



CONTENTS

Page

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration: (a) annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1116, T/1117 and Add.1 to 3, T/1122); (b) petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure (*continued*)

General debate (*continued*) ..... 61

**President:** Mr. Miguel Rafael URQUIA (El Salvador)

*Present:*

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, El Salvador, France, Haiti, India, New Zealand, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representative of the following State non-member of the Trusteeship Council: Italy.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

**Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration:**  
**(a) annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1116, T/1117 and Add.1 to 3, T/1122); (b) petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure (continued)**

[Agenda items 4 (a) and 5]

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), Mr. Salah (Egypt) and Mr. López (Philippines), members of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, and Mr. Mochi, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory, took places at the Council table.*

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) introduced a draft resolution (T/L.475) inviting the Administering Authority to call upon the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for assistance in financing the economic development plan for Somaliland. The proposal also stressed the need to stimulate foreign capital investment in the Territory. It was subject to amendment.

2. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium), commenting on the Salvadorian draft resolution, pointed out that the statutes and policy of the International Bank precluded the possibility of financial aid to Somaliland through that agency. First, Italy could not be asked to guarantee repayment of the principal, interest and other charges on a long-term loan to Somaliland that would be due at a time when it no longer bore responsibility for the administration of the Territory. Secondly, it would be difficult to associate private capital in undertakings for

which the Bank might grant loans, as was suggested in the draft resolution, because the moment reasonable conditions could be offered to foreign investors the Bank could no longer intervene. Finally, the Bank could have no guarantee that the newly independent Somaliland could repay a loan and fulfil the related obligations.

3. Accordingly, while Belgium was prepared to vote in favour of the principle in the Salvadorian draft resolution, it would prefer to have it stated in more general terms, underlining United Nations responsibility for the economic development of the Territory and recommending alternative means for financing that development.

4. Mr. GUIDOTTI (Representative of Italy as Administering Authority for Somaliland) did not see what alternative means could be found. On the other hand, it would be patently unreasonable to expect Italy to guarantee a loan the limits of which would extend beyond Italian trusteeship. In view of the clear responsibility for the future of Somaliland assumed by the United Nations, it might be possible to work out with the Bank a more flexible formula for providing financial assistance. The Salvadorian draft resolution might be amended so as to invite the International Bank to send an expert or group of experts to Somaliland, perhaps to accompany the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1954, to investigate the technical aspects of the financing problem on the spot.

5. Mr. DE HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia) suggested that the representative of Syria, an expert on financial matters, together with the representatives of Belgium and El Salvador, should redraft the proposal.

6. Mr. ASHA (Syria), noting the importance of the technical factors involved, suggested that the Council should resume consideration of the draft resolution when it had completed the general debate on the annual report<sup>1</sup>.

*It was so agreed.*

7. Mr. DAYAL (India) said that the specific obligations assumed by the United Nations and by the Administering Authority made Somaliland a test case of the operation of the Trusteeship System. The extent to which those obligations were fulfilled would be regarded by the peoples of all Trust Territories and of the world as a measure of the Organization's good faith in implementing the basic principle of self-determination.

8. In order to accelerate the political advancement of the Territory, the principle of direct election should be extended among both the urban and the tribal or nomadic populations. In view of the political maturity demonstrated in the recent municipal elections, every effort should be made to elect a truly representative new Territorial Council by ensuring participation in the vote by women and by the nomadic tribes. Religion need not bar women from voting, as the nation-wide elections in India had shown. As a further means of preparing the Somali people for self-government, the

<sup>1</sup> See *Rapport du Gouvernement italien à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration de tutelle de la Somalie, 1953*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, 1954.

Residency councils should be reconstituted on a more democratic basis, with wider powers, and the newly elected municipal councils should be given greater executive authority. The Advisory Council for Somaliland and the 1954 Visiting Mission should look into the matter. The Administrative Council, which was ultimately to become the cabinet of an independent Somaliland, should be enlarged by the addition of Somali advisers. Similarly, Somali deputies should be appointed to some of the Italian heads of departments. The Advisory Council and the Visiting Mission might study that suggestion in consultation with the Administrator and the Territorial Council.

9. Finally, in the interest of the Administration as well as of the Somalis, the Territorial Council should be called upon to advise the Administrator with regard to the economic development, land settlement, agriculture, nomadic population and educational programmes.

10. As total administrative responsibility was to be transferred to the Somalis in 1960, the requirement of an academic education for responsible administrative posts should be waived and suitable persons should be placed in positions of limited responsibility.

11. India was not satisfied that the unresolved boundary situation between Somaliland and Ethiopian justified the maintenance of the disproportionately large police and military security forces in the Territory, and the resulting drain on its financial resources. The Advisory Council and the Visiting Mission should study that aspect of the problem. India supported the Haitian proposal (T/L.474) that the good offices of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Council should be enlisted to speed the negotiations between the parties with a view to agreeing on a demarcation of boundaries before 1960.

12. The chronic budgetary deficit was an alarming indication of the urgent need to improve the Territory's economic and financial position. It was not clear from the Administration's five-year economic development plans<sup>2</sup> how the various projects were to be carried out, and the advice of the Technical Assistance Administration might well be sought on that problem. Progressive somalization of the administration should considerably reduce the drain on the exchequer due to the remuneration of Italian administrative personnel. Finally, the economic situation as a whole could be most effectively improved by increasing production, developing Somali industries and expanding Somali trade. Eventually, the full exploitation of the Territory's economic resources, combined with a judicious placing of its exports, should make Somaliland self-supporting in food and clothing and leave enough in its treasury to finance essential nation-building activities.

13. The community development project at Dinsor should be followed by others throughout the country, and more vigorous action should be taken to utilize the extensive animal resources. A tanning and leather industry and a wool industry should be developed, and the possibilities of a meat-packing industry should be explored. The prices of basic foods such as sugar, now inflated by a heavy import duty, should be brought into line with the prices on the world market. Pending the creation of a local textile industry, impetus should be given to a hand-loom-weaving industry. It was essential, in fact, to reduce the Territory's dependence on imports from Italy and to broaden the markets for its

<sup>2</sup> See *Plans de développement économique de la Somalie, années 1954-1960*, Italian Trusteeship Administration, Rome, Instituto Poligrafico dello Stato, 1954.

exports if it was to overcome the adverse trade balance with which it was now saddled.

14. Obviously, Somaliland could not finance its economic development solely from its own resources; it urgently needed the foreign capital investment for which the representatives of the Territorial Council had pledged adequate guarantees. It should also apply for a loan from the International Bank as proposed in the Salvadorian resolution (T/L.475), which India would support.

15. The problem of improving the health of the Somali population was closely related to that of increasing productivity. An energetic approach should therefore be made to the World Health Organization and to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to obtain their co-operation in raising public health standards and combating disease.

16. Educational progress should be stimulated by expanding teacher training, co-ordinating school curricula and the media of instruction and strengthening the mass education campaign. An advanced institute of animal husbandry should be set up, as well as a centre of higher education at the university level. The question of a national language should be settled by the democratically elected representatives of the people; all indications were that Arabic was the language most favoured.

17. While India was prepared to concede that some progress had been made in 1953 in preparing the Somali people to take over the government and administration of the Territory by 1960, it was disappointed that more vigorous and audacious action had not been initiated by the Administration in other fields. Social and educational advancement had been slowed by lack of determination and imagination. It was to be hoped that those defects would be corrected during 1954 and that the solemn commitment of the United Nations to the people of Somaliland would be implemented more constructively.

18. Mr. ASHA (Syria) associated his delegation with the Indian representative's statement. He also thanked the Administrator for his statement (528th meeting), although he could not agree that the obligations freely undertaken by the Italian Government should be considered a burden.

19. Nor could he agree that the recommendations in General Assembly resolution 755 (VIII) concerning the Trust Territory's attainment of independence by 1960 were superfluous. It was clear from the joint statement of the two Vice-Presidents of the Territorial Council (530th meeting) that the Somali people were well on their way to acquiring political maturity and the capacity to bear the heavy responsibilities which lay ahead of them. Although considerable progress had been made in the Trust Territory, the rate of development appeared to be too slow to guarantee the conditions necessary for a total transfer of authority in 1960. The Council's recommendations should be framed with an eye to the short time remaining.

20. It was unfortunate that during the four years of its administration the Italian Government had not been able to give the Somali people more experience in government and administration. Progress towards the establishment of an indigenous legislative body had been negligible. The question required careful study in order to ensure a right balance between traditional tribal elements, which would necessarily be conservative, and progressive urban elements, which, because of their greater experience and receptivity to change, ought to

bear a larger share of the responsibility. That balance should be established during the period of trusteeship, and the Council ought to recommend the Administering Authority to give due consideration to the composition of the Territorial Council as the future legislative organ. The Administering Authority should in addition, as the Vice-President of the Territorial Council had suggested, progressively transfer legislative authority and responsibility to that Council.

21. The Vice-President had also expressed the opinion that direct elections could be held among the Territory's nomadic inhabitants; his delegation would strongly urge the Administering Authority to make direct elections the only electoral procedure for the whole Territory. It doubted the suitability of the *shir* as an electoral body; its inevitable conservatism might well lead it to resist change.

22. In order to overcome the Administering Authority's evident reluctance to provide information on these matters, he would suggest that the Visiting Mission should be directed to inquire into the composition and powers of the Territorial Council.

23. Somalization of the Trust Territory's administration should be speeded up and extended. There was no need to wait until Somalis had obtained academic qualifications; experience was the best teacher, and there were undoubtedly many Somalis who, given guidance and experience, would develop into good administrators in time to take over the government in 1960. Nor was it necessary to await the establishment of a legislative assembly before including Somalis in the Administrative Council; executive councils were very often composed of appointed members, and the fact that they had not been elected did not necessarily detract from their competence as administrators. The Council should therefore recommend the Administering Authority to take steps to establish an executive council composed partly of Somali members before the end of the year.

24. The Trusteeship Council should also recommend that the municipal councils should be given administrative and financial autonomy by the end of 1954, for it was essential that the future Somali State should be able to rely on strong and responsible local government organs. The Council should also urge the Administering Authority to reconsider the possibility of extending the franchise to women.

25. The Administering Authority's estimates of probable staff and staff costs in 1960 appeared somewhat unrealistic. Such costs were likely to be a heavy burden on the new State. The Council ought therefore to instruct the Visiting Mission to give careful attention to that matter, too.

26. The question of the boundary between Somaliland and Ethiopia should be settled forthwith. The very first article of the Trusteeship Agreement had dealt with it, but nothing had been done in the intervening four years. The representative of Haiti had made a proposal in that connexion with which his delegation had considerable sympathy; if a resolution were to be adopted, however, the statement made by the Vice-President of the Territorial Council should also be taken into consideration.

27. It was satisfactory to note the Administering Authority's assurance that it intended to execute the programme for the economic development of the Territory within the limits of its human and financial resources. That was another matter to which the Visiting Mission might be directed to give its attention. With

regard to the financing of the plan, the Council should reiterate its earlier recommendation to the Administering Authority to seek the assistance of the International Bank and other specialized agencies (A/1856, p. 90).

28. The measures taken to increase the Territory's water supplies were very commendable, but the Somali herdsmen should be strongly discouraged from allowing the number of their livestock to increase beyond the new capacity of the pasture and water resources. The Administration ought also to give its attention to the Territory's communications: roads should be improved and extended and ports modernized. Restrictions on international trade should be lifted. The procedure for granting oil concessions should be reviewed, in the interests of the future State.

29. Improvement of pastures and water supplies was not enough to solve the problems of the nomadic population. It was essential that facilities should be provided for the nomads to market their livestock, and a meat-processing industry should be established in order to encourage them to sell their cattle regularly.

30. Development in all fields could be greatly encouraged by the extension of the broadcasting system.

31. The Council should recommend the Administering Authority to increase its efforts to improve nutritional standards and eradicate disease. With the assurance that technical assistance funds would be made available, the Administration ought to be able to tackle those problems without financial embarrassment.

32. The Council might note the grave shortage of teachers and student teachers and urge the Administering Authority, in collaboration with UNESCO, to increase the number of student teachers by the next school year. There was a difference in quality between Italian and Somali schools and the Administering Authority should take immediate steps to improve the latter type. Finally, he would support the Indian representative's suggestion that Arabic should be the teaching language in the secondary schools.

*The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.*

33. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) felt that the measures adopted by the Administering Authority to enable Somaliland to attain its independence in 1960 were generally satisfactory, though much obviously remained to be done.

34. The Territory's political development was promising, as was shown by the statements to the Trusteeship Council of the Vice-Presidents of the Territorial Council of Somaliland, the success of the recent municipal elections and the slow but sure increase of the proportion of Somalis in the service of the Administration.

35. It was to be hoped that the reorganization of the judiciary and the establishment of the Supreme Court of Justice would soon be completed.

36. The Somali-Ethiopian boundary question was urgent and he whole-heartedly supported the Haitian draft resolution (T/L.474).

37. Somaliland's vital economic problems must be at least partly solved before the independent State was established. The Administering Authority's development plans were sound, but, as the Territory's resources were meagre, it was for the Council to solve the economic problems. The budget must be balanced, public funds increased and communications improved.

38. Social legislation marked an appreciable step forward, but much remained to be done, for instance, with regard to preventive medicine and hygiene. The status of women left much to be desired. Steps should be taken to prepare women, by education, to enjoy political rights, and to improve their status. The Administering Authority's educational efforts should not be underestimated, but he agreed with what the UNESCO representative had said at the 532nd meeting.

39. Mr. Eguizábal congratulated the Administering Authority on the form of the annual report; it complied fully with the requirements of the revised Questionnaire (T/1010). The form of that report was the best proof that the preparation of annual reports in the form of specific answers to each question of the Questionnaire, a principle for which his delegation had fought for years, presented no difficulty. He considered that annual reports should be prepared by each Administering Authority in the same form. The preparation of the Somaliland report in that form was a happy omen for the work of the Sub-Committee on the Questionnaire, which was preparing a basis for separate questionnaires for each Trust Territory, as provided for in Article 88 of the Charter.

40. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) said that he had noted with satisfaction the Italian Prime Minister's declaration with regard to the Territory's attainment of independence in 1960, to which the representative of Italy had drawn the Councils attention in his statement at the 528th meeting. The declaration emphasized the procrastination of Administering Authorities of other Trust Territories. Every Trust Territory showed, to a greater or lesser extent, a people abandoned to its age-old customs by an Administering Authority concerned more with profit than with the population's interests. It was for Italy to demonstrate that it had done its duty under the Trusteeship Agreement and it was for the other Administering Authorities to indicate when their Trust Territories would be ready for independence.

41. The Somali-Ethiopian boundary question called for urgent solution, and his delegation wished to reiterate its request for support for its draft resolution.

42. The results of the first democratic elections held in the Territory had surpassed the Administering Authority's expectations. It was to be hoped that every effort would now be made, by holding elections as planned, to make the Territorial Council the Territory's legislature, and that to that end the problem of identification of the electorate would be solved. The Vice-Presidents of the Territorial Council had given the Trusteeship Council a rare spectacle: the heads of rival political parties had sunk their differences in order to state the Territory's needs and ask the United Nations for economic aid. Seeing those indigenous representatives had encouraged him to believe that there were others equally qualified in the Territory, on whose assistance the Administration should draw.

43. Primary responsibility for Somaliland's economic problems rested with the Administering Authority, but, with 1960 in mind, that Authority's attitude was understandably cautious. The Egyptian member of the Advisory Council for Somaliland had emphasized at the 529th meeting the need for long-term planning and for financial as well as technical assistance.

44. The Council should take due note of the Territorial Council's undertaking, in its motion of 4 January 1954 (T/1116, annex), to safeguard foreign investment, but before 1960 the Administering Authority

should be careful not to involve the Territory in undertakings which would cripple economic development. He approved in principle the Salvadorian draft resolution (T/L.475). Long-term planning, however, was not the only necessity. Attention should also be given to the Territory's immediate needs, for example, of food, hygiene and social welfare, for they could not be met from the slender resources with which WHO and FAO had to operate in Somaliland.

45. The question of the official language must be settled by the future State itself. Education even in one language required a considerable outlay, and education in three languages was even more expensive; but it was the Administering Authority's duty to promote the development of Somali as well as of Italian and Arabic. In view of the religious and political problems involved, it would appear desirable to adopt the Arabic alphabet for Somali.

46. In order to bring about the revolution in the Somali viewpoint which the Administering Authority regarded as necessary, the aid of the most able indigenous inhabitants should be enlisted to convince the people of the need for a national effort. By the success of that endeavour Italy's achievement in Somaliland would be judged.

47. Mr. SEARS (United States of America) stressed the importance of the task of creating new nations and, in particular, the Council's responsibilities towards Somaliland in view of its promised independence in 1960. Because of the imminence of that year, the Council must think realistically. Although the date for independence was set, one must consider the rate of progress best suited to the Somalis. They must not be asked to change their way of life at a rate which would retard their progress towards real freedom. The United States would like independence with the least possible delay for all peoples who could safely sustain it. The world was full of powerful forces which were ready to destroy the freedom of new nations at the first sign of instability. To protect Somaliland from those forces, administrative and economic assistance to the new State would be needed for some time after 1960. The long-range views about the Territory's future needs expressed by the Vice-Presidents of the Territorial Council had been advanced in a responsible and constructive spirit and merited the Council's full attention. Meanwhile, the Administering Authority, with the co-operation of Somali leaders, was ensuring the Territory's advancement as fast as circumstances allowed, and was to be commended on its efforts.

48. To prevent violence on the boundary, it was to be hoped that the Ethiopian Government would appoint, as soon as possible, the Ethiopian members of the joint commission to study the boundary dispute.

49. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) thought solid foundations were being laid rapidly enough to ensure that Somaliland achieved independence within the prescribed period, but gradually enough to ensure that the new techniques were thoroughly absorbed by the people. Italy had undertaken an immense task, and was making very substantial contributions, both financial and otherwise, to the Territory.

50. Experience gained in municipal elections would prove very useful in the forthcoming elections to the Territorial Council. The elections to the Territorial Council would contribute considerably to the integration of the population and particularly of the nomadic tribes, who would more fully realize their rightful part in the political, social and cultural life of the Territory.

He had appreciated the information given to the Council by the two Vice-Presidents of the Territorial Council and had been greatly impressed by their demeanour and by the balance and cogency of their arguments.

51. It was gratifying to note that the Administration was taking energetic steps to ensure that all sections of the population made an equitable financial contribution to the Territory's expenses. The economic development plans prepared by the Administration gave a realistic outline of the problems and future programmes.

52. The problem of water supplies was an important factor in the development of agriculture in the Territory and the situation had considerably improved as a result of the Administration's well-digging programme, undertaken with the assistance of the United States Foreign Operations Administration. The importance of developing all possible sources of water could not be over-emphasized. His delegation had the fullest confidence in the Administration in that respect.

53. The possibility of further development of co-operatives should be fully explored and encouragement should be given in all cases where there appeared to be a real desire on the part of the inhabitants to form co-operative enterprises. The establishment at Mogadiscio of a co-operative for the production and marketing of handicrafts, with its own school to teach cottage industries, was an interesting development. He was sure that the Administering Authority would encourage the establishment of similar institutions in other parts of the country, so that small industries could make a greater contribution to the national economy. The Council should note with satisfaction the formation of the Somali Credit Institute, which would greatly contribute to the Territory's economic development.

54. The rate of social progress was satisfactory. He hoped that the technical assistance sought by the Administering Authority in combating malaria and tuberculosis and on nutritional questions would be forthcoming as soon as possible. The Administering Authority was to be complimented on its policy of storing grain and foodstuffs in order to ensure adequate supplies at fair prices in lean years.

55. Steady progress had been made in the consolidation of primary education and the development of secondary and higher education. The establishment of the upper middle school and the teacher-training school were particularly praiseworthy. The Council should note the proposal to establish an educational institution of university standard in economics and law. It was to be hoped that the proposed institution would eventually develop into a university on a par with those in Italy and the rest of the world.

56. A decision as to the official language for Somaliland must ultimately rest with the Somali people themselves.

57. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) said that it was highly satisfactory to note that the Administration and the political parties were now working together in a spirit of harmony and co-operation.

58. The most gratifying political development in the year under review was the municipal elections. The Administering Authority should be congratulated on the perfect functioning of the electoral machinery, which augured well for the forthcoming elections to the Territorial Council.

59. The appointment of the first Somali Vice-Residents was a significant step in the right direction. He hoped that by the time the next annual report was

submitted more Somalis would have been appointed to similar and even more important posts.

60. He was happy to note the gradual completion of the separation of powers between the administrative and judicial branches and to learn of the Administration's decision — endorsed by the Territorial Council — to suspend the imposition of collective fines for two years. It was to be hoped that collective fines would eventually be abolished altogether and replaced by some other more appropriate penalty.

61. All the available information indicated the need for an early settlement of the frontier problem, and the two Governments concerned should make every effort to reach an agreement. He would support the Haitian draft resolution (T/L.474), in principle.

62. The need for external assistance was the crux of Somaliland's economic problem; he was therefore happy to support the draft resolution submitted by El Salvador (T/L.475). The proposed land legislation, which the Council had noted with satisfaction at its twelfth session (A/2427, p. 53), should be enacted as soon as possible.

63. With regard to social matters, the Council should congratulate the Administering Authority on the promulgation of the ordinances on the employment of women and children. The extension of the suffrage to women would obviously take time in the under-developed countries, but that did not excuse the competent authorities from taking the necessary steps to that end. He fully supported the Syrian representative's remarks in that connexion. The Administration should be given the fullest assistance by the specialized agencies in the campaigns against malaria and tuberculosis. Technical assistance alone was not enough. Adequate supplies and funds must be made available. He had been pleased to learn that the Technical Assistance Administration had made a sum of \$75,000 available for 1955. The Administering Authority deserved credit for providing separate quarters for juvenile delinquents and women prisoners.

64. Progress had been made in education, but intensified effort was still required in dealing with the linguistic problem, the teacher-training programme and fundamental education. If the people of the Territory were to be properly educated, they must be taught, initially at least, in their mother tongue. The reduction of the Somali language to writing was therefore an urgent necessity. He had noted the complexities arising out of the co-existence of two other languages, namely, Italian and Arabic, but he felt sure that the Administering Authority, in co-operation with UNESCO, would be able to find a solution acceptable to the people themselves. The insufficiency of teachers was a major problem. The Council might wish to recommend the opening of additional teacher-training schools and the provision of added incentives to induce many more of the élite to become teachers.

65. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) was happy to note the developing co-operation between the Administration and the political parties. It had been heartening to listen to the constructive statements of the two Vice-Presidents of the Territorial Council. In the absence of political tension of the kind that had previously existed, and with the goodwill and interested participation of the Somali people, the problem of preparing Somaliland for independence by 1960 should not prove insuperable, although the economic situation would continue to be a retarding factor. While the Administering Authority should be urged to promote the establishment of fully

democratic institutions, its actions must be tempered by a sound sense of reality. In 1960, the Somali people should take over a governmental machine which they were capable of operating.

66. One of the most serious unsolved problems was the boundary between Somaliland and Ethiopia. Unless an early agreement was reached by direct negotiations between the two Governments concerned, the General Assembly would undoubtedly wish to take a direct interest in the matter. He was sympathetic towards the Haitian draft resolution.

67. His delegation would support a proposal to give publicity to the Territorial Council's motion of 4 January 1954 concerning guarantees to private and international investments in Somaliland. It would be appropriate for the Trusteeship Council formally to bring to the General Assembly's attention the desirability of additional financial assistance.

68. The introduction of Somalis into the services of the Administration was progressing satisfactorily. The rate of somalization could be expected to increase progressively as 1960 approached.

69. The Administering Authority had been wise to introduce electoral procedures at a local level before doing so at the national level. If the municipal councils continued to function successfully, the Administering Authority should not delay the introduction of similar methods for the election of the Territorial Council. It was to be hoped that the Territorial Council could soon be given increased responsibilities with regard to the approval of the budget. The Administering Authority should be urged to use education and persuasion to induce the Somali people to accept the widest possible political rights for women.

70. It was satisfactory to note that work had already been begun on some of the projects in the Administering

Authority's economic development plan. The Territory's economy should undergo a dramatic change if the irrigation projects provided employment for more than a quarter of a million agricultural workers. His delegation whole-heartedly endorsed the well-digging programme and felt that the Administering Authority should follow it up by considering other measures—community development schemes, agricultural advice and assistance and financial help, for example—conducive to the settlement of the nomadic tribes, who would benefit from the increased water resources.

71. Satisfactory progress had been made in public health but many urgent problems remained unsolved. While the Administering Authority must continue to provide the bulk of the financial and technical assistance, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization might be approached for help, particularly in the solution of problems connected with nutritional deficiencies and maternal and child welfare projects.

72. Educational progress had been achieved during the past year in accordance with the five-year plan approved by UNESCO and endorsed by the Trusteeship Council (A/2427, p. 60).

73. Greater progress would be made in education by using the vernacular as the medium of instruction at an elementary stage. Somaliland had only one vernacular and the technical difficulty of developing the written script should not be allowed to hinder the more extensive use of Somali in mass education.

74. The Government of Italy continued to bear almost 50 per cent of the expenses of the Administration. There was ground for hope, however, that that alarmingly high percentage could be reduced before 1960, when the results of the economic plan became apparent.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.