



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 61st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria)

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.3/L.45/Rev.2, L.46/Rev.1, L.48/Rev.1, L.49/Rev.1, L.50/Rev.1, L.55, L.57;
A/35/Add.2, 18, 22, 23 and Corr.1, 27, 28, 33, 34, 37 and Corr.1; A/35/120, 148,
199, 231, 259, 260, 265, 266, 267, 270, 272, 273, 336, 340, 348, 363, 405, 419, 426,
431, 450, 522, 543 and Corr.1, 614, 622; A/C.3/35/1, 10, 11, 12; E/1980/14;
E/CN.4/1365, E/CN.4/1366; A/C.3/35/L.52, L.54, L.60, L.61, L.62, L.63)

1. Miss MANGAZA (Zaire), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.45/Rev.2 on assistance to refugees in Somalia on behalf of the delegations listed, said that the problem with which the draft resolution was concerned was essentially humanitarian in character and was therefore of relevance to all, particularly to Africa, the continent with the largest number of refugees.
2. In spite of all the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, especially in Africa, African refugees still had not received adequate attention from the international community. Somalia had given asylum to more than a million refugees, and Zaire, which had recently been host to a similar number and was now giving asylum to 300,000 refugees, had every reason to know the difficulties a young country had to contend with if it did not receive assistance from the international community.
3. Her delegation therefore appealed to Member States to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.45/Rev.2, which supported the High Commissioner in his efforts in behalf of the Somali Government, commended that Government for its generosity and humanitarian sentiments and urged the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other intergovernmental and financial institutions to assist Somalia in strengthening its social and economic infrastructure in the areas where the refugees were located.
4. Mr. KAMIL (Indonesia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.46/Rev.1 on the situation of refugees in the Sudan, on behalf of the sponsors, said that the earlier sponsors had now been joined by the delegations of Burundi, Canada, Democratic Kampuchea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Malaysia, Somalia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
5. The sponsors of the draft resolution had agreed to interchange the positions of paragraphs 2 and 3.
6. The Sudanese Government was assuming a great responsibility in receiving half a million refugees in its territory. It was to be hoped, therefore, that the international community would support the humanitarian efforts of the Sudan in providing the necessary services for the refugees. Accordingly, he hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution without a vote.
7. Mr. DLAMINI (Swaziland), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.48/Rev.1 on humanitarian assistance to the refugees of Djibouti, on behalf of the sponsors, summarized the preambular and operative parts of the resolution, which was

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(Mr. Dlamini, Swaziland)

self-explanatory, and stressed the need to keep the situation of the refugees in Djibouti under constant review.

8. He hoped that the Committee would adopt draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.48/Rev.1 without a vote.

9. Mr. NHAMO (Zimbabwe), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.49/Rev.1 on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia, on behalf of the sponsors, said that the draft resolution was simple and was self-explanatory in the light of the serious situation of the large number of displaced persons in Ethiopia, for whose assistance and rehabilitation generous aid from the international community was needed. He therefore hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

10. Mr. BADJI (Senegal), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.50/Rev.1 on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa, on behalf of the sponsors, commented briefly on the objectives and scope of the draft resolution, drawing attention to the continued flow of student refugees from Namibia and South Africa to Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia and emphasizing the international community's responsibility for providing them with services and facilities. He also pointed out the need to organize and execute an effective programme for educational and other assistance and appealed to Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to the assistance programmes.

11. In the light of those comments and the unanimous rejection of apartheid by the international community, the sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that the Committee would adopt it by consensus.

12. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) proposed the following amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.45/Rev.2: insert a new seventh preambular paragraph to read: "Mindful also of the need for ensuring that humanitarian assistance is not diverted for other purposes;": in the ninth preambular paragraph, replace the final words "an effective and concerted information programme by the United Nations system" with the words "the availability of accurate and reliable information"; insert a new tenth preambular paragraph to read "Having noted the immediate and ongoing need strictly to monitor and verify all statistics submitted relating to refugees in Somalia"; delete paragraph 3; in paragraph 7, delete the concluding words "in the areas where the refugees have been located"; in paragraph 8, delete the words "on a continuing basis through an effective and concerted information programme" in the third and fourth lines.

13. He also proposed the addition of a new operative paragraph, to be numbered 10: "Calls upon all concerned to ensure that all assistance is humanitarian and is not diverted for other purposes;". Moreover, he proposed that in the present paragraph 10, the words "in the areas where the refugees are located" in the third and fourth lines should be deleted, and the following new paragraph 11 should be inserted: "Requests the Secretary-General in co-operation with UNHCR to establish machinery to ensure the availability of correct and reliable statistics submitted relating to refugees in Somalia as a basis on which such humanitarian assistance as may prove necessary can be calculated and assessed;".

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(Mr. Deressa, Ethiopia)

14. Those amendments included amendments to the ones his delegation had originally submitted in document A/C.3/35/L.55, which had themselves been the result of changes and revisions made by other delegations.

15. He now proposed to explain the background of his delegation's amendments. In that connexion, he recalled that on a number of occasions he had expressed reservations on the question of the so-called refugees in Somalia.

16. After a brief discussion in which Mr. OSMAN (Somalia), Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia), Mr. AMINI (Comoros), Mr. MUCORLOR (Liberia), Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) and Mr. DJIGO (Senegal) took part, the CHAIRMAN, in response to the request made by the representative of Senegal in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group, suggested that the Ethiopian delegation should postpone the introduction of its draft amendments while negotiations continued within the African Group.

17. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) accepted the Chairman's suggestion, although he reserved the right to explain his amendments before the vote if the consultations held within the African Group proved unsuccessful.

18. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia), introducing his delegation's draft amendments (A/C.3/35/L.57) to draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.49/Rev.1 said that in the third line of the new preambular paragraph to be inserted after the present third preambular paragraph, the words "voluntary and genuine" should be inserted before the word "returnees" and that in the third line of the proposed new penultimate operative paragraph the words "voluntary and genuine" should be inserted before the word "returnees".

19. Mr. AMINI (Comoros) appealed to the delegations of Ethiopia and Somalia to withdraw their amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.49/Rev.1.

20. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) said that unfortunately his delegation could not accede to the Comorian appeal because it had already acceded to the appeal previously made by the representative of Senegal in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group.

21. Mr. DHAR (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis), introducing the document entitled "Distribution of income in the nation: rural-urban differentials" (A/35/231), said that the issue of income distribution occupied an important position in strategies for development. It was an issue which could not be treated in an abstract manner; its inclusion in development strategies should reflect the results of an examination of its relation to such factors as levels and rates of growth and patterns of economic and social development. However, debates on the subject were often hampered by judgements based on inconclusive evidence. In document A/35/231, an attempt had been made to place issues concerning rural-urban differentials in their proper perspective. Far more significant than income differentials between urban and rural areas were imbalances in various other aspects of welfare which were not strictly related to individual incomes. It would be more relevant to analyse incomes of different socio-economic groups, wherever they resided. As was stated in the conclusions of

the document, the challenge for development policy was not so much to devise measures for a static balance in levels of income and welfare between rural and urban areas as to generate a pattern of growth with a close integration of urban growth and rural modernization. It was in that spirit that current work on equity, poverty and the distribution of income was being undertaken.

22. The document entitled "Improvement of the methodology for monitoring social trends" (A/35/340) had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/152; it summarized the current situation with regard to the data available to the Secretariat for the global monitoring of social trends and policies and at the same time indicated the efforts being undertaken to improve that data base. The Secretariat had sought to reflect the conviction that, as an indicator of socio-economic progress, gross national product per capita must be supplemented by other data which expressed the distribution of benefits and opportunities and reflected major aspects of social change. In that endeavour, the Secretariat would benefit from the efforts being made at the national level to improve the understanding of socio-economic change, as well as from the efforts of the organizations of the United Nations system which provided technical assistance for the collection and analysis of information on socio-economic trends. Those efforts, which were described in part III of the document, should provide a better data base for an analysis of the relationships among the various facets of the development process.

23. Global reports at the international level would continue to draw heavily on qualitative information collected from the largest possible range of sources. Those reports did not aim to compare the socio-economic performance of various countries; their objectives and functions were to draw the attention of the international community to trends and problems which had an international dimension, to analyse the efforts made to overcome those problems, and to outline the directions that international and national action could take. At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly would have before it the 1981 Report on the World Social Situation and its annex on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development. The Secretariat would prepare that report in the light of the guidelines laid down in General Assembly resolution 34/152, and also of the goals and objectives of the new international development strategy, as indicated in that same resolution.

24. Dr. LING (Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs), referring to developments which had occurred during the current year in the area of international drug control, and particularly to the progress made in implementing General Assembly resolution 34/177, said that although the total elimination of drug abuse would be the ideal strategy, it was unrealistic to expect to attain that goal. A central strategy had therefore been defined to reduce drug abuse and its harmful consequences to a minimum. To that end, the following objectives had been identified: strengthening of the drug control system; achievement of a balance between demand for and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for legitimate purposes; reduction and control of the supply of drugs from illicit sources; reduction of the illicit drug traffic; reduction and control of the demand for drugs. In addition, a five-year programme of action had been suggested, including activities to be pursued by the Secretary-General, activities which the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control might support, and activities which regional organizations might undertake.

(Dr. Ling)

25. Reports reaching the Secretary-General indicated continuing expansion in the identified amount of drugs moving in illicit traffic and an increase in the abuse of drugs, including the number of drug-related deaths. So far as illicit supply was concerned, two major factors were at work. The first was the emergence of new areas of supply as soon as one area was brought under control. That had happened in one South American country in respect of cannabis after the virtual elimination of illicit supply from Mexico, and also in parts of South-West Asia after successful work by the authorities of Burma and Thailand to reduce illicit opium production in those countries.

26. A second factor was the extent to which traffickers were continuing to stimulate the demand for illicit drugs in all parts of the world. Over the past 5 to 10 years there had been a steady increase in the amounts of heroin seized world-wide from illicit traffic. In a similar pattern, world seizures of cocaine had increased at least tenfold over the past decade. All of those facts indicated that the total amount of illicitly produced drugs was continuing to escalate.

27. One source of concern was the over-supply of licitly produced drugs, which could impose a considerable financial burden on the traditional supplier countries. Furthermore, there was evidence of increasing leakages from licitly produced psychotropic substances into the illicit traffic, as well as increased illicit production of such substances, particularly in the highly developed countries. Finally, the reports from those countries reflected an increase not only in the number of drug users but also in the disquieting trend on the part of younger age groups to ward abuse of chemical substances.

28. A positive element, however, was the growing public awareness of the expansion of drug abuse and the increasing intergovernmental demands for more effective action to control the supply and use of dependence-producing substances and to reduce the impact that drug abuse had on the individual and society.

29. The Commission had been very responsive to those demands and had displayed considerable legislative activity at its most recent session. Thus, it had directed the Secretariat to convene three meetings to deal with drug trafficking and other crimes, the use of acetic anhydride and acetyl chloride in the illicit manufacture of heroin, and financial assets and transactions related to illicit drug trafficking.

30. The Commission was also concerned about the increasing abuse of new synthetic substances such as dextropropoxyphene, sufentanil, tilidine and three congeners of phencyclidine, as well as methaqualone. It was likewise concerned about the chronic use of cannabis products among the young. The Division of Narcotic Drugs was promoting research into cannabis in order to provide a solid basis for legislative decisions.

31. There were now 110 States parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and 70 States parties to that same Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

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In 1980 Ethiopia, Grenada, Malawi, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Peru and the United States of America had ratified the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, bringing the number of States parties to 68. It was to be hoped that other States, including some of the main producers, would ratify that Convention.

32. In the area of training and research, the Laboratory of the Division of Narcotic Drugs was continuing to train scientists from developing countries in methods for the identification and analysis of drugs and to provide the laboratories of those countries with technical advice and chemical samples, equipment and reference materials.

33. In the summer of 1980 the Secretariat had continued its efforts to co-ordinate international drug control matters and, to that end, had held a meeting in Vienna with the active participation of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned. Integrated international effort in that field was essential not only for the sake of economy but also to increase the credibility and potential success of the efforts of the United Nations. The strict application of the relevant international agreements constituted the legal framework upon which a more effective structure of collaboration could be erected. However, there could be no expansion of international activities with the limited human and financial resources currently available, in contrast to the steadily expanding incidence of drug abuse and its negative consequences.

34. Only national decision-makers could meaningfully address themselves to the correction of that discrepancy. Indeed, in view of current efforts to establish a new international economic order, it would seem timely to underline the fact that drug abuse had an inimical impact on the universal goals of more rapid economic development, social progress and global equality.

35. He noted that the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control was continuing its policy of concentrating its resources on country-oriented programmes. To reduce the supply of narcotics, a multi-sectoral integrated rural development approach must be used. The Fund had financed three multi-sectoral pilot projects in Pakistan, Burma and Thailand which had demonstrated the viability of such an approach and which, as a result, would be expanded in each of those countries. Similarly, the Fund had continued to support the international control of opium production in Turkey and would provide further support to assist the Turkish Government in the new problem of narcotics being transmitted through Turkey.

36. The Fund would continue to emphasize its operations in the opium-producing countries. However, in recognition of the acute problem of coca production and trafficking in Latin America, the Executive Director of the Fund had recently undertaken an extensive fact-finding mission to that continent and the Fund had signed agreements with several Latin American Governments to finance activities in the region. Such activities complemented bilateral programmes in Latin America and served to emphasize the Fund's policy of working closely with nations which were developing integrated approaches to the narcotics control problem.

(Dr. Ling)

37. The Fund was entirely dependent upon voluntary contributions. For the following year, the fund-raising target was \$9-\$10 million, and the responses from countries to that effort would determine the nature and size of the programme for 1982. In that context, the moral and financial support of all nations was very much needed.

38. Mr. LISTER (Director, Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination), referring to General Assembly resolution 34/173, which had requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations agencies and bodies concerned, especially the World Health Organization, to assist Governments in exchanging information on hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceutical products that had been banned in their territories, expressed his satisfaction with the progress that had been made in that connexion. The resolution had also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, about the experience of Member States and the United Nations agencies and bodies concerned.

39. In order to prepare the report, it had been necessary to consult Governments and various organizations of the United Nations system. To that end, a note verbale had been sent to Governments, to which 18 replies had been received so far. A reminder had also been sent recently, and it was hoped that other Governments would be sending the information requested in the near future. In addition, a letter had been sent to the various agencies and organizations concerned with the question asking them to make available the necessary information on the existing facilities for the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceutical products, as well as an assessment of the effectiveness of such facilities.

40. The following organizations had been involved in the exercise: the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Centre for Transnational Corporations and the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs. The preparation of the report had been co-ordinated by the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

41. Although the question had been included in the agenda of the first session of 1980, of the Economic and Social Council, it had become clear that a report that was fully responsive to the complex goals of the resolution could not be prepared in such a short time. As a result, the Council had decided to postpone the requirement for the report until its first session of 1981. Preparation of the report was scheduled to be completed by the end of January 1981, in good time for its submission to the Council in the spring of 1981.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.