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Agenda item 4:

Development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole:

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President: Mr. M. MIR KHAN (Pakistan).

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Venezuela.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole

(a) General review (E/2931, E/2953, E/2967, E/2973 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, and Add.2, E/2974 and Add.1, E/2975, E/2980 and Add.1, E/2993, E/2994, E/3007 and Add.1, E/3011 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2, E/3017, E/3024/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1)

1. The PRESIDENT, opening the discussion on item 4 of the agenda, said that it gave the Council an opportunity of reviewing in broad outline the programmes in the economic and social fields of the United Nations family as a whole, and of continuing the study of means to ensure that available international resources were utilized to the best effect. To assist it in carrying out that task, the Council had before it the annual reports of the specialized agencies and two reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) (E/2931, E/2993), which had held two sessions since the previous summer.

The annual reports of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (E/2944 and Add.1) and the International Monetary Fund (E/2945 and Add.1), as well as the reports of the regional economic commissions (E/2959, E/2989, E/2998) and some of the functional commissions, should also be regarded as background material. In addition, the Council must bear in mind resolution 1094 (XI) adopted by the General Assembly at its eleventh session.

2. He also drew attention to the Secretary-General's memorandum, "An International Administrative Service" (E/3017), prepared at the Council's request for the present session, which the Council had decided at its 972nd meeting to consider under item 4 of the agenda, and to the report entitled Observations on the work programme of the Council and on the financial implications of the Council's actions, submitted by the Secretary-General (E/3011 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2), which had already been considered in detail by the Co-ordination Committee during meetings held before the opening of the session in accordance with the terms of Council resolution 630 A I (XXII). The Co-ordination Committee had already transmitted, in parts I and II of its report (E/3024/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1), its recommendations on the sections of the Secretary-General's report dealing with activities in the social, human rights and economic fields, and with the financial implications of the Council's actions. The Committee would report further after it had considered those sections of the specialized agencies' reports which dealt with the concentration of activities in the above-mentioned fields. The Council would therefore take no action on the Committee's recommendations until it had received the latter's full report and any relevant observations from its other committees.

3. Once the Council had completed its general discussion of item 4, it would refer to the Co-ordination Committee any matters of detail, including the financial implications of the Council's action under item 16.

4. The SECRETARY-GENERAL expressed his pleasure at the presence of so many of the executive heads of specialized agencies, who would shortly be addressing the Council on the achievements, plans and possibly problems of their respective organizations. He would accordingly speak of the United Nations itself, and since a considerable part of its activities had been reviewed in his note (E/3011), he proposed to concentrate on a few matters which, he believed, deserved special attention at the present time. He would also comment briefly on the major activities and pre-occupations of ACC.

5. In accordance with the terms of resolution 630 A I (XXII), much attention had been given during the past

year to the exercise known as "streamlining". The response of the Council's subsidiary bodies to that resolution, together with his own report, had been fully and usefully debated in the Co-ordination Committee, and he was encouraged to think that the process of consultation on the organization of the different programmes had led to fuller understanding and agreement between intergovernmental bodies and the Secretariat.

6. One question relating to the organization of work, but falling outside the streamlining operation, about which he had been asked to report at the present session, was the posting of social affairs staff and of personnel of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) from Headquarters to the offices of the regional economic commissions. In his brief paper (E/3013), he had expressed the opinion that the experience gained at Bangkok, Santiago de Chile, and Beirut during the past two years had demonstrated the value of the posting of social affairs staff. The establishment of regional social affairs units had already improved the quality of information for such basic documents as the *Report on the World Social Situation* (E/CN.5/324/Rev.1) and the *Report on Concepts and Principles of Community Development* (E/CN.5/325 and Corr.1), had assisted in the integration of social and economic development work at the regional level, and had made it possible to do more with the resources available for technical assistance in the social field.

7. He had not submitted a written report on the experimental posting of certain members of the TAA staff from Headquarters to Santiago de Chile and Mexico City, begun just over a year ago in an effort to establish closer direct contacts with the governments of the Latin American countries and to enable more effective use to be made of the knowledge and experience acquired by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). Although the experiment had not been in operation long enough to allow of a final appraisal, it had proved sufficiently successful to justify its continuation for a further trial period, and subject to any views that the Council might express he proposed to make a recommendation in that sense to the General Assembly.

8. The necessarily continuous task laid upon the United Nations and its specialized agencies under resolution 630 A I (XXII) was to ensure that the best use was made of resources in the execution of given assignments, and that effort was concentrated upon matters of first priority. That did not imply any reduction in, or even the stabilization of, the international programme as a whole. If resources could be saved in one domain they should be used to better advantage in another. If some work was stopped, the urgency and potential value of other work might justify a general expansion. The possibilities of useful international action had been extended, and judgment of how and where such action could be fruitful had been sharpened by many years of experience. Bearing in mind the primary objective — that of promoting the economic and social development of the under-developed countries — it might be asked whether some new emphases should now be introduced, or new activities initiated where there was a prospect of particularly productive results.

9. There could be little doubt about the answer to such questions if they were approached from the geographical angle. In his report to the eleventh session of the General Assembly, he had drawn attention to the growing challenge of Africa's needs, and the necessity to re-orientate work in order to meet that challenge. He had therefore warmly welcomed the General Assembly's decision enabling the Secretariat to extend its knowledge of the economic problems of that area and its contacts with national officials responsible for economic policy there. The Council would remember that at the tenth session of the General Assembly a similar decision had been taken with regard to the Middle East, and he had been asked by the Council to report at the present session on the plans made in pursuance of those two decisions. His report would be submitted to the Economic Committee, and on the present occasion he would mention only a few points of particular importance.

10. Both the United Nations and the specialized agencies had undertaken a good deal of exploratory work in Africa during the past year or two, but international action in that continent was still very much in its infancy, and it should be easier there than elsewhere to draw up a concerted plan, and to allocate tasks rationally among the various organizations. Indeed, the problems of Africa were of such a nature and so interdependent that concerted action was particularly necessary, and would be specially helpful if it took the form of assistance to governments in surveying and estimating their resources, and in developing transport, power and other basic sectors, as well as in formulating sound development policies in general, including programmes of community development, and for improving fiscal and public administration. The needs of Africa had been very much in his mind in drawing up the proposal for an international administrative service. He also attached importance to expanding training facilities for African administrators, and hoped under the technical assistance programme to arrange a number of in-service training fellowships during 1957 for junior economists in the public service in Africa. Co-operation between the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in child health and nutrition programmes in a number of African countries and territories were already giving encouraging results, both in respect of the children's welfare, and in the training of African staff.

11. The economic and social problems of the Middle East, although very different, were no less pressing, and numerous projects had been undertaken by various Members of the United Nations family to help to solve some of them. Among the United Nations' own projects, he should perhaps mention the study made of the industrialization problems of Egypt, Israel and Turkey which, it was hoped, would be completed during the coming year. He was bound, however, to emphasize the inadequacy of the available statistical and other information and of economic and social research in the area as a whole and the importance of filling gaps in knowledge, if development policies were to be drawn up on a sound basis. As in the case of Africa, the immediate task was to do everything possible to acquire better knowledge of the area.

12. Approaching the question of possible developments and shifts in the emphasis on work for the promotion of economic and social development from another angle, he said that the fundamental criteria must be the urgency of the needs of the under-developed countries, on the one hand, and the ability of the United Nations to make a really significant contribution within the limits of the resources likely to be available, on the other. During the past year, it had been felt that certain phases of the work done in three broad fields — transport, natural resources and public administration — had met those criteria. The need for improved and expanded transport facilities was of first importance not only in Africa but also in many other parts of the world, and the United Nations could help in many ways — for example, by studying general economic aspects of national or regional transport problems; by planning transport development; by encouraging topographical surveys and research into technological problems; by fostering exchanges and dissemination of information and skill; and by promoting training schemes for engineers and transport economists. Nor would its contribution have only a technical value, since it could do much to help to create those conditions, including organizational arrangements, which must be assured before external financing could be sought. Further, as the experience of the Economic Commission for Europe in particular had shown, the United Nations could often help to develop international co-operation in those cases where rational development of transport involved two or more countries.

13. Such considerations also applied to the problems of developing natural resources. Members would have noted the two reports of quite unusual interest on sources of energy as a means of economic development, submitted at the present session (E/2997, E/3005). In 1956, the Council — at its twenty-second session — had emphasized the importance of surveying resources and requirements as a condition of effective development in planning, and had requested him to approach governments on survey techniques. A report on the subject would be presented to the Council in 1959; in the meantime, the latter might wish to consider what further action the United Nations could usefully undertake in that field.

14. With regard to the work on water conservation and utilization begun some years previously, he hoped that the panel of experts on the economic, social and administrative aspects of integrated river-basin development, whose report would be circulated at the twenty-fifth session, would lay the foundations of a new and more important phase of action to promote the fuller use of the world's water resources. The Council had already been informed of the plan initiated by Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia for co-operation under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in the lower Mekong basin. Various other water problems, such as flood control, the development of hydrological observations, etc., were being dealt with by the United Nations and specialized agencies, and special mention should also be made of the major project of Research into the Problems of Arid Zones undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). He hoped that during the coming year it would be possible — with the help of

existing ACC machinery — to integrate those various activities a little more closely, and that the Council might decide on some extension of international action when it considered water resources at its twenty-fifth session. There could be no doubt that the first United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources, which the Council had decided ten years previously to convene, and which had met in 1949, had exercised a considerable long-term influence on the development of national policies.

15. In response to the Council's request, he had submitted specific proposals in document E/3017 concerning the third broad field: public administration. They were a diminished version of a suggestion he had put forward in general terms in 1956 (E/2894/Rev.1, A/3137/Add.1), diminished in order to dispel certain doubts expressed, and to keep down the financial commitments of the United Nations. He believed the plan now outlined retained its essential value to the under-developed countries. It was one which the United Nations seemed fitted to carry out. By creating an international service composed of experienced officials who would actually occupy responsible — though presumably not central policy-making — posts in national administrations, the Organization could greatly enhance the efficacy of its help to many of the governments in greatest need of it for tackling one of the most pressing and serious of their difficulties. The establishment of such a service should be accompanied by an intensification of the longer-term programmes, especially training programmes, to improve public administration. He hoped the Secretariat would have prepared some practical suggestions on training by the twenty-sixth session. He had set out what would appear to be the principal features of an international administrative service in his report, and had only a few supplementary observations to make.

16. First, he was aware, and would like the Council to bear in mind, that the establishment of such a service would not be easy, and that its success or failure was likely to depend on a number of factors, perhaps the most important of which would be the ability to secure the services of men with a rare combination of qualities and qualifications, including a good working knowledge of the language of the country in which they were to work. Questions of the relationship between the administrators and their national colleagues, and between them and regular technical assistance staff in the same country, would inevitably arise, and might sometimes prove troublesome, but he did not for one moment think they would prove insurmountable, or that they would seriously compromise the value of the plan. In any event, little would be lost — indeed, much would be gained — by an experimental approach of the kind he envisaged.

17. Secondly, while he had received encouragement from the executive heads of some of the specialized agencies, others had expressed reservations both about the need for the service and about its possible effect on the legitimate interests of their respective organizations. He had assured them that during the experimental stage he would limit the operation to fields within the normal competence of the United Nations itself, and hoped that they would be reassured on both counts. In the long run, their active co-operation would be essential if the

countries making use of the service were to derive full benefit from it.

18. He welcomed the unanimous recommendation by the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) that in future the Council should include on the agenda for its summer session a special item devoted to public administration. That step should be of general utility, and would in particular provide an opportunity for an annual review of the development of his present plan.

19. Turning to the work of ACC, he said that it had met at the beginning of the week, and had endorsed the report of the Technical Assistance Board to TAC. Preliminary consideration had been given to some inter-secretariat consultations on programme matters which had taken place during the Council's session. The draft agreements between UNESCO and two regional organizations, already transmitted to the Council in documents E/2986 and E/3019, had been reviewed in accordance with Council resolution 259 (IX), but ACC had not felt it necessary to comment on them. The members of ACC, together with other senior officials, had met informally the Secretaries-General of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation and the Council of Europe, as well as a representative of the President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community. The meeting, similar to that held at Geneva three years previously, had provided an opportunity for a useful exchange of information and views about the development of work of common interest. It was hoped to arrange an informal meeting of the same kind with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States during ACC's session in October.

20. ACC's report (E/2931) on its session held in October 1956 was a substantial document which directly reflected ACC's response to the Council's recommendation, made at its twenty-second session, that ACC should "continue and intensify its effort through inter-agency consultation to achieve co-ordination in the planning and execution of programmes" (resolution 630 A I (XXII), paragraph 6). Further practical steps had been taken to achieve a rational division of function, and to agree on methods of co-operation in various spheres of activity of interest to several organizations. More important still, detailed understanding had been reached on the concept and scope of community development, which ACC hoped would "assist the Council in defining the relationship of community development to economic and social development as a whole" (E/2931, paragraph 19). The agreement, which provided the basis for the Social Commission's recommendation on the long-range programme at present before the Council, had already been endorsed by the governing bodies of UNESCO and WHO. Similar action would be taken in the International Labour Organisation and FAO.

21. He hoped that ACC's report (E/2931) on its session held in October 1956 would go some way towards meeting the Council's request for more detailed reporting, and, in particular, for full information of discussions in the Committee or its Atomic Energy Sub-Committee, and of measures taken by them, for the co-ordination of activities concerning the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In that connexion, he referred to chapter III of document E/2931 and annexes I and II containing the memorandum

by the executive heads of the specialized agencies on relations between their organizations and the new International Atomic Energy Agency, and the statements about the existing activities in that field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Those documents had played their part in the elaboration of the Statute and the draft initial programme of the Agency, and the Council would note in particular the stress laid by the specialized agencies on his earlier recommendation that the Agency should co-operate in measures to ensure effective co-ordination of its activities with those of other United Nations organizations, and, more particularly, that it should participate in such bodies as ACC. He was glad that the principle of co-operation had been accepted by the Preparatory Commission. Its Executive Secretary had accepted the invitation to attend ACC's session in May. He earnestly hoped that such co-operation would develop rapidly in a manner satisfactory to all organizations as the permanent organs of the International Atomic Energy Agency were established and began operating.

22. At its session in October 1956, ACC had discussed the conditions of effective concerted action by the United Nations and the specialized agencies with regard to broad programmes of economic and social development, and a series of conclusions and recommendations had been formulated, the most important of which envisaged that "special action may be required to ensure that, before final decisions on a broad programme involving a major new initiative are taken by one organization, the governing bodies of other organizations directly concerned are consulted and afforded due opportunity to express their views" (E/2931, paragraph 31). ACC's views had in the meantime been brought to the attention of the governing bodies of the International Labour Office, WHO and UNESCO, and the resolutions and other texts adopted by those organs and reproduced in the reports before the Council called for consideration and decision. He was bound to welcome arrangements for consultation which, without impeding the prosecution of the work initiated by the Council, would ensure fuller participation in it by the specialized agencies' governing bodies, and bring about truly concerted action. A condition of success in that regard was obviously the will to co-operate at the secretariat level. In his view, the existing arrangements for programme consultation among the secretariats needed to be supplemented by more elaborate procedures for formal consultation with the governing bodies only in the exceptional cases of "a broad programme involving a major new initiative", as envisaged by ACC. He also believed that safeguards were necessary to prevent the proposed procedure from causing undue delay.

23. Briefly referring, in conclusion, to co-ordination at national level on matters concerning the United Nations and its specialized agencies, he wished to underline once again the importance he attached to resolution 630 A I and II (XXII), since good national co-ordination was an obvious prerequisite for sound co-ordination and concerted action by international organizations.

24. Mr. MORSE (Director-General, International Labour Office) said that concerted action by the international organizations had been considerably strengthened during 1956 and 1957; but it had been in the field of human

rights that collaboration had produced the most outstanding results—for example, in respect of forced labour, discrimination in employment and occupation, and the protection of indigenous populations.

25. With regard to forced labour, he reminded the Council that at its seventeenth session it had requested his organization to pursue the matter (resolution 524 (XVII)). Forced labour had been discussed at the 39th Session of the International Labour Conference, and at the 40th Session, recently concluded, a new Convention had been adopted after ten years of effort. The Convention, which had been adopted unanimously except for the abstention of one employers' representative, outlawed any form of forced or compulsory labour—first, as a means of political coercion or education or as a punishment for holding or expressing political views or views ideologically opposed to the established political, social or economic system; secondly, as a method of mobilizing and using labour for economic development; thirdly, as a means of labour discipline; fourthly, as a punishment for having participated in strikes; and fifthly, as a means of racial, social, national or religious discrimination. Each State ratifying the Convention agreed to take effective measures to secure the immediate and complete abolition of such forms of forced or compulsory labour, which made it an event of outstanding historical significance and a great step forward. The International Labour Conference had borne in mind the importance of drafting a convention capable of commanding the fullest possible support and likely to secure the widest ratification and application. He hoped that that important instrument would be accepted and put into effect by all governments, and that members of the Council would help to secure that result without delay. The Conference had also adopted resolutions on certain specific aspects of forced labour, one of which drew the attention of the United Nations to the importance of considering measures for the effective prohibition and suppression of concentration camps and the deportation of national minorities, in deference to the view expressed by the Secretary-General that it was essentially a United Nations responsibility.

26. Following a request by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which had been endorsed by the Commission on Human Rights and the Council, his organization had decided to draw up standards designed to abolish particularly widespread forms of discrimination in employment and occupation. After first discussion of the matter at the 40th Session of the Conference, conclusions for insertion in a convention had been adopted by 157 votes to 37, with 17 abstentions. Conclusions for a supplementary recommendation had been adopted unanimously. Despite the complex nature of the problem, with its political, social, religious and moral aspects, the discussions had shown that a frank and serious exchange of views between employers', workers' and government representatives might well hasten the day when everyone would be judged on his own merits and no longer by colour, religion or country of origin. The Conference would take a final decision in 1958 on the international instruments now being prepared. In the meantime, his organization would again benefit from the views of the competent United Nations bodies. He particularly welcomed the

collaboration achieved, and shared the view of the Commission on Human Rights that the work was "a model of co-ordination and co-operation, in a common task, between the Economic and Social Council, the International Labour Organisation, the Commission and the Sub-Commission" (E/2970, paragraph 129).

27. In co-operation with the United Nations, FAO, WHO and UNESCO, the International Labour Office had been able to complete during the past year the preparation of international standards for the protection and integration of indigenous populations and other tribal and semi-tribal populations in independent countries. The preamble to the instruments adopted by the Conference acknowledged the assistance received from other organizations and reaffirmed the policy of seeking their help in the application of the instruments—an affirmation with which he fully concurred. Thanks to inter-agency co-operation, the standards were so comprehensive that they could be regarded as a veritable charter for indigenous populations, and should not only help governments to frame policy, but also provide generally agreed principles in accordance with which the technical assistance provided by the United Nations and its specialized agencies could be developed. Their task would not be confined to a juridical scrutiny of the way in which States fulfilled their obligations after ratification, but would involve assisting all competent authorities at the national—and in some cases at the local—level to ensure the effective integration of indigenous populations. The joint work of the organizations he had mentioned on the improvement of the living and working conditions of the indigenous populations of the Andean High Plateau would doubtless prove valuable in the future development of such action, and he hoped that organizations responsible for health, education and welfare would play their full part in that task.

28. When the question of automation had been raised in the Council at its 22nd session, the Economic Committee had suggested that it was primarily a matter for the International Labour Organisation, and after the study made by the Metal Trades Committee the 40th Session of the International Labour Conference had discussed at length the social consequences of automation and other technical developments. That had been the first occasion on which the subject had been debated in a world forum by leaders of industry and the trade unions, and by senior government officials from many different countries. The leaders from the under-developed countries, while apparently not disturbed by the long-term prospects, had been clearly apprehensive about the short-term implications of automation, and they all feared that the older industrial countries, with their additional competitive advantage and the great market pressures generated by automation, would forge ahead even faster, thus endangering the less developed countries' shift from agriculture to industry, or even slowing down their industrialization. If that occurred, new international measures would clearly be required to augment the assistance being given to less industrialized countries, for which new possibilities might emerge when, as the Secretary-General had suggested at the 973rd meeting, the world could safely reduce its military expenditure. He shared that hope, and in the meantime his office

would prepare a comprehensive programme of work on the social consequences of automation with particular reference to the new conditions of life and employment it would create. The guiding lines were shortly to be drawn up at a meeting of experts, and the United Nations, UNESCO and other interested organizations would be consulted on those aspects of the problem of direct concern to them.

29. With regard to other forms of technical progress he said that, even though the International Atomic Energy Agency had not yet begun operating, his organization had already examined in detail the most effective methods of co-ordinating its own activity, which was directed more particularly to protection against ionizing radiation and general manpower problems, with that of the Agency. He particularly welcomed the steps taken in May 1957 by the Secretary-General and the Preparatory Commission for the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure full co-operation with ACC's Atomic Energy Sub-Committee.

30. His organization would continue to work for similar and close co-operation in other matters of growing importance, such as the part to be played at the national level by employees and workers in agreement with governments in fixing wages and prices at a level compatible with balanced economic development. The subject had already been fully debated by the International Labour Conference, and his organization would continue to play its full part in further discussions.

31. He had refrained from mentioning the many other items of current concern to his organization, because they were dealt with in its annual report (E/2975), and had confined himself to showing how in respect of some major problems its work had been co-ordinated with that of others, to prove that joint action was now a reality.

32. It would be seen from the Governing Body's statement (E/2975, Appendix II) that the Organisation shared the Council's concern about the need for greater co-ordination and concentration of effort. In response to the Council's request, the Governing Body had further considered how the Organisation's activity could be moulded into a coherent whole so that there was no duplication with other organizations. That was no new departure, because — as the Governing Body had pointed out — having concentrated in its hands responsibility for determining the agenda of all meetings of the Organisation and for fixing their number and duration, it exercised constant control over priorities, and ensured the necessary concentration of effort. The budgetary procedure was designed to the same end. The Governing Body's attention had been drawn to the General Assembly's resolution (1094 (XI)) requesting the Council to study the over-all programmes to be undertaken by the United Nations and its specialized agencies over the coming five or six years with a view to eliminating or deferring those which were no longer of the highest importance and urgency. The Governing Body wished to emphasize that, while it would no doubt be useful for the Council to be informed of the Organisation's long-term programme, the Organisation itself was best placed to determine that programme's content. That

consideration was fully in line with the constitutional position, and was in no way an obstacle to co-ordination.

33. The Governing Body had been most concerned about the special problems created by the broad programmes launched by the United Nations and certain specialized agencies in such fields as community development and industrialization. Such programmes marked an important development in the actual conception of the work, and the Governing Body, like ACC, viewed them with some reserve. The Governing Body had established two basic principles in that regard. First, that the Organisation would continue to co-operate fully in such broad programmes in accordance with the role assigned to it by its Constitution, and on the understanding that the grouping of a wide variety of problems in programmes carried out under the leadership of one organization neither conferred competence on any one of them nor curtailed the competence of the others to deal with those particular aspects which fell within their proper field of action. Secondly, that, as the Organisation's experience showed, the utility of broad generalizations was doubtful until they had been refined into detailed practical problems, and that in order to achieve practical results it was preferable to isolate well defined subjects of limited scope. That was why the Governing Body had emphasized the imperative need for the organizations concerned to examine in detail at an early stage the merits of any broad programme from their own angle and in the light of their experience, and to consider the technical and financial resources required to carry it out and what readjustment of their current activities would be required if they were to participate fully. Thus enough time must be allowed during the preparation of such broad programmes for full consultation with the policy-making bodies of all the organizations concerned.

34. One of the basic considerations governing his organization's attitude towards the whole question of co-ordination had been outlined by the Governing Body in the following statement (E/2975, Appendix II, page 73, paragraph 4):

"One of the main tasks of the I.L.O. is to promote the widest possible measure of agreement between potentially divergent economic interests. . . All I.L.O. decisions, including decisions on priorities, work programmes, budgets and the actual conclusions reached on particular questions by the International Labour Conference, are reached by a process in which the element of negotiation between organised economic interests plays a large part. It is therefore essential that arrangements made for effective co-ordination of the activities of the I.L.O. with those of other international organisations should be of such a character as not to disturb this delicate balance of negotiation or to deprive the employer and worker groups of the right which they enjoy to participate on an equal footing in the formulation of I.L.O. policy."

35. The problem of co-ordination was not an academic one susceptible of solution by some new sweeping formula or blueprint for better organization. It was a practical problem which could only be solved effectively by the pragmatic methods which had been evolved with

considerable success in dealing with such questions as forced labour, discrimination, indigenous populations and automation, which he had already described. Of course, such methods could be improved. The development of the technical assistance programme offered an excellent illustration of effective and practical co-ordination engineered over a period of time and after due deliberation. It was vital to encourage the habit of consultation, which was one of the main tests of good co-ordinating arrangements. He pledged his organization's continued support for efforts to find effective solutions for practical problems in pursuit of common objectives.

36. Mr. SEN (Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization) said that as the report of FAO (E/2973), which had been circulated to member governments some months ago, was to be considered by the Co-ordination Committee, he would limit his observations to some general questions affecting FAO's work and its relations with other international organizations.

37. The Secretary-General, in his introductory statement on item 2 of the agenda at the 973rd meeting, had referred to the importance of equilibrium in the economy, both internal and external, and to the strains set up by the efforts to achieve it in an expanding world economy. The same strains were met with in the search for a balanced programme within each agency, and by the agencies acting in consort. Indeed, the main task of the executive heads of the specialized agencies was precisely to strike such a balance. To do so, they had to weigh up competing claims at the world, regional and country levels; to reconcile the needs of important current activities with those of new programmes; to achieve a satisfactory adjustment between the claims of technical, social and economic improvements; and to plan regular programmes in line with technical assistance activities and the work of other agencies. Most important of all, as the Secretary-General had rightly stressed in the same statement, they had to ensure a proper balance and adjustment between agricultural development and industrial expansion. During the early post-war period, too much emphasis had sometimes been placed on rapid industrialization, and too little attention given to ensuring the steady expansion of domestic production of food and other primary commodities which were still the mainstay of economies in process of development, and without which industrial progress must inevitably be hampered. The growing recognition of the continuous need to devote adequate resources to agricultural development was a happy augury, and he expected that the importance of FAO's work in that domain would now be seen more clearly.

38. He had had those considerations very much in mind, as well as the views expressed and resolutions adopted by the Council at its twenty-second session, when framing his proposals for FAO's programme of work and budget for the coming two years. Although he had proposed some expansion, in the main it was limited to certain major undertakings, and, apart from the increased expenditure necessitated by the recommendations of the United Nations Salary Review Committee, would cost little more than \$1 million. Both programme and budget had already been reviewed with a good deal of sympathy

by FAO's Co-ordinating Committee, its Committee on Financial Control, and its Council.

39. One of the major undertakings was designed to strengthen FAO's regional organization. In seeking to strike the right balance between world-wide and regional activities, a clear distinction had to be drawn between decentralization by separate regional programmes and the strengthening of regional organization under central guidance and control. He had chosen the latter course. In an organization like FAO, with so wide a range of specialized activities, it would be impossible to provide specialized advice and information through a separate, self-contained unit for each region, and responsibility for technical direction and policy guidance had to be retained by headquarters. He was, however, most anxious to provide machinery for placing the knowledge and experience acquired at headquarters more effectively at the service of States members, and to bring them into closer association with the Organization, and had therefore increased the number of technical staff posted to the various regions and increased the authority of regional representatives in their relations with member governments. That scheme would also allow him to develop more effective collaboration with the regional economic commissions and the regional offices of other specialized agencies with which FAO already maintained close working relations.

40. As the Secretary-General had pointed out, the implementation of field programmes depended largely on the full co-operation of States, and in that connexion the Secretary-General had referred at the current meeting to his proposal for the establishment of an international administrative service. As he (Mr. Sen) had been one of the executive heads who had expressed reservations about the need for the proposed service and about its possible effects on the legitimate interests of the specialized agencies, he wished briefly to explain his views on the subject. His reservations were in fact based on more far-reaching considerations than those of the agencies' interests. Speaking from personal experience of a national civil service, he could affirm that, however excellent the professional qualifications of the members of a service, the fact that it was controlled by an outside authority would be a source of friction, and would ultimately destroy its efficacy. Though a service under the control of the United Nations would admittedly be less open to that objection than one under the control of another government, only a matter of degree was involved, and the Secretary-General would have to exercise some control or authority over the international service to ensure cohesion and to establish conditions of pay, allowances, promotion, leave and discipline. Such arrangements would not be in line with the present climate of administrative theory and practice in under-developed countries. Given the prevailing generous attitude towards international help for development, it was all the more important that such help should be provided in forms which corresponded as closely as possible to the aspirations of the recipients, otherwise it would not be fully effective and would be attended by difficulties and waste. The under-developed countries wanted not merely good government, but self-government, so that they could shape their own destiny in the

light of their own ideas. Certainly, some of them needed trained experts in general administration, as much as in technical fields; but if such experts were to form part of their administration, they must be fully subject to government control. In so far as the problem affected FAO, he suggested that a solution might be found by extending technical assistance to general administration, leaving it to governments to take over the experts they wanted by mutual agreement and direct contact. That process should of course be supplemented by a broader programme of fellowships, training centres and seminars. It would undoubtedly be slower, but would be sounder in the long run.

41. The Secretary-General had referred at the current meeting to the vast opportunities for technical and administrative help to Africa, and he (Mr. Sen) was planning to devote special attention to that matter in FAO's programme. As a first step, he would establish an African liaison office at headquarters and appoint, within the limits of available resources, country representatives in African countries, as had been done elsewhere. Many activities in Africa could be developed on a regional basis, at least in the initial stages.

42. A regional project which covered several north African countries — namely, the Mediterranean re-afforestation scheme for economic development — was worth mentioning. He hoped that the survey undertaken during 1957 would be completed in 1958-1959, and if it revealed possibilities for a properly developed scheme, both regionally and for individual countries, matters might be carried further. Starting with re-afforestation and better utilization of land and water resources, the main object would be to hold out to an area which had been one of the granaries of the ancient world the promise of the restoration of at least some of its pristine fertility and prosperity.

43. Turning to some of the wider issues in inter-agency co-ordination, he said that the Council would, by virtue of the General Assembly's request (resolution 1094 (XI)), be studying over-all programmes for the coming five years. While he was in favour of looking ahead and planning as soundly as possible for progressive development, he doubted whether it was feasible for any single committee of the Council or the United Nations to scrutinize the programmes of the whole United Nations family, and felt that the task must be left to the deliberative assemblies of the specialized agencies, subject to any common policies that might be worked out. Each agency had been entrusted under its constitution with a separate field of action, and was responsible to its own deliberative assembly, which alone could take final decisions on programmes and exercise budgetary control. He had no intention of contesting the need for co-operation, and fully recognized that every effort must be made to achieve greater co-ordination and to avoid overlapping and waste. He had been very much impressed with the useful work being carried out under the aegis of the United Nations, and of the Council in particular, and would do his utmost to help those efforts, which would be greatly assisted if governments too strove after better co-ordination at the national level.

44. However, it might be worth while to make an over-all appraisal to see whether governments were giving

balanced support to the programmes of different United Nations bodies, with the object of launching a systematic and orderly attack on the problems which they considered vital. He had observed that during the past decade FAO's budget had been increasing more slowly than that of any other specialized agency. Yet since its inauguration nearly twelve years previously with an initial annual budget of \$5 million, its activities had increased very considerably both geographically and in scope. Its membership had risen from 51 to 74, but expenditure per head of total population of its members had been nearly 25 per cent less in 1955 than in 1947 in monetary terms, and hence much less in real terms. The other specialized agencies had, in general, fared better, from the budgetary angle. Between 1947 and 1955 government contributions to the International Labour Organisation had increased by 140 per cent, those to WHO by 170 per cent, and those to UNESCO by 36 per cent. In FAO's case, the increase had only been 30 per cent.

45. He would be submitting to the ninth session of the FAO Conference in November a proposal for a special appropriation to enable the Organization to participate in joint activities launched by the United Nations or other specialized agencies after FAO's programme and budget had been approved. It would be remembered that FAO's budget was approved biennially, and it was not always possible to see sufficiently far ahead to make provision for such new undertakings, particularly where they resulted from special conditions, emergency situations or the development of new ideas and inventions.

46. Referring briefly to some of the inter-agency activities mentioned by the Secretary-General, he said that projects for improving the utilization and control of water resources, in which FAO by the nature of its terms of reference took a leading part, were of the utmost importance. In seeking to put facilities for helping governments to the best possible use, FAO had increasingly adopted a co-ordinated approach, with advisory activities covering soil surveys, the planning of land use, irrigation agronomy, and hydrographical and ground-water investigations, as well as irrigation projects. Examples of such a co-ordinated approach were to be seen in FAO's work in Iran and the Sudan. Special attention had been given to integrated river-basin development, and close co-operation had been maintained with other specialized agencies, and at times — for instance, in East Pakistan — with bodies outside the United Nations. FAO also had a definite part to play in the study of the problems facing arid and semi-arid zones, and whereas UNESCO was primarily responsible for research in that field, it was for FAO to apply the results of that research in practice, so that there must be close co-operation between the two agencies, as indeed there was.

47. There was much inter-agency activity in community development, and a great deal of FAO's work, both under its regular and under its technical assistance programme, was concerned with improving economic and social conditions in rural areas, and more specifically with nutrition services, co-operatives, small scale industries and — to a lesser extent — agricultural credit. A co-ordinated approach was essential, and FAO was

always prepared to co-operate within the limits of its resources. The Secretary-General had spoken in 1956, at the 945th meeting of the Council, of a schizophrenic tendency on the part of governments to demand large scale programmes with the smallest possible budgets, and it was the duty of the executive heads of the agencies to try to reconcile those conflicting propositions. But there was another form of schizophrenia which, if it could be so described, was wholly commendable, which sometimes found expression in different approaches to problems before the United Nations and its specialized agencies. FAO's Constitution laid upon it the task of promoting human welfare through improved agricultural production and distribution, and through the application of progressive ideas to rural welfare. That aim was not to be restricted by political or other considerations, and FAO therefore expected its member States to divorce their discussion of food and agricultural problems from politics. That might seem a far-fetched ideal in present circumstances, but, even though such aims might be deemed utopian, it was surely necessary for each agency to keep a clear ideal before it.

48. Looking back at the first post-war decade, some progress could be noted. There had been difficulties, but without them dynamic development would be impossible. The members of international organizations had come to know one another at all levels, and very important contacts had been established between technical personnel. Differences of view would persist, but frank discussion would only strengthen the bonds already forged. The important objectives for which all were working could be attained only by a united effort.

49. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that one of the most remarkable developments in the history of the United Nations had been the expansion of its economic and social activities. Between 1947 and 1957, the sums spent on such activities had almost quintupled, and now accounted for nearly 75 per cent of the combined budgets of the United Nations family. Such striking figures, besides reflecting the importance which economic and social action had assumed within the United Nations, made the Council's major task of co-ordination even more vital, since specific programmes could only be fully understood against the background of the general economic and social situation, and since the numerous projects involved were being carried out by a large number of organizations, many of which were autonomous in character and sometimes isolationist in tendency.

50. After two weeks of long and arduous work, the Co-ordination Committee had already made some progress. The situation was most encouraging at Headquarters where, in the economic, social and human rights fields, available resources were being progressively concentrated on problems of major importance. Considerable headway had also been made by the regional commissions, particularly by ECAFE. There was naturally room for further improvement, particularly by further streamlining. For example, there still seemed to be too many meetings of sub-committees and *ad hoc* bodies of all kinds. While such bodies had at times proved extremely useful, it was essential to guard against their undue proliferation, in order to ensure adequate govern-

mental representation on them, and to avoid overloading the Secretariat. The danger was particularly serious in the regional commissions, and the Co-ordination Committee's suggestion that they should keep their calendars of meetings under constant review was welcome. His delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would submit a report at the twenty-sixth session on the results of that review.

51. His delegation shared the apprehension voiced by many other delegations that the Secretariat was being asked to prepare too many reports in too short a time. Fewer reports at longer intervals would inevitably be more thorough and more useful.

52. Certain areas in the field of co-ordination were very ill-defined. In particular, the relations between the various technical assistance programmes and the work of the regional commissions were obscure. While there might be some advantage in seconding technical assistance personnel to the regional commissions, it could only lead to confusion if the regional secretariats took it upon themselves to advise individual governments on specific requests, or to engage in other technical assistance operations. So long as the matter remained unclarified, his delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's proposal that such secondment should be continued for another year on a trial basis rather than be made permanent at this stage.

53. His delegation could also accept the proposal that social staff be seconded to the headquarters of the regional commissions and to the Middle East, but the chain of command should be crystal clear. The staff should receive instructions exclusively from Headquarters, and be under the policy guidance of the Social Commission or the Population Commission, not that of the regional commissions themselves. It would be more appropriate to call them "social affairs staff" attached to the regional secretariats rather than "social divisions" of those secretariats, as that would help to avoid such misleading statements as that which appeared, for example, in the report of ECLA (E/2998, paragraph 130) to the effect that a social welfare seminar was among ECLA's activities. Lastly, while highly technological studies or seminars might at times be desirable, provided they were essential to the implementation of broad economic or social development programmes, they should not be over-emphasized, as they were frequently of value to only a very limited number of countries.

54. It was evident from the reports of the specialized agencies that there was a marked trend towards concentration in the evolution of their programmes. That trend had been noticeable for some time, and might well have been accentuated as the result of the adoption of resolution 630 A I (XXII). As many of the projects involved concerned other specialized agencies and the United Nations itself, it was all the more important that all interested bodies should be consulted before specific programmes were undertaken. His Government welcomed the indications that the specialized agencies were gradually adopting the practice of advance consultation.

55. Up to a point, therefore, common efforts towards concentration appeared to have been effective. However, although there was much talk of "concerted action"

and "integrated programmes", such terms at present bore little relation to reality. In most cases, it was evident that consultation at the secretariat level was not sufficient to ensure the full co-ordination of the independent action of the various governing or executive bodies of the specialized agencies and the United Nations in the preparation and execution of programmes. Document 48 EX/19, recently published by UNESCO, entitled "Co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies with a view to concerted action in the economic and social fields and in the field of human rights", contained a very helpful analysis of the problem, and proposed that in the case of major programmes of interest to several specialized agencies as well as the United Nations there should be consultation both among the governing bodies of the organizations concerned and with the Council, to allow of common planning. Parallel action on the part of those bodies would have to be sought to assure synchronization of the implementation of the mutually agreed upon programmes, which in turn would require the timely provision of adequate funds for such programmes to be made by the general agencies involved as they decided on their budgets.

56. Much thought would have to be given to the problem before adequate methods of concerting action could be worked out. Special care would have to be taken to guard against the risk that inertia or unwillingness to co-operate on the part of any one agency might hold up major programmes. At best, the processes involved would be time-consuming. However, time lost in such co-operation might be more than compensated for by the greater concentration of effort, and the enhanced effectiveness of programmes. His delegation hoped that at the present session the Council would initiate further study of that important problem.

57. Action could be concerted by concentrating on specific geographical areas or on some special substantive programme, or by a combination of the two methods. In particular, his delegation supported the Secretary-General's observations at the current meeting about the need for greater efforts in Africa and the Middle East, and on such subjects as the conservation and utilization of water and the improvement of public administration.

58. While his delegation sympathized with the aims of the Secretary-General's proposal for the creation of an international administrative service, it was not sure about its feasibility or about the best ways of putting it into effect. Provided the under-developed countries really wanted it, the project might be given a trial, but within the framework of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance rather than as an independent United Nations undertaking. It should be possible under the Expanded Programme to offer adequate long-term security to a number of carefully selected administrators, to enable them to take up appointments of the kind envisaged. That course would have the further advantage of bringing the specialized agencies into the picture from the beginning, without large-scale commitments on their part.

59. His delegation was prepared to consider the development of concentrated programmes in the field of transport and communications by the United Nations in the closest collaboration with such agencies as the

International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Telecommunication Union.

60. ACC had become a most effective instrument, although its usefulness was limited in the case of the development of integrated programmes. Two items in its reports called for comment. First, the question of the peaceful uses of atomic energy undoubtedly presented a major co-ordination problem. The specialized agencies and the regional commissions deserved real credit for the restraint they had shown in embarking upon new activities in that field, pending the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which would certainly facilitate effective co-ordination in the future. His delegation understood that in the working agreement to be concluded between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations, provision would be made for full participation by the Agency in ACC. It was to be hoped that a standing co-ordinating committee, under the chairmanship of the Director-General of the Agency, would be established under ACC.

61. Secondly, his delegation had considerable misgivings about a plan, discussed by ACC but not mentioned specifically in ACC's report, to call a conference of representatives of national information services and of the United Nations and the specialized agencies with a view to achieving more extensive publicity for the economic and social activities of the various United Nations organizations. The United States of America, like many other free democratic countries, had no national information service. The American people believed in a free press which was not spoon-fed by governmental agencies. It did not feel that United Nations news filtered through national information services would be the best way of ensuring better understanding of the Organization's work. Even though there was no national information service, the United States press devoted more attention to the work of the United Nations than that of almost any other country. He therefore hoped that wherever possible ACC would concentrate on finding means of publicizing the United Nations' work through free communication media rather than official agencies.

62. At its eleventh session, the General Assembly had requested the Council, in resolution 1094 (XI), to initiate an appraisal of the likely development of the over-all programmes and budgets of the specialized agencies and the United Nations over the next five or six years, and to report to the General Assembly at its thirteenth session. It appeared that some at least of the specialized agencies were not enthusiastic about the idea, an attitude which appeared to be based on a misunderstanding. There was no intention of using the appraisal primarily to reduce or even to stabilize budgets, or of interfering in any way with the right of the specialized agencies to determine their own programmes. The aim was rather to demonstrate the extent to which the growth in the economic and social activities of the United Nations resulted from an attempt to meet carefully defined and clearly recognizable needs or from other causes.

63. He hoped that the Council would take the lead in implementing resolution 1094 (XI), and that the specialized agencies would make an all-out effort to respond to the General Assembly's request both in their own interest and in that of the peoples they served. They

were called upon to prove that the economic and social work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and its phenomenal growth was not an accident of history, but history itself working towards a world of plenty, a world at peace.

64. Mr. DRAGO (Argentina) said that his Government attached the greatest importance to the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, with regard not only to programmes, but also to budgeting and administration.

65. Although there were various bodies competent to deal with the different aspects of the question, the main effort really devolved upon the Council, which by virtue not only of Article 63.2 of the Charter, but also of its inherent competence, was the only body that could reconcile the factors involved in the problem of co-ordination, including the differences which occasionally arose between the criteria adopted by governments and those adopted by the specialized agencies.

66. The post-war period was characterized by a rapid increase in the number of international organizations and the launching of many undertakings in the economic and social fields, born more of the desire to take action than from any carefully thought out master plan. The pace of development had since settled down. As the result of the interplay of the different interests at stake and the limited resources available, the master plan had taken shape. And the Council at its fourteenth session had set as its target the economic and social development of the under-developed countries. Hence, the increased importance of co-ordination.

67. The Argentine delegation endorsed the view that co-ordination was not an objective in itself. It was a means for allowing international bodies to fulfil their responsibilities so as to render the greatest service with the greatest possible degree of efficiency and economy, but it did not believe that co-ordination would be beneficial if it were left on its own; for that reason, it should be the subject of unflagging attention.

68. Possibilities of overlapping had existed, and still did exist. The problem of the moment was the more effective and rational utilization of the large "international bureaucracy". The Council should concern itself not only with the co-ordination and concentration of activities, but also with the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the bodies concerned. The system of co-ordination had made much progress, but according to the reports under consideration — in particular that on the twentieth session of ACC (E/2931) — there were serious problems, especially in the matter of "concerted international action", an expression born of the need to co-ordinate the action of various bodies. In 1956, the basis of a new procedure had been established under resolution 630 A I (XXII), which provided that the Co-ordination Committee should meet one week before the opening of the Council's twenty-fourth session. Despite the fact that the recommendations did not include the specialized agencies and, generally speaking, did not refer to the concrete consideration of the programmes, the results had been satisfactory. In the next few years, when the existing limitations had been overcome, more detailed aspects of co-ordination could be considered,

and an effective method of work devised. The consideration of the annual reports of the specialized agencies would also prove more fruitful if they dealt with specific questions fixed beforehand.

69. The Argentine delegation wished to draw attention to the following points. The Council should consider the extension to the specialized agencies of the recommendations in the report of the Co-ordination Committee (E/3024/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1). The Council should also take a decision on General Assembly resolution 1094 (XI) which, in paragraph 3 of section I, requested the specialized agencies "to co-operate with the Economic and Social Council" in the study of that problem. His delegation attached particular importance to that resolution, for it felt that a reappraisal of the over-all programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, to be undertaken by an *ad hoc* committee, was called for.

70. Further, the questions of co-ordination arising out of the "concerted international action" referred to in paragraphs 27 to 31 of document E/2931 should be considered. For the resolution of such questions, measures of mere administrative and budgetary co-ordination were inadequate, as was the increasing cooperation at the secretariat level.

71. In the opinion of the Argentine delegation, the moment was ripe to study that problem in connexion with the question of the competence that might be given to the Council in the elaboration of a broader programme, some of the aspects of which devolved upon other bodies. By virtue of the co-ordinating functions conferred upon it by the Charter of the United Nations, a system was likely to be evolved which, although perhaps slower, would certainly be more certain and effective, and the Council, while respecting the constitutional autonomy of the specialized agencies and the competence of their respective organs, could play a centralizing and co-ordinating role. In that connexion, the UNESCO document 48 EX/19 suggested certain ideas of interest.

72. The Argentine delegation thought that the Council should study the question more thoroughly, and recommend the studies concerned, on which it could take its decisions at a subsequent session.

73. He would further express his approval of the Secretary-General's report (E/3013) concerning the detailing of certain Headquarters personnel to regional offices. In view of the text of the report, the Council should give final approval of the measures adopted by the Secretary-General concerning the regional social affairs units. He was also awaiting with keen interest the promised report of the Secretary-General concerning the staff of TAA.

74. The Argentine Government attached great importance to the action in the regional field of experts on social questions, and considered that the social aspects of economic development were an integral part of that development.

75. The Argentine delegation had addressed to the President of the Council for transmission to all delegations a statement containing the express reservation of the Argentine Republic's inalienable rights to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the South Georgian Islands,

the South Sandwich Islands and the territories included in the Argentine Antarctic sector, to which reference was made in the annual reports of WHO and the Universal Postal Union. He requested that that statement should be placed on record.

76. Mr. EVANS (Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the most important event for UNESCO in 1956 had been the ninth session of its General Conference, held in New Delhi, which had been concerned, among other matters, with the problem of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, on which it had adopted a series of decisions. UNESCO was already co-operating closely with the Preparatory Commission for the International Atomic Energy Agency. The General Conference had also authorized the convening of an intergovernmental conference for the preparation and adoption of an international agreement for the protection of the interests of performers, record manufacturers and broadcasters.

77. The efforts made by UNESCO in recent years to achieve maximum concentration of its activities were reflected in the programme for 1957-1958. A number of activities in non-priority areas had been discontinued, and the over-all programmes of some departments not heavily engaged in major projects had been severely reduced. Activities in the priority areas had been maintained or even strengthened.

78. The first of the three major projects approved at New Delhi was concerned with the extension of primary education in Latin America, in which UNESCO's role mainly concerned the training of teachers. The Executive Board had approved the work plan for the project for the period 1957-1958 at its forty-seventh session, in March 1957.

79. The work plan for the execution of the second major project, which concerned scientific research in arid zones, had been approved by the Executive Board at its forty-eighth session, in June 1957. As in the past, UNESCO would continue to collaborate with the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned, especially FAO and the World Meteorological Organization. The project would one day become eligible for integration in concerted international action on the use of water resources, as envisaged by the Secretary-General.

80. The third major project was concerned with the promotion of mutual appreciation of eastern and western cultural values. All UNESCO's organs were keenly aware of the difficulties inherent in the project, and no spectacular results were expected in the near future. The Advisory Committee on Co-ordination had elaborated a detailed work programme which had been approved at the forty-eighth session of the Executive Board. UNESCO was therefore now in process of implementing the approved work plans for all three major projects.

81. General Assembly resolution 1043 (XI), concerning international cultural and scientific co-operation, was of particular interest to UNESCO. The promotion of such co-operation was one of its main objectives and had always been a permanent feature of its programmes. A detailed statement of the kind of work accomplished was

to be found in chapter III of part I of its report (E/2974). The General Conference had been concerned with the same problem at New Delhi, and had expressed the hope that UNESCO's work would be more closely related to that of national services responsible for cultural relations with other countries. UNESCO would therefore continue to collect and publish the texts of bilateral and multilateral cultural agreements, to study cultural relations throughout the world, and to provide advisory services to member States at their request.

82. UNESCO had long been an advocate of the closest collaboration between members of the United Nations family, and no other organization had carried the practice of consultation further. The ninth session of the General Conference at New Delhi had also considered that problem, and had recommended that the Executive Board should study, in close co-operation with the Director-General, major problems facing UNESCO in that field. Great progress had been made in the co-ordination of the various UNESCO programmes. The operation of the Advisory Committee on Co-ordination had been improved, and there was increasingly effective consultation at the secretariat level. However, certain further improvements seemed called for if there was to be a maximum of concerted action among the organizations. He fully supported the views on that subject expressed in ACC's report.

83. The question of co-ordination had been brought before the Executive Board at its forty-eighth session. The problem was stated in document 48/EX/19, which was available to members of the Council. The decision taken by the Executive Board on the subject had also been circulated to the Council in document E/2974/Add.1. The Board's conclusions showed a desire to associate UNESCO closely with the work of the United Nations and the other specialized agencies. But, however good a solution might be found to the problem of concerted action, much would depend on the spirit in which the organizations agreed to work together. UNESCO was approaching the problem in a spirit of constructive co-operation, and was ready to plan its programmes and to use its resources in such a way as to make the maximum contribution to the United Nations' work.

84. It would be useful to try out the Secretary-General's proposal to set up an international administrative service, because experience alone could show the real nature and extent of the needs and demands of States Members and indicate the best practical ways of meeting them. He welcomed the Secretary-General's willingness to limit the experiment to fields which were within the normal competence of the United Nations, and thought that the problem would be simplified if the question of the machinery to be established were left aside for the time being.

85. Finally, he assured the Council and the Secretary-General of UNESCO's readiness to participate within its terms of reference in any scheme which would prove beneficial for the development of the under-developed countries, on the understanding, of course, that the conditions of such participation would be determined by the General Conference and the Executive Board.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.