

fied maritime personnel needed to help them in the acquisition and effective operation of fleets of suitable tonnage and in the equipment of ports and shipyards. Consequently IMCO had placed modern training schemes in the developing countries at the top of its priorities. It had already helped to establish maritime institutes in a number of countries and had provided technical assistance for regional institutes set up by groups of countries (Arab countries, West and Central African French-speaking countries and East African English-speaking countries, for example). The organization would continue to support those regional activities with the help of UNDP and of a number of developed maritime countries (Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden). He also drew attention to a seminar on safety and the prevention of pollution organized by Japan and a seminar on maritime training organized by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

45. IMCO was anxious to play its rightful role among the agencies of the United Nations and continued to participate in the co-ordinating mechanism of the United Nations system and to co-ordinate its activities with those of the other organizations in order to strengthen the effectiveness of its own programme and to pro-

mote the greatest possible benefit to Governments. In particular, it had maintained co-operation with UNEP, UNCTAD and ILO and had established new arrangements with UNIDO, UNHCR and the regional commissions. It continued to participate actively in ACC and in the co-ordinating machinery established under the auspices of ACC and the Economic and Social Council. In its own specialized field, IMCO's efforts should be part of the global effort of the United Nations system to improve the economic and social conditions of all countries. To that end IMCO had rededicated itself to two specific objectives: promoting world maritime co-operation; and providing all necessary technical assistance for the developing countries to help them in building up appropriate merchant fleets.

46. The PRESIDENT, replying to questions from the representatives of the United States of America and the Syrian Arab Republic, said that the Secretariat would shortly be issuing a document setting out the state of distribution of documents. The closure of the list of speakers for the general debate had been deferred until certain delegations were in a position to indicate the date on which they wished to speak.

*The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.*

## 21st meeting

Thursday, 5 July 1979, at 3.25 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Hugo SCHELTEMA (Netherlands).

E/1979/SR.21

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### **General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)**

1. Mr. DAVIES (Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization) said that in response to the request made by the Council in resolution 1978/45, he was now submitting his report on the World Climate Programme (E/1979/84). The World Climate Conference organized by WMO earlier in the year had been attended not only by climatologists but also by economists, agriculturists, water resources experts, town planners, doctors and environmentalists. The Conference's conclusions were embodied in a Declaration, which was reproduced in appendix A to the report. The Declaration constituted an authoritative review of present knowledge of climate and related subjects, and in particular emphasized the concern now felt as to the possibility of variations in climate caused by man's activities, notably increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which might result in a heating of the atmosphere and the effects of certain pollutants (particularly the chlorofluoromethanes) on the ozone in the stratosphere. The Declaration, together with the other findings of the Conference, had been submitted to the recent World Meteorological Congress and had been taken into account in the preparation of the World Climate Programme.

2. All four component programmes of the Programme took account of the Council's wish that prompt and effective assistance should be given to national planners

and decision makers. The Climate Application Programme and the Climate Impact Study Programme were directly related to that aim, while the Climate Research Programme and the Climate Data Programme were somewhat less directly so. The Council had urged that all appropriate organizations and programmes within the United Nations system should co-operate as fully as possible with WMO in planning and implementing the Programme, and the WMO Congress in its resolution establishing the Programme (resolution 29 (Cg-VIII)) had specifically invited the collaboration of such bodies as FAO, IFAD, UNESCO, UNEP and WHO and also of non-governmental bodies such as the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis and the International Council of Scientific Unions.

3. While WMO would take the lead in guiding and co-ordinating the Programme, other international bodies would need to play their full part, and a great effort would also be needed at the national level in organizing observational procedures, field programmes, monitoring systems and research studies. It was encouraging to note that discussions were already under way with certain United Nations bodies with a view to launching specific projects and activities.

4. WMO, in conjunction with the International Council of Scientific Unions, had been engaged for some years on the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. Under that Programme, a global weather experiment was currently taking place which involved some five geostationary meteorological satellites, several polar-orbiting satellites, some 50 scientific research ships and some 300 automatic stations on floating buoys, together

with observations by aircraft and high-level balloons. The experiment represented an unprecedented example of international scientific co-operation, and the data it acquired would be of great value as a contribution to the research component of the World Climate Programme.

5. In view of the relevance of so many features of the World Climate Programme to the issues before the Council, notably in fields such as food, water, energy, health and the environment, WMO would welcome its continued support.

6. Mr. SAOUMA (Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the following week FAO was to be host to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Among the complex issues the Conference was to tackle were the problem of how reforms in agrarian and rural development were to be achieved in a politically and socially acceptable manner and without diminishing productive efficiency or hampering growth, the problem of how migration from rural areas was to be halted and the problem of how the pattern of migration could be adapted to changing socio-economic opportunities in both rural and urban areas. Other questions to be dealt with would be how advances made in science and technology could be brought to bear on rural development; how a proper balance could be secured between environment resources and population; how the modern inputs and services needed to improve agricultural production could best be delivered and distributed; how labour-intensive technology could best be introduced to the rural areas to relieve unemployment and landlessness; how demands for high productivity could be combined with the need to expand employment; how to design monitoring systems so as to ensure that projects intended to help the rural poor actually reached their target; how to gain acceptance by small farmers and the landless of programmes designed for their benefit; and finally, how to secure the active involvement of rural people in the development process.

7. The Conference was expected to adopt a Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action. He suggested that the report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development might be transmitted to the General Assembly at the same time as the report of the FAO Conference, which would be meeting from 10 to 29 November 1979. In the mean time, the findings of the World Conference could be made available informally to the Preparatory Committee on the New International Development Strategy and to the World Food Council at its session in September.

8. He was confident that the World Conference would be able to make a major contribution to the work of the United Nations system, notably to the formulation of a new international development strategy. He did not propose the creation of any new mechanism to assist in the implementation of the programme of action. That was not only in order to avoid unnecessary costs, but because all aspects of agrarian reform and rural development could be accommodated within the terms of reference of FAO and other members of the United Nations system.

9. FAO was contributing to the best of its ability to the work now under way to formulate a new international development strategy. The major study on which it was engaged, entitled "Agriculture: Towards 2000", had been conceived from the start as an input to the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade. An initial summary of the

findings of the study had been made available to the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy at its recent session, and a full report would be considered by the FAO Conference in November.

10. It was vital that full attention should be given to agriculture in the new strategy. Agriculture not only produced food, but was also the main generator of employment and economic activity in rural areas, as well as a major source of export earnings for many nations. Its relationship with industry was generally one of complementarity and interdependence rather than of competition. Experience had shown that failure to give due attention to the problems of agriculture could prejudice a country's entire development effort.

11. The recent session of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 had been devoted almost entirely to questions of food and agriculture. He had been particularly grateful for the Committee's support on the question of world food security. One subject of interest which had been dealt with by the Committee was the development of fisheries in exclusive economic zones. Recent changes in the régime governing the sea had meant that the vast majority of the world's fishery resources were now within the jurisdiction of coastal States, a development likely to have far-reaching effects on the pattern of fishing. FAO was launching a major programme to assist developing countries in the exploitation of their newly acquired fishery resources. The new fishery régime marked a small but significant advance towards the new international economic order, and it was appropriate that FAO was working with the United Nations on several aspects of the question. He was grateful for the support provided by UNDP and by the Centre for Transnational Corporations in that connexion.

12. World food security presented a less favourable picture. Until February 1979 there had been hopes that many of the general ideas embodied in the FAO International Undertaking on World Food Security would be translated into practice through a new International Grains Arrangement containing legally binding provisions for the accumulation of stocks in times of plenty and their release in times of shortage, thus making it possible, in combination with special assistance for developed countries and a new food aid convention, to stabilize international markets in a vital commodity. Those hopes had been dashed by the breaking up of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities. Since a resumption of negotiations in the near future was unlikely, he had put forward as an interim measure a five-point plan for world food security, which had been welcomed by the General Assembly's Committee of the Whole, endorsed by the FAO Committee on World Food Security and adopted by the FAO Council. It would be submitted to the FAO Conference in November. The five points were: the adoption of food grain stock policies by all Governments subscribing to the International Undertaking; agreement on criteria for the management and release of national stocks held in pursuance of the Undertaking; special measures to assist low-income food-deficit countries to meet current import requirements and emergency needs; special arrangements for food security assistance to developing countries; and promotion of collective self-reliance by developing countries in the food security sector.

13. The need for action had recently been underlined by continuing bad news about cereals prospects for

1979. FAO expected wheat and coarse grains production to drop by 6 per cent below the 1978 level. Although there were substantial global stocks to meet the gap between expected production and consumption in 1979, they were mainly concentrated in North America, and the limitations of transport capacity could restrict the extent to which they could enter world trade in the coming season. The recent upsurge in prices reflected those logistic problems rather than an actual shortage of world supplies such as had developed in the 1973-1974 crisis. Donor countries must take steps not merely to maintain their food aid in physical terms but even to increase it—at least in favour of the most seriously affected developing countries. A particular effort was called for on the part of the exporters who would benefit from increased prices in international trade, and the potential impact of such increases would have to be taken into account when assessing the balance-of-payments difficulties of developing country importers. He would be following the situation closely and would be ready to invoke the consultative provisions in his Plan of Action on World Food Security if the situation showed signs of serious deterioration. He had also invited the Managing Director of IMF to investigate the possibility of providing additional balance-of-payments support to developing countries faced with that type of problem.

14. Turning to specific shortage situations, he said that the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System reported no fewer than 28 developing countries as facing existing or potential difficulties. A particularly difficult period lay ahead of southern Africa, where political problems were compounding the effects of drought and where the limiting factor in some cases was the capacity of the transport system rather than the availability of food from external sources. As regards Democratic Kampuchea, because of the complex political situation, no official information on present conditions was available, but unofficial information indicated that it was the one country in the world at present facing famine. The 1978 rice harvest had been affected by floods, and the subsequent fighting had not only disrupted harvesting but had led to the large-scale destruction of stocks. It was unlikely that the population had enough staple food to last out until the harvest at the end of 1979. It was indeed extremely doubtful whether rice was being planted on anything like the scale needed to produce a significant crop in a few months' time. He appealed once again to Governments to put aside political considerations and launch a strictly humanitarian operation for Democratic Kampuchea, and also for the displaced persons in South-East Asia, including the "boat people" from Viet Nam. There could be no development without survival and it was survival that was at that very moment at stake for hundreds of thousands of people.

15. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that it was appropriate for the Council to take stock of the assessments of current economic problems that had emerged from recent important conferences: the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the ministerial meetings of IAEA and OECD; the meetings of the Council of Europe and of the OPEC oil ministers; and the summit meeting of industrialized Powers at Tokyo.

16. The reality of the energy problem was beginning to sink in. The importance of the part the United Nations had to play in grappling with that problem was illustrated by the Council's resolution 1978/61 on the holding of an international conference on new and

renewable sources of energy. His delegation was willing to consider sympathetically all proposals aiming at a consensus on methods for dealing with the energy problem, including in particular those put forward by the President of Mexico. The United Kingdom was a major energy producer—of coal, natural gas and nuclear energy—and, as well, a significant exporter of oil, but its fortunate position had intensified rather than diminished its concern about the world energy situation. It was in no-one's interest that the energy situation should create anxiety about the future of the world economy. Sharing the sense of urgency about the need to conserve existing energy resources and develop alternative ones, his Government had adopted goals for limiting its oil imports in 1985, which would enable it to monitor progress in both those fields. The Tokyo communiqué recorded the intention of the participants in the summit meeting to place special emphasis on helping developing countries to exploit their energy potential and expressed strong support for the World Bank's hydrocarbon exploitation programme, and for its co-ordination of help for the developing countries in increasing their use of renewable sources of energy.

17. Economic and social development were inseparable; past experience had shown the importance of social considerations in making policy choices, while current preparations for a new international development strategy were bound to focus upon the objectives of development, which had of necessity to be defined in social as well as economic terms. The Commission for Social Development in response to an invitation from the General Assembly, had furnished its views on the content of the strategy directly to the Preparatory Committee.<sup>1</sup> The document incorporating them was of great value because of its practical, down-to-earth tone, its firm basis in experience and the commitment of its authors. It also emphasized that there was no necessary conflict between the pursuit of social objectives and of economic objectives; the task was to find the most judicious blend of the two. Economic growth was of course essential since resources could be allocated between different objectives only if they were available, but it was not all. He regretted that the Council had abandoned its earlier practice of considering economic and social issues simultaneously at its summer session. The separation was artificial and compounded the division of labour existing between the Second and the Third Committees of the General Assembly. There would, however, be an opportunity to avoid excessive compartmentalization by ensuring that the items on the provisional agenda of the General Assembly dealing respectively with the World Social Situation and the Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development were treated in a manner which reflected their interdependence with economic issues. The Council could show the way to such an approach.

18. He was very glad that the Secretary-General had been able to put forward his proposals for the better functioning of the General Assembly in time for them to be considered at the current session of the Council, and he had followed with great interest the informal conversations which had preceded them. The technicalities associated with the preparation and management of meetings might, at first sight, seem not to merit the time spent on them. Efficiency, however, was not to be pursued for its own sake, but for the sake of effectiveness. The contribution which consultation had made to the

<sup>1</sup>See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 4 (E/1979/24)*, chap. II, decision XIII.

tackling of common problems, not least in the avoidance of measures which, taken in one country, could damage others had not been adequately recognized. In the 1970s, by contrast with the 1930s, the fabric of international consultation had been maintained with remarkable success, and it would be needed even more in the 1980s. Apart from the quality of individual considerations, the outcome of meetings depended on the way they were organized. Key factors included choosing good chairmen and backing them up, avoiding overcrowded calendars and making adequate preparation within delegations and within the Secretariat. It should not be assumed that delegations were automatically on different sides of the table. What was needed was not more meetings but better management and a better focus on what had to be done.

19. There was no current development of greater humanitarian or political importance than the tragic plight of the Vietnamese "boat people". The worldwide significance of the problem had led the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to call for an international conference on the subject. His delegation therefore welcomed the meeting convened by the Secretary-General for 20 and 21 July 1979 to deal with the humanitarian aspect of the problem. The urgent provision of relief, however, was not enough. The international community must, as a matter of urgency, find means of considering the cause of the misery and fear which was forcing people to flee from their country. Viet Nam had an explicit responsibility to conduct its affairs in a way that did not condemn part of its own population to such suffering as the world was now witnessing. The world must remind Viet Nam of that responsibility.

20. Looking forward to the 1980s from the standpoint of the last regular session of the Council in the current decade, he was not pessimistic about the machinery available for tackling problems facing the United Nations, and there could be no doubt about the calibre of the participants in its meetings. He did, however, believe that neither intellectual nor organizational resources were being applied as effectively as they might be. While it would be vain to hope that all problems could be solved by taking thought together in well-run meetings, it was possible to have confidence that at least the right direction towards the solution of the problems had been taken.

21. Mr. LA ROCCA (Italy) welcomed the decision to convene a United Nations conference on the problem of refugees from Viet Nam, which was causing great concern among the Italian public. The Italian authorities were prepared to take what action they could with a view to alleviating the sufferings of those struggling for survival.

22. The difficulties created by the trend towards recession, low rates of growth, unemployment, underemployment and high inflation had confirmed the high degree of interdependence of national economies and the interconnexion of problems. Temporary measures were not likely to accelerate the development of developing countries; comprehensive structural adjustments could be postponed no longer. His Government shared the commitment to build gradually a new and more just international economic order. Although current difficulties could not be ignored, the commitment to pursue a policy of co-operation with developing countries, in particular through the achievement of structural reforms and a new division of labour and production, should not be renounced.

23. A comprehensive and balanced set of policy measures should be drawn up to combat inflation without creating the conditions for recession. Intolerably high levels of unemployment in most industrialized countries were creating social unrest, hindering structural readjustment of production systems and obliging Governments to adopt protectionist measures. Slow growth rates prevented industrialized countries from substantially expanding their imports and developing countries from increasing their export earnings; they had not been sufficient to increase significantly the resources available to industrialized countries for transfer to developing countries.

24. The energy situation might seriously endanger the world economy unless concerted policies were adopted by oil producers and consumers. There was an urgent need to restore equilibrium in world oil markets and foster conservation efforts by consumer countries, in order to prevent increased oil import costs from generating higher inflation, less growth and more unemployment. The results of the meeting held recently at Tokyo were most encouraging, for they demonstrated that the seven participating countries intended to adopt a constructive and responsible approach to the problem. It was to be hoped that all other parties concerned would follow suit.

25. In the monetary field, the persistence of large current-account payment deficits, particularly in developing countries, was a consequence of the deterioration in the terms of trade of some of those countries, stagnation in some industrialized economies and an increase in the indebtedness of developing countries. Furthermore, unpredictable currency fluctuations had tended to destabilize the international price system, rendering difficult the predictions necessary for effective international economic operations.

26. Some progress had been made in the field of international trade; several important agreements had been concluded which had resulted in lowering tariff and non-tariff barriers. It was to be hoped that those achievements would form the basis for further action by the international community in its efforts to improve trade relations as a means for economic growth and development.

27. Italy, whose productive structure was highly integrated into the world economy, was very dependent on the international economic environment. On the one hand, the situation of the national currency had improved substantially over recent months, total industrial production had increased and the balance-of-payments situation was satisfactory; on the other hand, there continued to be a high level of unemployment, the annual rate of inflation might well increase, and higher oil prices together with the current restrictions on oil supplies were having an adverse effect on the economy. Those difficulties would certainly not be used by his Government as a pretext to avoid committing itself to the reform of international economic relations; rather, they should be considered as a further stimulus for endeavours to solve international economic problems and promote the development of the developing countries. The common basic goal was to improve the living standards of millions of people throughout the world. Health, nutrition, education, human settlements, the natural environment, the least developed countries and the neediest sectors of the world population should all be given closer attention by the international community.

28. Italy was currently implementing co-operative programmes with several countries in the fields of agriculture, industry and services. Technical assistance was being provided by Italian experts working in developing countries, and training courses in various fields were being organized in Italy for personnel from those countries. A Department for Development Co-operation had recently been created in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by a new law, which also made provision for increasing the volume and improving the quality of Italy's co-operation with developing countries. Pursuant to Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), a decision had recently been taken to cancel the debts of ten least developed countries, to an amount of approximately \$US 23 million.

29. In the monetary field, his Government's decision to participate in the European Monetary System was to be viewed in the light of a more general desire to contribute to a broader stabilization of exchange rates and further improvement of the world monetary system. Since monetary problems were inextricably linked with development problems, a thorough analysis of the present system's inadequacies and the consequent need for reform must be an integral part of the continuing dialogue between industrialized and developing countries. His Government had noted with satisfaction the positive outcome of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities; he stressed the urgent need to conclude the individual commodity agreements envisaged as complementary to the creation of the Fund.

30. Although the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had not produced spectacular results, valuable progress had been made in specific areas such as the situation of the least developed countries, economic co-operation among developing countries and protectionism. The fruitful dialogue which had taken place at Manila should be pursued, particularly in the context of preparations for the new international development strategy. That was a challenging task; in particular, the limitations of the world economic system would have to be reconciled with the role of the strategy as a stimulus to promote faster development by the developing countries. An essential condition for the preparation of the strategy was the achievement of common understanding regarding its main goals, and his delegation believed that the elements for a basic agreement in that respect already existed. Once discussions were resumed in a climate of mutual trust, he was sure that the differences of views underlying the meagre results achieved at the last preparatory session would no longer delay formulation of the strategy. A realistic approach would be required in order to draw up a set of guidelines for action by both developed and developing countries, and a degree of flexibility should also be built into the strategy in order to ensure its adaptability to future changes in the international economic environment.

31. The dialogue should cover all aspects of international economic co-operation. Energy had thus far been excluded from the global dialogue, but the energy challenge called for a common response in which consumer and producer countries, both developed and developing, would have to be associated. All possible efforts would be required to ensure the maintenance of an adequate rate of economic development and growth through the availability of adequate energy resources; very probably, production and consumption patterns would have to be readjusted to a new situation of scarce supply. Consequently, it would be necessary to consider

alternative energy sources, undertake conservation measures and improve and increase energy research and development. Those tasks should be tackled not only at the national level but also in the framework of international co-operation, taking into account the interests and needs of all countries in full respect of the sovereign rights of each State. The United Nations was well suited for the purpose, and his Government, which had already endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal to establish an institute for energy within the United Nations system, was willing to participate in constructive consultations with a view to providing a suitable follow-up to the proposal. In that context, the forthcoming United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy took on particular importance.

32. His delegation, like others, was somewhat concerned about the future of the Economic and Social Council. General Assembly resolution 32/197 ought to have provided a good basis for strengthening the functions of the Council, but it had not yet been rendered truly effective as the main co-ordinating body of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields. It was to be hoped that concrete measures of reform could eventually be adopted which would allow the Council to organize its work in a more rational and constructive manner.

33. Finally, he wished to convey to the Council his Government's sense of commitment to the cause of international co-operation for development. Peace, stability, social progress and economic growth would depend, in large measure, on the establishment of such a system of co-operation, based on a relationship of equality and on recognition of the special contribution that each country could make to the common effort.

34. Mr. BI JILONG (Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development) said that serious consideration was being given to the internal re-organization of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in the light of the requirements of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as set out in, *inter alia*, General Assembly resolution 32/197. It was his hope that the process would be completed in the very near future.

35. Recent developments at the national and international levels highlighted the importance of the concept of equity, both within and among nations. The developing countries were naturally anxious to achieve individual and collective self-reliance, but their success would, to a certain extent, depend on the international economic situation. The new international development strategy must therefore concern itself with action at both the national and the international levels with a view to bringing about a real increase in the flow of resources to developing countries, strengthening national sovereignty over natural resources and securing broader participation by the developing countries in decision-making on international issues. At another level, the national development of developing countries, in both over-all and sectoral terms, would need to figure prominently in the strategy.

36. Technical co-operation, which was concerned with all aspects of national development and international collaboration, was a major means of strengthening developing countries' individual and collective self-reliance and enhancing their capacity for development. However, realization of the full potential of technical co-operation depended upon a number of factors. In the first place, developing countries' technical co-operation requirements far exceeded the available bilateral and

multilateral resources. A major aim of the new strategy should therefore be to secure a substantial increase in such resources, and the international community must renew its commitment to technical co-operation as a major element of the programme of action for the third United Nations development decade. In the second place, the planning and programming of technical co-operation activities needed to be revised in order to ensure integration with national development planning and country programming. Most resources should be allocated to country projects, but there was also a need to increase those made available for inter-country and global programmes. Scarcity of resources was one of the reasons for which technical co-operation among developing countries had not become a major activity as recommended by the 1978 United Nations Conference on the subject, and the opportunities for such co-operation would remain limited unless substantially larger resources were forthcoming from the international community.

37. In the past technical co-operation activities had sometimes been hampered by scarcity of resources. Greater efforts were required to disseminate information on international measures to the developing countries, to formulate appropriate action programmes for realizing those measures, to make them part of the national decision-making process and to help developing countries to introduce the institutional changes necessary in order to make maximum use of United Nations technical co-operation. The international community should also develop more acceptable forms of technical co-operation, including technical co-operation among developing countries and greater collaboration between headquarters and the regional commissions. Furthermore, since most economic and social development problems rapidly assumed global dimensions, global strategies were needed in order to make the solution of such problems possible at the national level. Finally, developing countries wished to see the mere transfer of technology replaced by co-operation to develop technology particularly suited to their circumstances. All those activities would require not only additional resources at the global level but some flexibility in their use to allow for experimentation, in order to give the new international development strategy a better chance of success than its predecessors.

38. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, as the operating arm of the Secretariat for technical co-operation, was responsible for development planning, public administration and finance, natural resources and energy, which were all of importance for the establishment of the new international economic order and the formulation of the new international development strategy. In a recent statement to the Preparatory Committee, he had indicated certain points, in addition to those to which he had just referred, which should receive consideration. They were that the United Nations should take further measures to help developing countries to explore and develop their natural resources; that urgent measures were required to develop alternative sources of energy; that the international community should pay special attention to the application of science and technology for development; and that the United Nations should assist developing countries, at their request, in formulating and implementing alternative models of development.

39. His Department had convened a number of meetings on major issues, including water resources development and management, technological options and national development, natural resources and public ad-

ministration and finance. It would submit recommendations based on the results of those meetings to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, to the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and to future sessions of the Council.

40. The most recent report of the Secretary-General on the role of the public sector in the economic development of developing countries (E/1979/66) was before the Council. The importance of the public sector was currently universally recognized and it was perhaps time to consider reducing the frequency of such reviews to once every two or three years and to concentrate on the critical issues concerning the role of the sector identified in the report.

41. He would speak on his Department's activities in other areas under the appropriate agenda items.

42. Mr. HELOU (International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians) said that it was clear from the reports on the various regions and on the world economy as a whole that there was no immediate prospect of economic activity picking up and that growth rates, particularly in the non-oil-exporting developing countries, would continue to be unsatisfactory. It was not difficult to visualize behind those predictions the hunger and destitution which would inevitably afflict the poorest and the weakest, but which would finally have terrible repercussions on the richest and strongest, in spite of the best efforts of Governments and international institutions to remedy the situation.

43. The members of his association felt that their role was to offer a constant reminder that the international development strategy would never achieve its aim unless it was pursued on the moral as well as the technical level—in other words it could be effective only if it was a work of solidarity and generosity. Cultural values could not be dissociated from basic physical needs, and the solution of economic problems could not be only a matter of mathematical calculation, since it presupposed a sense of interdependence and a desire to co-operate at both the national and the international level. Economics was also politics, the politics of *détente*, peace, and above all justice, for peace was the work of justice. Only such a policy could substitute understanding for confrontation and make it possible to devote to development an increasing proportion of the resources allocated to armaments. When, three years previously, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had received the members of the Association in New York, he had urged them to remain in contact with the United Nations on their return home and to help it to build a peaceful, just and happy world. The members, scattered over five continents and belonging both to developed and developing countries, had already responded to that appeal by lending their support to all forms of international co-operation.

44. Over recent years, the Bretton Woods system had crumbled away under the impact of inflation accompanied by sudden movements of capital and violent fluctuations in the terms of trade. It was not an established order which had been upset so much as an established disorder, compounded of anomalies and injustices which made it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for two thirds of mankind to exist. The measures already undertaken in various parts of the world by organizations at all levels should certainly be pursued, but something at once more courageous, more complex and more consistent was required—creative action to establish a new order.

45. One aspect directly linked with the aims of his Association was education. From the days of the earliest economists, there had been agreement that investment in human resources gave very high returns. However, it should not merely aim at turning out technically qualified workers but also members of the body politic able to translate the visions of their leaders into reality, to discern behind the slogans and figures the true nature of development and to distinguish genuine development aid from the various types of exploitation. At the same time, education must dispel the old myths and prejudices. For the first time, the international community had perceived in practice that the welfare of each of its

members really depended on the welfare of all and that interdependence was a synonym for both enlightened self-interest and altruism. The members of his Association hoped to go further and enquire why, when scientific progress had moved so fast over recent decades, mutual understanding and respect had grown so slowly in the international community. That, however, was what was required in dealing with economic and social problems, and the members of the international community must forge the new tomorrow together.

*The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.*

## 22nd meeting

Friday, 6 July 1979, at 11 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Hugo SCHELTEMA (Netherlands).

E/1979/SR.22

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### **General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)**

1. Mr. RUZEK (Observer for Czechoslovakia) said that the improvement in the political situation in Europe since the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe was favourable to the general development of international co-operation, which should in turn make it possible to overcome obstacles to the development of the world economy such as inflation, the slow-down in economic growth, the trend towards protectionism and the deteriorating economic and monetary situation in many countries. The gap between the stages of development of the various countries was steadily widening, however, and increasing the developing countries' dependence on the indebtedness to the developed ones. As shown by the results of the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the negotiations on the common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the GATT multilateral trade negotiations, the development problems of those countries had not yet been satisfactorily solved because a solution had been sought within the framework of existing structures, which were advantageous to the developed market-economy countries.

2. The socialist countries were in no way concerned with the preservation of that system. On the contrary, the stabilizing effect of their economic policy encouraged changes in the structure of international economic relations. In that connexion, they could not agree that the concept of interdependence should be interpreted as a mutual and symmetrical dependence between developed and developing countries. The interdependence brought about by the capitalist system was, on the contrary, an asymmetrical one characterized by numerous forms of dependence of the developing countries on the industrial centres of the capitalist world.

3. The establishment of a new international economic order should be more squarely based on the conclusions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly so as to provide for equitable participation of

the developing countries in a new international economic system that was both democratic and universal. The liberalization of international trade and other economic ties could not in itself insert into the existing system the basic democratic principles inseparable from the national rights of all countries as set forth in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

4. When the new international development strategy was being defined, account would have to be taken of the desire of the broad masses of the people in the developing countries to participate in planning, industrialization, agricultural development and social and economic reforms. Emphasis should be placed on the importance of a strong State sector, uniform planning, national sovereignty over national resources, the training of national personnel and the control of foreign investment. The new strategy should be global and should reflect the correlation between external and internal conditions of development. Indeed, the industrialization of the developing countries, which should play an essential role in the new strategy, was dependent upon such external factors as foreign trade, the granting of financial assistance, the transfer of technology and mutual economic co-operation.

5. Referring to General Assembly resolution 33/193 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/25, he stressed that it was indispensable to eliminate all forms of colonial and neo-colonial exploitation of the developing countries by transnational corporations. The establishment of a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities should form an integral part of the new strategy. He regretted, however, that resolution 33/193 did not take sufficiently into account the results of the special session on disarmament or the studies devoted to the relationship between disarmament and economic development. The Lima Declaration and Plan of Action should also be implemented, and the economic prospects up to the end of the century should be borne in mind when preparing the strategy for the 1980s.

6. Furthermore, there should be an end to the tendency to classify the developed capitalist countries and