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CONTENTS

Page

Agenda item 50:

*Draft Declaration on Social Development (con-  
tinued)*

*General debate (continued) . . . . . 1*

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

AGENDA ITEM 50

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

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. PARDOS (Spain) said that his country, which had just begun its second economic and social development plan and which was a member of the Commission for Social Development, believed that economic development and social development were inextricably linked. It therefore attached great importance to the draft Declaration on Social Development (A/7161, annex I). However important the proposed charter of development which was to be discussed by the Second Committee might be, the Declaration on Social Development would play an even more vital role by ensuring that efforts to achieve economic development did not destroy the object of those efforts, namely, man himself.

2. It was true that the existing text of the draft Declaration was imperfect and should be improved, but that should not preclude its adoption at the current session. Many years of work had gone into its preparation. It was only a declaration of general principles and not a draft resolution, recommendation, or convention, and consequently both the text itself and the position of delegations should be more flexible on the question of national sovereignty. Furthermore, the Declaration was intended to serve, in the words of the representative of France, as a torch to illuminate and guide countries in drawing up their own social development plans. Although the Declaration would be helpful to all countries—for all needed guidance—it would be particularly useful to the developing countries, inasmuch as it would give them the moral support they needed in embarking on the road to economic and social development.

3. While his delegation hoped that the draft Declaration could be improved through the goodwill and co-operation of all, it was prepared to endorse it as it stood because of the urgency of the need to arouse awareness of the general principles of social development; that was a more important consideration than technical perfection.

4. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) expressed her delegation's gratitude to the Argentine delegation, which had first proposed the drafting of a declaration on social development,<sup>1/</sup> and to the Commission for Social Development and its Working Party for the work they had done in preparing the draft. The text could hardly be other than imperfect; for it was no easy task to concentrate in a few pages the principles and objectives of social development and the means and methods of attaining it and to reconcile, where necessary, diametrically opposed points of view. Moreover, the draft Declaration mirrored the divisions, inequalities and injustices of the world. It was true that the text lacked cohesion, that some points had not been given sufficient importance, and that some passages did not concord with similar passages in other parts of the text. There was an inconsistency of that kind in the case, for instance, of the fifth preambular paragraph and part I, paragraph 12.

5. There were, of course, gaps in the draft Declaration. For example, it said too little about the problem of the brain drain or the possibility that a part of the resources to be gained from the peaceful use of the sea-bed or of atomic energy could be devoted to social development, while it said too much about the mentally or physically handicapped.

6. However, the authors of the text had been guided by a concern for reality. The draft Declaration should diagnose the causes of under-development and find remedies that would enable the under-developed countries to realize their full potential. In some countries—the colonized countries—under-development had been the result of moral and physical degradation, humiliation and hopelessness, and the hatred, racism and apartheid that had been practised against them. In other countries, it had been the result of oppression. The draft Declaration made an honest appraisal of the causes of under-development. Some countries had objected to some of the words used in the draft, but those words merely reflected sad realities known to everyone. The world was full of imperfections, but they need not be accepted for ever, and the Committee could perhaps play a decisive role in that respect. The fact was that colonialism, discrimination, exploitation, war, aggression, inequality and injustice still existed. However, the developing countries did not wish merely to express rancour; they aspired to a better life and wanted not hatred and violence but friendship and esteem. They had returned to the developed countries because they felt that those countries were to some extent responsible for their plight. The developing countries must, of course, rely primarily

<sup>1/</sup> For the text proposed by Argentina, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 54, document A/C.3/L.1419.

or their own efforts, and their permanent sovereignty over their own natural resources must be strongly asserted in the Declaration. Under United Nations guidance, they should not only exploit those resources but should also unite in order to influence the export and marketing of them. When all the developing countries united to form a single, cohesive economic entity, they would have a strong voice in international affairs because of the great wealth of their natural resources.

7. Social development was one thing, but a social development policy allowing for freedom to choose priority objectives was another. Part I, paragraph 7, was an important provision because it warned of the danger of generalization and paternalism. While no nation could live in isolation, each was unique. Thus, a social development policy conceived in one country could not necessarily be applied in toto to another, even if the causes of under-development were the same. Each country should study the recommended policy in the light of its own traditions, environment and culture. Social development needs were so pressing that it was sometimes difficult to choose between them in terms of priorities. In view of the tremendous gap between the developed and the developing countries, she appealed to the conscience of the developed countries; for they had contracted, as it were, a debt to the primary-commodity producing countries, which had provided them with markets and enriched them for centuries.

8. While the draft Declaration was intended primarily for the developing countries, it could also help the developed countries with respect to scientific and technological progress and the protection of human rights. It should emphasize the importance of the role which the United Nations could play in making technological discoveries available to the developing countries, even though the latter were concerned less with the technological revolution than with employment, education, training and the development of their human resources.

9. The developing countries could contribute to the Declaration the experience of their age-old civilizations, their philosophical thought and their spiritual inheritance; their faith, their respect for tradition, their love of family and sense of community responsibility could do much to humanize the document. While it was, of course, essential to ensure his material well-being, man did not live by bread alone. Social development should therefore be based on spiritual and moral ethics which would assure for man and society the equilibrium necessary for their advancement. In that connexion, the Declaration should place great stress on the role of the family in social development, because the moral and social equilibrium of the family contributed to the infra-structure and to the health of the State. In some of the developed countries, unfortunately, moral degradation seemed to accompany social development. For example, a bill had been introduced in the legislature of one developed country seeking legal recognition of marriages between brother and sister or between persons of the same sex. The role of the family was crucial to any society, and the rights, obligations and responsibilities of the family must be reaffirmed in the Declaration because, apart from moral considerations, family instability affected the stability and health of the nation. In that

context, her delegation supported the recognition of the right of parents to decide the number of offspring they would have.

10. If the draft Declaration was far from perfect, it was for the Committee, working without rancour or bitterness, to try to improve it and make it responsive to the needs of the international community.

11. Mrs. TAIROVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation considered the text before the Committee an adequate basis for the adoption of a Declaration on the basic problems of social development which would be a useful tool for Governments in drawing up their social development plans. The Declaration should not be a mere repetition of earlier United Nations decisions; it should go further and offer Governments tangible long-term objectives of social development and indicate how they could be attained. The draft was not without defects, which her delegation would point out in due course in connexion with the relevant paragraphs, but like other delegations it would try to keep amendments to the minimum.

12. She wished to illustrate the various parts of the text with examples from the social development of the USSR. The October Revolution had put an end to the old system of exploitation and oppression; it had eliminated private ownership of the means of production and various forms of social inequality; it had given power to the workers and made all citizens of the USSR equal, irrespective of their nationality, race, sex, level of education, ownership of property or religious convictions. The right to work and the right to leisure, education and material security in old age, illness or disability were guaranteed. Women had equal rights with men in all fields of activity. Those desiderata were reflected, although not fully, in the preamble of the draft Declaration.

13. With regard to part I, her Government had always striven to create the material basis for ensuring in fact the rights of the people proclaimed in the Soviet Constitution. Within a relatively short period, the Soviet people had created a heavy industry and a high level of agricultural mechanization which had made the USSR one of the most developed countries in the world and given it a leading place in industrial and agricultural production. At the same time, the Government had given constant attention to social development and progress. Approximately three quarters of the national income was used directly to satisfy the needs of the population. Real income had risen as a result of wage increases, and rents had been greatly reduced. There had been a rise in the standard of living of the peasants, which was now much closer to that of the manual and non-manual workers. The USSR had been the first country to solve the problem of unemployment; workers were assured of full employment and improvements in their conditions of work. The Government had eliminated illiteracy and instituted universal compulsory education. At the present time, some 80 million persons were studying in the USSR. In her own Republic, Azerbaijan, 92 per cent of whose population had been illiterate before the Revolution, everyone was now literate and there were 5,647 schools. All instruction was given in the local language, and the cost of education was borne entirely by the Government.

14. With regard to part II, the problem of the elimination of hunger and poverty had been fully solved in the USSR and the prosperity of the people was continually increasing. The health protection referred to in paragraph 3 was already a reality there. Whereas in pre-revolutionary Russia one doctor had served an average of 7,000 persons, there were now twenty-five doctors for every 10,000 persons; the equivalent figure for the capitalist countries ranged from fourteen to nineteen. All types of medical care were provided at the expense of the Government. In Azerbaijan before the Revolution there had been only 350 doctors; there were now some 12,000. The country paid particular attention to health protection for women and children, for whom a whole network of services had been instituted. Some 15 per cent of the population in 1968 were receiving a pension for old age, disability or other causes.

15. With regard to part III, her delegation wished to emphasize that means and methods must be not only enunciated but implemented. It should be primarily the obligation of the State to carry out the provisions of parts I and II of the draft Declaration.

16. In describing the achievements of the Soviet people in the field of social development, her delegation was not pursuing any propagandistic purposes or trying to impose anything on others. It merely felt that its country's experience might be useful to the developing countries which had recently freed themselves from the colonial yoke and were now directing their efforts towards the improvement of social conditions.

17. Her delegation would make every effort, in co-operation with others, to overcome the difficulties involved in drafting the Declaration, so that an important international document could be adopted in its final form at the current session.

18. Mrs. OULD DADDAH (Mauritania) said that, although she believed the Committee had been concerned in the past with the drafting of too many conventions and other international instruments and that more stress should in future be placed on quality rather than quantity, there was no doubt of the urgent need for a declaration such as the one under discussion. It could and should represent one of the links in the dialogue between the State and the individual and between the rich and the poor countries of the world.

19. Much of the criticism that had been levelled against both the substance and the form of the draft Declaration was fully justified, and she hoped that the Committee would be able to improve it and produce a clear and specific text. Although she agreed that the Declaration should not reflect any specific ideology or political system, that did not mean that political issues should be ignored. The Declaration should reflect the ideals of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which were both specific political instruments. Thus, the references to such matters as impediments to human freedom, each nation's sovereignty over its natural resources and the elimination of racism were quite proper, since those problems were of concern to all and it was only by overcoming them that social progress could be achieved.

20. While it was true that the situation in many countries was extremely complex and that there were many difficulties to be overcome in implementing the Charter, the Committee would be failing in its duty if it simply ignored issues that were vital to social development. It was essential that the Declaration should reflect the following ideas: the complete interdependence of economic and social development; the need for States to plan social development; the need to establish priorities and classify requirements; the close relationship between human rights and social development; the need to place more stress on the individual as such and as an agent of development; the need to envisage social development in the context not only of science and technology, but also of civilization, culture, traditions and the highest spiritual and moral values; in the field of international co-operation, the need for efforts and sacrifices on the part of individuals and States, and the need to release additional resources through a just policy with regard to commodities and through disarmament; and the need for technical assistance. She hoped that, on the basis of the draft, the Committee would be able to formulate the brief, concise, vigorous and effective Declaration desired by all.

21. Mr. BENGSTON (Sweden) said that his delegation attached great importance to the establishment of social as well as economic targets in planning for the second United Nations Development Decade. There was an increasing understanding of the interdependence of economic and social development in the process of growth and change, and social development was now recognized to be not only an ultimate goal in itself, but also an essential input factor in the process of economic development. The main function of an instrument establishing guidelines for social development was to stimulate practical efforts within individual countries. For that purpose, the form of a declaration was perhaps the most appropriate, since it could very well be given the character of a vision of the future. The pace at which the various goals would be pursued would, of course, vary according to the availability of material resources and the different priorities established in individual countries.

22. In order to act as a stimulus to social development, the Declaration should be as clear, precise and brief as possible and should not be unduly influenced by factors which were likely to be of passing significance. His Government felt that the contents of the draft Declaration perhaps went beyond the terms of reference laid down in General Assembly resolution 2215 (XXI) and, with a view to clarifying the text, it had submitted in document A/7235 three suggestions relating to the form rather than the substance of the text.

23. Mr. ZADOK (Israel) said that his delegation favoured the adoption of a Declaration on Social Development as a necessary adjunct to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in order to place economic development in its proper human context. The Declaration should not only set targets and standards towards which individual countries should strive, but should contain practical provisions as guides for domestic social legislation and indicate how the social benefits achieved in developed coun-

tries should gradually be extended to the rest of the world.

24. Although the draft Declaration before the Committee was on the whole an admirable document, it had one basic weakness. It dealt with matters which did not properly fall within its province and was not specific enough on matters which did. General Assembly resolution 2215 (XXI) had called for a definition of the objectives of social development and the methods and means of achieving them, on the basis of the principles of the United Nations, and not for a definition of those principles. There was no need, therefore, to refer in part I of the Declaration to such principles as national independence, the right of self-determination, and non-interference in internal affairs, all of which were enunciated in the Charter. It could, indeed, be argued that, by the inclusion of a statement of principles in the draft Declaration, the limits of the Assembly's resolution had been exceeded.

25. On the other hand, the draft was not specific enough in its statements of objectives, means and methods. There was, for example, no reference to minimum wages, equal pay for equal work, reduced working hours for workers engaged in dangerous or unhealthy occupations, the concept of collective bargaining, the prohibition of child labour and the establishment of a minimum working age, all of which were surely important enough to warrant specific mention in a declaration of social objectives.

26. Although his delegation wished to see the Declaration adopted as soon as possible, it was conscious of the universal and permanent nature of the instrument. He hoped, therefore, that some way could be found to correct its shortcomings without unduly delaying its adoption.

27. Mr. RESICH (Poland) expressed his delegation's agreement with the idea of drawing up a Declaration on Social Development. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights had already proclaimed certain principles concerning human rights in the social field, and its provisions had been expanded in subsequent, more detailed Declarations, such as the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It had also been given legal expression in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which defined not only social rights but also social duties, particularly those assumed by the State towards its citizens, and also indicated certain means of achieving the rights in question.

28. Several seminars had been held on the subject, including one at Warsaw in 1967 on the realization of economic and social rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>2/</sup> That seminar had demonstrated the need for the United Nations to continue its work in that field and for States to plan social reforms, to enact social legislation and to incorporate those rights in their constitutions—a step which had already been taken by the socialist countries and some others.

29. In a sense, the Declaration on Social Development could be an expansion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It would define the principles

underlying social policy and provide an ideological basis and a comprehensive work programme for the United Nations and its Member States in the social field. Its main practical value would consist in the establishment of general principles that were accepted by all and in the fact that it would represent a step towards the creation of a community of language and a community of aims and moral principles in the co-existence of peoples. It would also give social problems their rightful importance by defining social development as the ultimate aim of all development, and it would transform high ideals into specific duties.

30. The need for progressive reforms should be reflected in the title of the Declaration and in its provisions, such as those relating to the equitable distribution of national income, the elimination of colonial exploitation, the achievement of equitable terms of trade, and the participation of the whole population—including the workers and peasants—in the process of social development. The Declaration should take as its basis the principle that economic and social development were interdependent and that social development was but a means to an end: that of increasing the dignity and well-being of man. It should express the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination and should place primary emphasis on the fact that the maintenance of peace and security was a prerequisite for economic and social development. He believed that, once some additional ideas had been incorporated in the text, it would be possible to adopt the draft Declaration at the current session.

31. Mr. KAPALGE (Ceylon) said that the draft Declaration on Social Development was one of the most important items on the Committee's agenda at the current session. It had the virtue of demonstrating that the basic objectives of all mankind were closely similar, if not identical, and offered a means whereby all nations could focus their attention on common goals and, to some extent, arrive at a common view of the appropriate means of achieving them.

32. The item was particularly opportune at a time when the United Nations was reviewing the achievements of the first Development Decade and mapping out strategy for the second. During the first Decade, the main emphasis had been placed on economic development, and the draft Declaration served as a reminder that economic development was only a means of achieving certain social objectives and that economic growth and social development were interdependent. The benefits of economic advancement should serve not merely an already privileged few but the many who were in dire want.

33. There could not be any social development without economic growth. The developing countries were too poor to embark on massive social welfare programmes without dissipating scarce resources, and under existing conditions such programmes would only result in distributing poverty. It was also true, however, that in the process of rapid economic development neglect of social welfare would have moral as well as economic consequences, and it was therefore necessary to achieve a balance between economic growth and social development.

34. One factor which severely hampered both economic growth and social progress in the developing

<sup>2/</sup> For the report of the Seminar, see document ST/TAO/HR/31.



countries was the adverse turn taken by the terms of trade during the current Development Decade. In his own country the consequent reduction in export earnings had been estimated to amount to \$281 million—an amount almost double the net foreign assistance received over the same period. What was true of Ceylon was also true of the developing world in general, and his delegation was sorely disappointed at the failure of the industrialized countries to honour their pledge to transfer 1 per cent of their national income to supplement and strengthen the development effort.

35. One of the foremost lessons of the first United Nations Development Decade was that economic and social development were the common concern of the entire international community. He therefore welcomed the clauses in part III of the draft dealing with economic planning and international co-operation, and felt that the preamble should include some reference to the responsibility of States Members of the United Nations to pursue internal and external policies designed to accelerate social development throughout the world and, in particular, to help the developing countries to accelerate their economic growth.

36. His delegation supported the draft in principle but felt that it was perhaps too long and repetitious. The Declaration should not be too specific, but should confine itself to an enunciation of principles, objectives and strategy. It would be advisable, therefore, to delete matters that were not universally relevant, as well as those specifically dealt with in other Declarations. An attempt should be made to achieve universal acceptance of a Declaration on Social Development, the adoption of which would mark an important milestone in the work of the Third Committee.

37. Mrs. DE BROMLEY (Honduras) said that, as the representative of a developing country, she was anxious that the draft Declaration on Social Development should be accepted. The Commission for Social Development was to be congratulated on producing a document which was both universal and specific. However, the text could be improved; it was ambiguous and repetitious in places. Although the subject was complex and time was limited, she felt that, if the Committee devoted its full attention to the problem, it could adopt the draft Declaration in a satisfactory form at the current session. It should be made clear in the Declaration that development was a constant process and that what represented progress today would constitute backwardness tomorrow; the methods suggested should therefore be flexible, and the objectives limitless.

38. Miss MUTER (Indonesia) supported the principles, the objectives and the means and methods set out in the draft Declaration on Social Development. She was also pleased to note that the draft incorporated many of the proposals endorsed by her Government at the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare held in September 1968, which were in accord with the objectives of Indonesia's five-year development plan as it related to social development.

39. She attached particular importance to the assertion that each nation was vested with permanent

sovereignty over its natural wealth and resources. The draft Declaration also stressed the need to train national personnel to administer social development programmes, to promote popular participation in social and economic development, and to improve the position of the developing countries in international trade.

40. Although she agreed that much could be achieved by increased international co-operation, she felt that emphasis should be placed on the national aspect of social development. It was particularly important to integrate and synchronize intersectorial or interdisciplinary activities carried out by different departments and agencies.

41. Indonesia made maximum use of its natural resources—human, material and financial—in its social welfare programme, with particular emphasis on the human factor; for, without popular participation in all areas, the Government could not achieve its development objectives.

42. For the reasons she had mentioned, her delegation was prepared to support the draft Declaration, although it felt that the present text could be improved. For instance, greater emphasis could be placed on the interrelationship between social and economic development and progress. Those two aspects of development were so closely connected that the consideration and solution of one depended on equal progress in the other. Her delegation also agreed that the draft should be adopted at the current session, as it would serve as a guideline and an incentive to national programming for social development in the developing countries.

43. Mr. GORDILLO (Peru), said that his delegation was in general agreement with the draft Declaration on Social Development, which, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2215 (XXI), defined in general terms the objectives of social development and methods and means of achieving them. The Declaration adopted must be universally acceptable; it should take account of, and leave scope for, each country's approach to the problems of social development, as well as its individual economic, cultural and social conditions.

44. More specifically, the text should highlight the problems of literacy and education, which were of concern to both developing and developed countries. It should also stress the role of social welfare systems and preventive medicine, particularly in remote rural areas. Mention should be made of the ever-growing gap between the developed and the developing countries; in that connexion, he noted that the draft omitted to state that aid from the developed countries was essential if the social development of the developing countries was to be effective.

45. He was sure that the draft Declaration could be improved, and his delegation would vote in favour of it, subject to the adoption of certain amendments which were to be submitted by Latin American countries.

46. Mrs. OGATA (Japan) said that her delegation had been impressed by the repeatedly expressed conviction that social development was as important as, and interrelated with, economic development—a conviction which was borne out by experience in her

own country. After the Second World War, Japan had viewed development in economic terms. Increased urbanization and technological improvements had resulted in a 10 per cent increase in the national product, and the standard of living had risen considerably. However, that rapid economic development had had serious side-effects; urbanization had created problems in housing, environmental hygiene and traffic control. Since 1965, therefore, Japan had been giving high priority to social welfare programmes as part of its over-all development plan.

47. Consequently, her delegation was particularly interested in the production of a Declaration which would serve as a guide for national planning. That task would not be easy, since different countries had different ideas and needs and were at different stages of development and in different political situations. It was therefore understandable that the draft Declaration sometimes lacked consistency; it was bound to be a compromise. In her view, however, the Declaration should fulfil the following conditions. Firstly, as it must be unanimously acceptable, any provisions which might be political contentious should be deleted. She therefore supported the Philippine proposal that paragraph 27 of part III of the draft should be deleted (see A/7235). Secondly, it should recognize the right of every State to determine freely its own objectives of social development, in accordance with its particular needs, systems and beliefs. Thirdly, it should recognize that, although Governments played an important role in social welfare programmes, a significant contribution could and should be made by local bodies and private citizens.

48. If the literary quality of the draft Declaration could be improved, its impact would be increased. While not wishing to delay the adoption of the Declaration by semantic quibbles, she suggested that a drafting sub-committee might be given the task of improving the text.

49. Miss GICHURU (Kenya) congratulated the Commission for Social Development on producing a draft Declaration which incorporated many of the most important aspects of social development and enunciated noble principles aimed at improving the conditions of the individual, regardless of race, creed or colour. Self-determination was stressed in part I of the draft as a fundamental condition of social, economic and cultural progress. In that connexion, she expressed support for those delegations which felt that paragraph 6 of part I should be retained. As the representative of a nation which had been subjected to the indignity of colonialism, exploitation and racism, she firmly believed that social development and progress required the immediate and final elimination of such policies. She also agreed with the objectives set out in part II of the draft, which enumerated the evils against which Kenya was fighting. Part III, concerning means and methods, also reflected many of her delegation's views. However, in that connexion she wished to reiterate her delegation's firm belief that the involvement of the people in development planning was essential; otherwise, the implementation of social development plans often entailed heavy expenses which developing countries could not afford. Kenya, for its part, had found that the use of self-help could accelerate social development, and by using that method

it had more than doubled the number of primary and secondary schools and had brought health services to many rural areas. However, it had found that the true value of self-help efforts lay not only in what people did, but in their willingness to help to raise their own standard of living. Unless people were prepared to participate in their own social development, any financial or other assistance would simply amount to charity.

50. Although the draft Declaration had imperfections, it embodied noble aims and she believed that, with the co-operation of Member States, it could serve as a guide in the field of social development. Her country attached the greatest importance to social development and was prepared to give its full support to the draft Declaration, which she hoped would be adopted at the current session.

51. Mr. CHABAFIMBI (Zambia) noted that the draft Declaration dealt with many of the fields of social development covered by Zambia's own development programme. In Zambia, the concept of social development in all its forms was interpreted in the context of the national philosophy of humanism, which stressed the dignity of man, the preservation of the country's traditions, the maintenance of social harmony and the free participation of the individual in development schemes at all levels.

52. The draft Declaration reminded all the developing countries of their responsibilities for relieving misery and suffering and for maintaining conditions conducive to social progress and prosperity. The developing countries were aware that the rapid changes in political, economic and social structures required new methods and new institutions. Consequently, the social progress achieved by developed countries was not necessarily the model for social progress in developing countries. His delegation agreed that the draft Declaration contained imperfections, but it nevertheless served its purpose of reminding Governments of their great responsibility to humanity.

53. It was important to view social development in individual developing countries in the context of the conditions, history, traditions and political background of the country concerned. Zambia, immediately after independence, had launched a four-year national development plan to lay the foundations for future prosperity by increasing rural productivity, creating thousands of new jobs, and diversifying the copper-based economy. His country was aware that social development was meaningless in a society where exploitation and social injustice were the way of life. It therefore affirmed the right of everyone to work and was attempting to achieve an equitable distribution of national wealth. The development plan concentrated on increasing agricultural output with a view to reducing Zambia's reliance on copper exports. Considerable progress had also been made in the field of education, which had been sadly neglected during the colonial era, and an adult literacy programme had had great success.

54. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his Government's view that political stability, peace and contentment were prerequisites for launching national development plans.

55. Mr. NKONGO (Democratic Republic of the Congo) congratulated the Commission for Social Development

on producing a document which contained ideas relevant to national development programmes; for, although social progress was the ultimate objective of any development plan, it was a matter of particular urgency to the developing countries. It was true that the world social and economic situation seemed to have stagnated; very few developing countries had reached the "take-off" stage, and the world was sharply divided into rich and poor countries. Yet in spite of the widening gulf between them, developed and developing countries had similar social problems. Problems of labour, social insurance, unemployment, women's rights and education existed in all societies to a certain extent. The industrialized nations and the developing countries were pursuing a common objective, namely, to find a practical solution to the social

problems existing in their own countries. However, those solutions should aim at establishing social justice as well as material well-being. Although social justice was supported in principle by all nations, it was denied in much of Africa, where many peoples were human only in name. In that connexion, it should be remembered that the social and economic situation in the African countries was largely the result of the systems which had existed before independence.

56. His delegation therefore welcomed the draft Declaration on Social Development, although it agreed with the USSR proposal that it should be renamed "Declaration on Social Progress and Development" (see A/7235).

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*