourism in developing countries (namely the creation of infrastructure and superstructure development) would remain within the field of competence of the United Nations system of organizations.

40. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that he had voted for the draft resolution because, as the result of the vote showed, it represented a general consensus on the great need to strengthen international action to develop tourism. What would be the best administrative and financial arrangements still remained to be explored. As Japan had explained at the forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council, its principal concern was to seek a realistic means of expanding tourism at the national and international levels. His delegation attached more importance to the operational than the institutional aspects of the problem and considered that room for strengthening the operational activities of IUOTO were open. For instance, the Union's participation in UNDP would promote the development of the natural resources needed for the tourist industry. The organization might also play the role of co-ordinating the tourism activities of the United Nations and other bodies.

² *Ibid.*

41. Japan had no objection to IUOTO being transformed into an intergovernmental organization, but his understanding was that the new statutes would not exclude participation by non-governmental organizations. He also assumed that the detailed institutional, administrative and financial arrangements would be further explored at the extraordinary General Assembly of IUOTO and at the forty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council.

42. Mr. OLSEN (Denmark) said he realized that the draft resolution represented a compromise reached after long and difficult negotiations in the Economic and Social Council and elsewhere. The development of tourism was important to the Danish economy and he therefore appreciated the importance the developing countries attached to it. Denmark wished to support their endeavours within its means, and had therefore voted for the draft resolution, but its vote did not imply any decision concerning financial contributions to the transformed Union. Moreover, since the Danish Tourist Board was a private organization, his vote on the draft resolution did not imply any decision concerning how Denmark would be represented at the forthcoming General Assembly of IUOTO.

43. Mr. O'ROURKE (Ireland) said Ireland favoured all useful steps to promote tourism, having some experience of the great contribution it could make to a national economy. But it had serious doubts about transforming IUOTO into an intergovernmental organization. Those doubts had not been dispelled, and his delegation had reservations about the aims of the draft resolution and the procedures it recommended. It had therefore abstained.

44. Mr. KELSO (Australia) said he had voted for the draft resolution, recognizing that it represented a general consensus. However, he had reservations concerning the establishment of an intergovernmental body for tourism. Australia appreciated the importance of the subject to developing countries, but doubted that an intergovernmental body was the best way to promote tourism. He hoped that, in the discussions regarding the transformation of IUOTO, the major objective of promoting tourism by practical measures was not lost sight of in the enthusiasm for an intergovernmental body. The new body should promote tourism, not the travel of tourist officials. He noted that many of those who had abstained from voting represented countries with a substantial share of the tourist industry.

45. Miss WILLIAMS (New Zealand) said her delegation had abstained for the reasons already stated by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Reports of the Economic and Social Council (A/7603, chapters I to VII, X, XI (sections C, D, F, G, H and J) and XIII; A/7203, paragraphs 764 to 770) (continued)* (A/C.2/L.1071/Rev.1)

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS IN THE FIELD OF

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING DURING THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE" (A/C.2/L.1071/Rev.1)

46. Mr. DAHMOUCHE (Algeria), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1071/Rev.1, said that it had been prompted by various resolutions adopted by the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa. In resolution 211 (IX), the Economic Commission for Africa had recommended that particular attention should be paid to projects designed to promote economic co-operation between countries, projects designed to increase trade within Africa and projects connected with the establishment of multinational information and research agencies in Africa.³ The aim of the draft resolution under consideration was to promote practical, rather than theoretical activities; although it was of interest to all areas, it had been formulated with African needs in mind. Of course, other areas might wish to decide for themselves whether they would be able to benefit from it.

47. The first preambular paragraph stressed economic and social development planning. Experience had shown that a decade of development was possible only if there was a clear understanding of local resources and over-all objectives. The third preambular paragraph recalled Economic and Social Council resolution 1442 (XLVII), the aim of which was to strengthen the role of the regional economic commissions. The most important provisions of the draft resolution were in operative paragraph 1, which was intended to ensure that the resolution would be implemented only in appropriate cases. Operative paragraph 1 also referred to continuing advisory services, since it was the aim of the sponsors to ensure that advisory services should function for the full term of projects. In operative paragraph 2, the Secretary-General was requested to examine the various means of organizing such services as early as possible, so that the countries concerned would benefit from experience. The request contained in operative paragraph 3 was fully in keeping with the over-all objective of the draft resolution.

48. Mr. BENNANI (Morocco) said that the need for co-ordinated regional and sub-regional activity had been stressed in the annual report of the Economic and Social Council (see A/7603, chap. VI) and in several statements in the debate on the Second United Nations Development Decade and UNDP activities. It had been acknowledged that the economic problems of large continents containing several developing countries could best be tackled through sub-regional economic groups. Such groups would facilitate regional economic integration and would enable problems arising from implementation of the Second Development Decade to be solved in accordance with the wishes of the countries making up the various sub-regions. The strengthening of the external services of UNDP would be complemented by the establishment of decentralized continuing bodies. Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1071/Rev.1 could be effectively implemented by providing advisory services where they were most needed.

49. Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia) recalled that the regional economic commissions financed the advisory services which

* Resumed from the 1289th meeting.

³ *Ibid.*, Forty-seventh Session, document E/4651, part three.

they provided out of the regular United Nations budget. However, the draft resolution, as formulated, did not adequately reflect the desire of States to strengthen and co-ordinate those services. Accordingly, reference should be made to previous relevant General Assembly resolutions. He therefore proposed the addition of the following preambular paragraph: “*Recalling* its resolutions 1709 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 and 1823 (XVII) of 18 December 1962 on decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions.” His delegation supported the third preambular paragraph of the draft, but felt that a reference to Economic and Social Council resolution 1442 (XLVII) should also be included in the operative part. Operative paragraph 1 might be improved if it was made clear that the request represented an important part of decentralization. He therefore proposed the addition after the word “Beirut” of the words “as an important part of the activities to decentralize United Nations operational activities to the regional economic commissions.” Since the regional economic commissions had a more intimate knowledge of local conditions, they should be given greater freedom.

50. Mr. BAKOTO (Cameroon) said that there were three reasons why the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1071/Rev.1) should be adopted. First, it had been prompted by a number of concerns shared by several countries. A shortage of trained personnel was a serious problem in many developing countries, and the time had come to assist the regional economic commissions by making experts available to them. Secondly, the financial implications were negligible. Properly organized decentralization might even bring about long-term savings by preventing duplication. Thirdly, the objective of the draft resolution was in line with the suggestion of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (see 1252nd meeting, para. 21) that pools of experts should be set up to serve small groups of countries.

51. Mr. CORREA (Chile) said that Chile was a sponsor of the revised draft resolution because it supported the objective of strengthening the role of the regional economic commissions in development planning.

52. Mr. RUTTEN (Netherlands) said that his delegation supported the revised draft resolution because in principle it agreed with the need to decentralize the work of the regional economic commissions. If the draft resolution was adopted, advisory services would be placed at the disposal of countries requesting them, but it was important to ensure that the links between the regional economic commissions and the Headquarters of the United Nations and the specialized agencies were retained. He suggested that the draft resolution should include some reference to the report of the Committee for Development Planning,⁴ which had discussed problems connected with regional activities. He presumed that the Secretary-General would supervise the relationship between activities by decentralized bodies and recommendations made at Headquarters, especially those made by the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies.

53. Mr. ALI (Iraq) observed that the role of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut should be strengthened at a much faster rate than at present in order to enable it to extend its services to the Arab countries in the Middle East. The Office should be provided with additional manpower and resources and the post of Director should be raised to a higher level.

54. Mr. MARTIN-WITKOWSKI (France) said that his delegation supported the revised draft resolution. The inclusion of a reference to UNDP, in operative paragraph 2, was useful.

55. Mr. AYOUB (Tunisia) endorsed the suggestion by the Netherlands representative that the revised draft resolution should contain a reference to the recent report of the Committee for Development Planning.

56. Mr. HILLEL (Israel) said that his delegation supported the revised draft resolution, but wished to place on record its reservations concerning the implications of operative paragraph 1, which tended to place the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut and the regional economic commissions on an equal footing. The Office in Beirut was not an intergovernmental regional commission and had never been allowed to serve all countries in the area—a sorry reflection of the failure of the United Nations to face up to its responsibilities towards all States. The Office had no policy-making functions and nothing in the draft resolution changed that fact. Any request addressed to the Office in Beirut could be interpreted only as a request to the Secretary-General.

57. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had consistently supported resolutions designed to strengthen the regional economic commissions. However, it had abstained in the vote on Economic and Social Council resolution 1442 (XLVII) because its financial implications were not clear. It would not adopt a final position on the revised draft resolution under consideration until the proposals in it had been submitted in their final form to the Council.

58. His delegation requested separate votes on the third preambular paragraph and the Indonesian amendment to operative paragraph 1 (see para. 49 above), on both of which it would abstain. It would vote for the revised draft resolution as a whole.

59. Mr. SPENCER (Canada) said that his delegation supported the revised draft resolution on the understanding that it would not prejudice any changes that might be recommended as a result of Sir Robert Jackson’s “Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System”.

60. In order to save time and to avoid the inclusion of a separate agenda item at the following session of the General Assembly, he proposed that the words “the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, through” should be deleted from operative paragraph 3.

61. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation supported the revised draft resolution on the understanding that implementation was subject to any recommendations that might be made in the Capacity Study and on the

⁴ *Ibid.*, document E/4682.

assumption that the draft resolution had no financial implications.

62. Mr. GUELEV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation supported the revised draft resolution. However, any expenditures it entailed should be met from existing resources.

63. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that his delegation supported the revised draft resolution, but had a reservation concerning operative paragraph 1. The availability of advisory services varied from one region to another: in the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, such services were always available, although in Africa the situation might be different. He therefore suggested that the words "especially by organizing, wherever possible and appropriate," should be replaced by the words "by utilizing existing services available or organizing, wherever necessary,".

64. He endorsed the Canadian proposal (see para. 60 above) that the Secretary-General should submit his report directly to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session, and requested information on the financial implications of the draft resolution.

65. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) supported the revised draft resolution, but wished to draw attention to an apparent contradiction between operative paragraphs 2 and 3. In operative paragraph 2, the Secretary-General was requested to examine the means of organizing advisory services at the earliest opportunity, whereas operative paragraph 3 imposed a time-limit by which he was to report to the Economic and Social Council. He suggested that the Secretary-General should be given great freedom in submitting his report.

66. He supported the Canadian amendment to operative paragraph 3 that the Secretary-General should be requested to report directly to the Council.

67. Mr. FERRETTI (Italy) said that his delegation supported the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1071/Rev.1) as a whole. However, it agreed with the Canadian amendment to operative paragraph 3 and observed that any expenditure entailed by the draft resolution should be met from available resources within the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.