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*Chairman:* Mr. Erik NETTEL (Austria).

## AGENDA ITEM 50

Draft Declaration on Social Development (con-  
tinued) (A/7161, A/7203, chap. X, sect. A; A/7235  
and Add.1)

### GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mrs. RADIĆ (Yugoslavia) thanked those who had produced the draft (A/7161, annex I) and said she hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the Declaration on Social Development at its current session. The draft had been carefully examined by experts in her country, and Yugoslavia's reply (see A/7235) summarized her Government's comments and conclusions on what kind of document was best suited to current needs.

2. In formulating an instrument like the one under discussion, it should be borne in mind that contemporary social problems were the result of the totally unsatisfactory economic situation and of the constantly increasing inequality between the developed and the developing countries. The Secretary-General had recently emphasized the complexity of social development throughout the world. While the objectives were the same, the means for attaining them varied from country to country. In addition, economic development was in the final analysis the responsibility of each country. A basic requisite was the determination of the people and Government of a country to play an active part in the development process. Nevertheless, her delegation was convinced that the burden at present borne by the developing countries in accelerating their social and economic advancement could be lightened with the help of those who enjoyed more favourable conditions.

3. Furthermore, if the world community was to adopt a realistic attitude, it must recognize the close inter-relationship between social well-being and the maintenance of peace, the elimination of colonialism, the need for full independence and self-government for all peoples, and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

4. Her delegation would assess the draft Declaration on Social Development in the light of those general

considerations, and would make an effort to achieve its speedy adoption.

5. Mr. NWITENDE (Rwanda) agreed with other delegations that the draft Declaration should be adopted at the current session. His delegation was in favour of the text which had been submitted, especially because the principles and objectives enunciated in the draft were in accord with those of Rwanda's five-year development plan, and also because the Declaration would serve as a guide for national social development policies.

6. Since Rwanda had achieved independence, its Government had been very aware of the fact that economic and social development could not be attained without the mobilization, in a collective endeavour, of all segments of society. It had therefore concentrated on mass education, which had been neglected during the colonial period, and had also established a number of priorities which included the advancement of women, adult literacy campaigns and action to help youth. Great importance was also attached to the co-operative sector. Those activities were aimed at improving the living conditions of all segments of the population.

7. The Government of Rwanda appreciated the aid received from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and hoped to continue receiving it. His delegation felt that the advanced countries should offer assistance to those in a less favourable position, and regretted that they were sometimes reluctant to do so in a matter involving a duty to mankind.

8. The draft Declaration itself suffered from a number of defects which could be remedied. For example, it spoke of social development and social progress - terms which, in his view, were more or less identical. Other delegations had stated that certain articles of a political nature should be deleted, and Rwanda shared that view.

9. Dame Mabel MILLER (Australia) pointed out that, in the fields of health, social security, labour policies, education, housing and integrated social development planning, the Declaration enunciated principles and policies which had been applied in Australia for some time past and which might constitute a useful basis for the social policies of developing countries. She stressed the importance of not giving the Declaration a narrow ideological bias; it should set out principles and guidelines which all Governments could apply in their social development policies.

10. While she was aware of the difficulties inherent in producing the draft, she regretted that many of its provisions gave rise to ambiguous interpretations and that the text generally was vague and, in places, redundant. Although as much time as possible should

naturally be devoted to it, her delegation saw little possibility of improving so lengthy a text, apart from drafting changes. Nevertheless, there were a number of clauses in the present text which her delegation considered totally extraneous to social development and which it would like to have deleted. She therefore reserved the right to comment on them and on the relevant amendments at a later stage.

11. Mr. ARTAZA (Chile) said that, in his view, it would have been better to discuss the world social situation (item 49) first, since that would have provided the perspective and the stimulus which were needed for the production of a document that would be both revolutionary and realistic. After summarizing the work which had led up to the submission of the draft Declaration, he pointed out that it was a relatively new document of the highest importance and should be studied and improved without delay.

12. He outlined the progress made in Chile in recent years in the struggle against economic and social under-development in the fields of education, health, housing, labour, community development and agrarian reform, as part of the process known as "Revolution with Freedom". That process had already afforded valuable lessons which should be reflected in the draft Declaration. In the first place, the people should always be involved, and it was the duty of society to provide the means whereby man could achieve self-fulfilment and play an active part in national life. The aspirations of the masses should be listened to and satisfied. He therefore regretted that the preamble of the Declaration referred only indirectly to man, who was the centre of all social affairs. Furthermore, the listing of objectives in part II did not include any reference to marginality, the most important feature of social under-development, which prevented all sectors of the population from playing an equal part in the life of the nation. He also pointed out that part III did not mention fair and productive systems of land tenure to be achieved through accelerated agrarian reform, which, in his view, was one of the prerequisites for social development. Another goal which should be stressed was the strengthening of social solidarity among all members of the national community.

13. The draft also failed to mention either the adoption of appropriate measures in the administration of justice or the promotion of scientific knowledge and the dissemination of technology, which was one of the most necessary objectives of any social development effort. With regard to part III, concerning means and methods, the provisions of paragraphs 21 and 22 concerning international co-operation and financial and technical assistance should be strengthened, and it should be mentioned in paragraph 13 that banking, credit, business management, distribution and sales systems should be structured to meet the needs of the community. In paragraph 4 of part II, there should be added the assurance of the right to work the free association of workers to defend and promote their interests.

14. Although his delegation was satisfied with the draft, it reserved the right to submit at the appropriate time any amendments it considered necessary. He hoped that the Declaration, intended for the use of

those fighting to overcome under-development, would become a yardstick of the world's conscience.

15. Mr. GHERIB (Tunisia) said that his delegation had a special interest in the draft Declaration under consideration; not only because Tunisia, as a developing country, regarded it as an important means of bringing about general economic development, but also because the principles, objectives and means and measures which it recommended were generally in accord with the approaches and objectives of Tunisia's national plan.

16. Social development depended on certain basic conditions, the first being that a country should be the master of its own destiny. Consequently, he was gratified that that condition was clearly and explicitly recognized among the general principles in the draft Declaration. Secondly, there must be effective participation by the State to mobilize the vital forces of the nation for a rational and planned use of human resources. Lastly, the international community must support that primary function of the State through both bilateral and multilateral co-operation.

17. The objectives of social development were well known, and, in order to achieve them, State action must take the form of planning in the social field, carefully integrated into the country's over-all economic development, with a view to avoiding any imbalance between the pace of economic development and that of social development. Similarly, a balance between urban and rural development must be ensured, since unless social development in the two sectors proceeded at the same pace irreparable harm would be done to economic progress. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that all social development would necessarily be jeopardized unless proper measures for family planning were adopted. Lastly, there must also be emphasis on other methods and means, such as the training and improvement of senior staff, full education, and consistency of social methods.

18. His delegation supported the content of the draft Declaration and, although it was ready to consider any proposals aimed at improving its present working, it would oppose any attempt to weaken the text by the deletion of some clauses on the ground that they introduced political elements, as had been alleged in the case of paragraph 27 of part III.

*Mrs. Ould Daddah (Mauritania), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

19. Mr. RIBEIRO (Uruguay) said that, in his view, the task assigned to the Committee was the drafting of a genuine and authentic development programme that could be applied in accordance with the individual characteristics and over-all potential of each country. The draft Declaration should therefore be a broadly-based expression of support for common aspirations, so that it would be a moral imperative, couched in a clear and precise text, of sound and harmonious design, with no extraneous elements. The document before the Committee did not entirely meet those requirements. That was due, in the first place, to the very substantial content of the subjects covered, each of which related to and defined important aspects of mankind. Secondly, the very large number of interests involved made it necessary to resort to

compromise as the natural way out, not always with the most desirable results.

20. He reminded the Committee of the position taken by his Government regarding the draft Declaration on Social Development, as set forth in the reply transmitted to the Secretary-General (see A/7235), especially with reference to paragraph 10 of part I and paragraph 7 of part III of the document. As to paragraph 27 of part III, he thought that the drafting lacked clarity.

21. In conclusion, he referred by way of illustration to his own country, where practically all the problems dealt with in the draft Declaration, or the great majority of them, had been resolved, or at least the crucial stage had been passed, owing to the fact that those principles of social justice which the Committee was considering had been firmly established in law.

*Mr. Nettel (Austria) resumed the Chair.*

22. Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that the draft Declaration was a synthesis of the major resolutions adopted by the United Nations and its related agencies, as indicated in the second and third preambular paragraphs. Thus, the draft was further proof of the concern of the United Nations for the well-being of mankind as a whole, in that all delegations had agreed, despite divergence of views, on the need for a declaration on social development.

23. Her delegation was gratified by the reference in paragraph 8 of part II to protection of the rights of children and youth, the aged and the disabled, since in every society those were the persons who needed special care and attention. Where part III of the document was concerned, she thought that paragraphs 10, 19 and 22 were of special relevance to the problems of the developing countries.

24. The essential condition for attaining the objectives of economic and social development was the maximum mobilization of national resources—a task of the utmost urgency for the developing countries, because the gap between them and the developed countries was steadily increasing. Only a new concerted effort at both the national and the international level would make it possible to accelerate the economic development of the countries of the Third World. The establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Development Programme was evidence of the growing concern aroused by the situation of the developing countries.

25. As one of those countries, Liberia attached great importance to the draft Declaration, which, in view of the short-comings of the first United Nations Development Decade, could serve as a useful guide for establishing the objectives and plans for the second Decade.

26. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) felt that, in view of the great difficulty and complexity of the subject, both the Commission for Social Development and the Working Party had done admirable work. The draft Declaration was not a document for the future; it set out those immediate objectives and principles relating to social development on which the world community could agree.

27. With regard to the proposal made by the Italian delegation at the 1575th meeting, she doubted whether the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, in view of the nature of its functions, would agree to undertake the drafting of a text such as that now before the Committee.

28. Her delegation had been particularly interested in the question that had been raised as to the need to use the expressions "social progress" and "social development" side by side in the draft. It considered that both expressions were necessary and that they were complementary, since development was a continuous process of evolution, while progress, unlike development, had a revolutionary character.

29. Although she acknowledged the value of the new elements introduced into the text, she would have preferred a more concise formulation of the principles and objectives, but a lengthier one of the means and methods, and she would support any amendments to the effect.

30. She considered unrealistic the attitude of those delegations which had asserted that the draft Declaration should not include political elements; that might be arguable in the case of objectives, but the use of means and methods to achieve them necessarily involved the adoption of political measures.

31. Referring to the criticisms of paragraph 27 of part III, she said that, if the General Assembly, in its resolution 2034 (XX), had established the responsibility of the international community for giving assistance in cases of natural disaster, the measures of reparation for war damage envisaged in that paragraph were even more justified, since war was the greatest calamity that could befall a people.

32. Miss KHUHRO (Pakistan) said that her delegation had a special interest in seeing the draft Declaration on Social Development, which was of great significance and urgency for the developing countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its current session. Although not perfect, the draft Declaration represented a united effort to lay the foundations for the social well-being of the individual. There was a consensus regarding the need for such an instrument and the ideas to be incorporated in it. All that remained to be done was to perfect the text and remove any remaining gaps. So far, no substantive changes had been proposed to the draft, which would thus be given its final form in a relatively short time.

33. Although some speakers had objected to the thirteenth preambular paragraph, which, according to them, included political ideas, no delegation could deny that colonialism, racism and exploitation were indeed grave obstacles to social progress and must be rooted out if the desired goals were to be attained. Some delegations had been opposed to paragraph 27 of part III for the same reasons. The principle enunciated in that provision was not political, however, for wars had always caused great hardship for the civilian populations of the territories affected, the illegal occupation of which by the aggressor created serious problems. In any case, her delegation would be willing to accept a compromise formula accommodating the views of other representatives, provided the basic principle of the paragraph was not changed.

34. She acknowledged that the draft was somewhat long, but considered that that was in keeping with its scope, and she would be opposed to sacrificing some of the ideas it contained for the sake of concision. Brevity was not a merit in itself and never justified ambiguity. It had also been said that the text was repetitious. If it seemed so, that was because it consisted of three interdependent parts, which did not constitute insulated compartments but were connected in a logical sequence.

35. Her delegation hoped that the Third Committee would take a constructive approach to the draft Declaration so that it could be adopted unanimously.

36. Miss GROZA (Romania) said that the draft Declaration under consideration was destined to play an important role as a source of inspiration for the social action of States and of the United Nations. She appreciated the efforts made to prepare a text which did not merely enunciate precepts, but constituted a useful and practical tool that States could use to achieve the progress they desired.

37. If it was to serve a useful purpose the Declaration must reflect the very complex nature of social development and must recognize that social progress was indissolubly linked to economic development, since they were both components of the same process in which social development gave meaning to economic development and the latter made the former possible. History showed that the determinant role in that single process was played by economic development, which, in turn, was stimulated or retarded by social development. The interaction of both factors must be borne in mind in any steps designed to improve the social situation, and the document under consideration must enunciate the principles and goals of social development both as a separate sphere and as a means of accelerating economic progress.

38. It should also be borne in mind that national and international political factors exerted a powerful influence on the economic and social development of nations. Far-reaching social and economic reforms and the intensive participation of the people in efforts designed to achieve social progress were essential prerequisites for equitable social development. The maintenance of international peace and security—based on friendly relations and co-operation among States, both large and small, with differing political systems and on respect for self-determination, sovereignty and independence—likewise created a favourable climate for social development. On the other hand, aggressive policies and disregard for the principles and rules of international law had serious adverse consequences, such as the need to squander material and intellectual resources on the sterile production of armaments.

39. The use for peaceful purposes of the discoveries of world science and technology also could exert a beneficial influence on social development as could a more extensive exchange of information and experience in those fields among all States.

40. The draft Declaration on Social Development must be universal in scope and must express in a realistic way the concerns and interests of all States, irrespective of their level of development. In order to attain some measure of equilibrium, special attention must be given to the problems of social progress in developing countries. The essential unity of the material and spiritual aspects of human life must also be stressed in the draft Declaration with a view to ensuring a more complete social development.

41. Although the document would probably be amended, with new paragraphs being added and others deleted, her delegation hoped that a harmonious compromise would be achieved, which would express the interest of all States without changing the basic concept of the draft Declaration.

42. Mrs. KRASNOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Republic) believed that the draft Declaration provided a good base for the Third Committee's future work in the field of social development, and she approved of its basic ideas. The creation of conditions that ensured respect for human freedom and dignity was a prerequisite for social progress. There was also a need for national policies which would guarantee the right to work and would ensure numerous employment opportunities, especially for young people, and equality of working conditions; which would eliminate poverty and give the land to those who cultivated it; and which would ensure national sovereignty over natural resources. Because scientific progress stimulated industrial technology, it was necessary to devote greater attention to the training of workers and the education of all citizens. Progress called for the improvement of workers' skills and the provision of more educational services for the population as a whole. Family assistance measures were also needed, particularly for the dissemination of teaching experience among parents.

43. The Byelorussian SSR wished to share its experience in social development with other States. In its fifty years of existence it had increased its production many times over. In the Byelorussian SSR everyone was now literate, while before the October Revolution the population had been almost completely illiterate; it had also set up social welfare systems which were wholly financed by the State.

44. While her delegation would support any amendment that improved the text of the draft Declaration, it would reject any action that jeopardized or weakened the draft. The Third Committee should try to adopt the draft at the current session, since the peoples of the world were eagerly awaiting that map of social progress, which would indicate the road to be followed for the solution of problems and would further the cause of peace and mutual understanding. Such an instrument was, of course, difficult to prepare, but if that important task was approached in the right spirit, it would be possible to produce a good declaration.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*