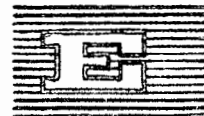


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on Thursday, 18 July 1968, at 3.20 p.m.

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United Nations Development Decade (item 4 of the Council agenda)
(continued)

Chairman: Mr. BILLNER Sweden

Note: The list of representatives attending the session is found in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, prefatory fascicle.

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (item 4 of the Council agenda) (E/4488 and Add.1-5, E/4493/Rev.1 (paras. 42-59), E/4496, E/4515, E/4525; E/CN.4/417 and Add.1/Corr.1, Add.1 and Corr.1 and Add.2 and Summary) (continued)

Mr. CHOLLET (France) said that if the second Development Decade was to be a success, the basis of the international development strategy for the 1970s must be sound. Unfortunately, the only document now before the Committee relating directly to that strategy was the note by the Secretary-General (E/4525), which was concerned essentially with procedural matters. According to the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its third session (E/4515, para.104), a number of documents concerning the preparation of the strategy had already been prepared and were to be submitted to the organizations of the United Nations system, but not to Member States. Furthermore, the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had informed the Committee at the 456th meeting that the progress report on the preparatory work would not be submitted to the Council until the forty-seventh session. In his view, that procedure was unsatisfactory: the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system should not spend two years preparing a study based on working hypotheses which had not been considered by Member States.

That view was based not only on considerations of principle, but also on the dictates of common sense. If some of the working hypotheses were unacceptable to certain Governments, the preparatory work would have to be recommenced on an entirely new basis, involving a considerable waste of time and money. That was not a theoretical danger. For example, he had learned from unofficial sources that the Secretariat had taken as a working hypothesis a rate of economic growth of 6-7 per cent at the end of the second Development Decade for developing countries which had not yet attained that rate. Consequently, the assumed rate of growth for the developing countries as a whole would be considerably higher, and if attained might result in considerable inflationary pressures. Similarly, the working hypothesis for the average rate of investment in the developing countries during the second Decade was 15-19 per cent of the gross national product. That implied a large increase in domestic savings, which would rise from 14 per cent of the gross national product in 1965 to 17.7 per cent in 1980, and it was questionable whether the developing countries would be willing or able to make the considerable effort involved.

Those examples sufficed to show how essential it was for Member States to be fully informed at the present stage of the progress of the preparatory work on the formulation of the international development strategy. He therefore hoped that the Secretariat would arrange for the working documents mentioned in the report of the Committee for Development Planning to be distributed to Member States as soon as possible. Once that had been done, he would submit proposals concerning the time and place at which Member States could discuss those documents.

In his view, there were two main justifications for the second Development Decade. First, it would provide an opportunity for better co-ordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields. However, such co-ordination would not be easy to achieve, for two reasons. One was that some specialized agencies were already preparing world-wide plans and programmes in their respective fields of competence. If the Decade was to succeed those plans would have to be brought into line with each other and with plans for the Decade as a whole. The other was that many of the objectives set by the organizations of the United Nations system were essentially qualitative in nature and it would be hard to incorporate them into quantitative targets. They must nevertheless be accorded high priority in the plans for the second Decade.

The second justification for the Decade was that it would facilitate the preparation of regional and national development plans, for it would provide an indicative framework of forecasts within which such plans could be drawn up. However, the targets set should not be too ambitious and a judicious balance should be struck between what was desirable and what was possible. Furthermore, the formulation of an international development strategy should not provide the United Nations with a pretext to intervene in the internal affairs of sovereign States and force them to take certain decisions. Consequently, the nature of the commitments to be entered into by developed and developing countries should be carefully defined. Legal commitments in the form of unilateral declarations of intent or international agreements were legitimate and desirable, but he felt some concern about what had been referred to as "quasi-commitments". The success of the second Development Decade could not be assured by establishing machinery designed to exert psychological and moral pressure on States so that they would support certain decisions or recommendations. Similarly,

it was legitimate to provide for procedures to evaluate the extent to which the targets for the Decade were being attained, but such procedures should not degenerate into an attempt to control the policies of individual Member States. The targets should be indicative, and it would be for Member States to determine the extent to which they should be reflected in their economic and social policies.

In proclaiming the second Development Decade, despite the disappointing results of the first Decade, the United Nations would be trying to establish a valid framework within which Member States could seek to achieve a reasonable increase in the developing countries' rate of growth. In order to avoid the errors of the first Decade, the organizations of the United Nations system had decided to define quantitative and qualitative objectives and the means necessary to attain them, and to awaken world public opinion so that it would fully support the action of Governments. Although the United Nations, in close co-operation with the specialized agencies, could launch and guide that crusade against under-development, it could not be responsible for the basic operational activities involved in the Decade. The main effort must be provided by the countries themselves and through bilateral assistance. The United Nations contribution at the operational level must be selective and supplementary if it was to be effective.

Mr. MURIN (Czechoslovakia) said that one of the basic causes of the comparative failure of the first Development Decade had been that plans had been based on an excessively abstract view of the developing world. In the formulation of future plans, the very considerable differences between individual countries in such matters as national income, infrastructure and rate of industrialization must be borne in mind. The documents before the Committee, in particular the World Economic Survey, 1967, Part I (E/4488 and Add.1-5) and Report on the World Social Situation, 1967, chapters X-XVI (E/CN.5/417/Add.2) showed that the social and economic differences between developing countries were in many cases greater than the differences between the developed and the developing countries in general. That diversity indicated the need for a reappraisal of the theory and practice of development policies. He welcomed the evidence of such a new approach in the report of the Committee for Development Planning.

His delegation had noted with some concern a tendency to under estimate the differences between various sectors within countries and to over-emphasize the division

of the world into "a poor south" and "a rich north". Such over-simplification could adversely affect both the development process itself and international relations, which in turn influenced that process. It also tended to distract attention from the reactionary forces impeding development within the developing countries. The time had come to consider a new classification of countries according to the stage of economic and social development actually attained. If based on objective, comparative measurements it could help to make development aid more effective by concentrating it upon those countries which needed it most.

The expansion of international economic relations was a natural consequence of the evolution of society. The technological revolution called for new attitudes to the integrated development of the world economy, which must be taken into account in the preparation of long-term development plans. The objective should be the achievement of the most effective international division of labour based on all relevant historical, geographical and economic factors.

Many complicated economic problems would have to be solved in order to accelerate the growth of the world economy. In preparing for the second Development Decade it would be a mistake to concentrate attention exclusively on the developing world.

In the past the approach to diversification had been partly based on non-economic considerations. Thanks to the new conception which was emerging of the function of the developing countries in the world economy, it would be possible to base future plans on an attempt to find the best place for each country in the world economy and the international division of labour, i.e. to determine the type of production upon which a particular country should concentrate. That objective, however, was not to be achieved in the near future.

International trade was of the utmost importance to Czechoslovakia which had limited raw material resources and a comparatively small internal market. The Czechoslovak Government had adopted a policy of full co-operation with other countries not only in trade but in the exchange of information and many other fields.

It was generally recognized that considerable additional resources for development would be released if the present wasteful expenditure on armaments were terminated. Further resources would also be saved if the present unco-ordinated process of technological advance, which involved considerable financial and intellectual waste, was regulated and harmonized.

His delegation had been somewhat alarmed by unrealistic statements about the capacity of the developing countries to utilize additional capital. It should be pointed out that injudicious capital investment could have negative results, as had been observed during the first Development Decade.

A programme should be drawn up by the United Nations for the fullest participation of young people in the development process, particularly in overcoming such hindrances to development as illiteracy. The experience already acquired by some countries in that field should be fully utilized.

His own country's experience demonstrated that a conflict could arise between the desire to improve living conditions and the natural inclination to unrestricted and immediate enjoyment. The general advance of society necessitated a disciplined accumulation of capital.

Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said it was becoming apparent that there was growing concern amongst Governments and organizations alike about the pace at which work was proceeding on preparations for the second Decade and about the timetable proposed for the submission of plans for their consideration. He, however, was more optimistic than the French representative; he was willing to assume that when the preparatory work was complete, the hypotheses upon which it was based would prove acceptable, although he did share the French representative's concern on some other points.

No one wanted a strategy of purely theoretical interest; what was wanted was something practical which would really affect development over the next Decade. Such a strategy could only be effective if it influenced the planning of individual developing countries and if it provided a framework within which the United Nations and specialized agencies could plan their programmes on a long-term basis. While he was glad to hear that the strategy was to be submitted to the different organizations soon, he regretted that they had not been consulted about it sooner. It was more important, however, that the strategy should carry weight with Governments. If it was to influence their plans, it should be in their hands at least a year before the General Assembly proclaimed the second Development Decade. During that period, the organizations would have to prepare to strengthen their advisory services in the field of planning. He could not, nevertheless, be party to attempts to hurry the Committee for Development Planning in its technical work. It might be that the framework of international development strategy to be submitted to the Council the following year would be near enough to its final form to give Governments a year for reflexion and adaptation, but he would like to be given some assurance that that was the intention.

There was of course the possibility that the proposals submitted to the Council would be unacceptable to some delegations. Previous speakers had hinted as much and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) had said that the Council and the Secretariat might be planning a too detailed set of targets. His delegation believed that if the Council let itself be seduced into global planning, the result would be meaningless for purposes of action. The targets for the first Decade had been too few and too simple. A mean must be found, and the answer might be to involve the regional economic commissions more fully in the preparations, so that regional needs, and if possible sub-regional needs, could be allowed for in the plans. The Committee for Development Planning was itself considering planning in some cases on a sub-regional basis, and even on a country basis. He hoped, however, it would not go too far in that direction; the preparation of a strategy for individual countries would be an impossible task.

The Committee for Development Planning was taking due note of policy changes throughout the world, which was a good sign. In that connexion, although it would perhaps be too optimistic to believe that the new realism about population policies would show full results by the following decade, he hoped the Committee would take account of the importance of reducing too high rates of population growth when establishing targets. He had been pleased to note that the Committee had drawn attention to the need for a continuous process of evaluation of programmes during the second Decade, and hoped it would be possible to vary the strategy if it was found that any programme was not working out as planned.

The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had expressed concern about the lack of co-ordination in the preparation of sectoral plans for action in the 1970s by different organizations of the United Nations system and had recommended that the plans should be harmonized. He hoped that the secretariats of the organizations concerned would give first priority to that task. If sectoral plans and the over-all plan were not completely compatible, the success of the second Development Decade would be jeopardized.

As regards the question of a charter for the Development Decade, his delegation saw no difficulty in accepting the general kind of statement envisaged in paragraph 84 (a) of the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its second session (E/4362)^{1/} Such a statement might serve a very useful purpose by focusing public

^{1/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-third Session, Supplement No.7.

attention on the need for development and indicating that all countries shared the problems of development whatever their state of development. The question of pledges and commitments was a different matter. Some Governments were able to commit themselves for two or three years, but few could commit themselves for a period of ten years, and some, like his own, could not commit themselves for more than a year at a time. Any attempt to extract detailed legal commitments from Governments would be a self-defeating process. The United States Government was committed to helping with development, but the extent of its commitment would evolve over the whole period of the 1970s and would depend, inter alia, on how the development process progressed. He was sure the United States Congress, when deciding each year how much money to devote to foreign assistance, would bear in mind the efforts the developing countries were themselves making and the degree of success being achieved by the joint efforts of those providing assistance and those receiving it.

The United States delegation did not consider the results of the first Development Decade as disappointing as some other delegations did. It was a fact, however, that the representatives of the developing countries had expressed disillusionment. To avoid a similar occurrence at the end of the next Decade, the 1970s should be started in a spirit of realism. He hoped the Council would never hear the 1970s called a decade of frustration.

Mr. HUSAIN (India) said that the decision of the General Assembly in 1961 (resolution 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961) to proclaim the current decade as a Development Decade had been an important step towards fulfilling the undertaking given in the Charter to create conditions of stability and wellbeing for mankind. Since then, much had been done to make institutional arrangements for realizing the objectives of the Decade. Unfortunately, with only two years to go, those objectives were nowhere near being achieved; instead of moving towards the targets, which represented the minimum needs of the developing countries, the international community had moved away from them. The confidence and hope with which tasks might be approached in the second Development Decade would depend to a large extent upon the results achieved during the remaining years of the first Decade. His delegation had expressed the hope at the 1536th plenary meeting that preoccupation with the preparations for the next Development Decade would not result in a slackening of current endeavours. It strongly urged that during the remaining two years of the current Decade everything possible should be done to implement the various measures in the field of trade and aid agreed upon at the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and further elaborated at the second session.

As for the preparations for the second Development Decade, his delegation had been pleased to note from the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its third session that the Committee had advanced the technical work undertaken at its second session. It appreciated that a great deal more technical work would have to be done before the final draft of the international strategy for development in the 1970s was ready for consideration by Governments, and also that in making long-term projections of different variables of economic growth and in setting out goals and objectives, it would be necessary for the Committee to take into account alternative methods and new information, not only about the characteristics of the economies of the developing countries, but also about the numerous policy changes which determined the pace of their economic and social advance.

The preparation of an international development strategy would require a series of long-term projections on the basis of certain assumptions regarding the objectives to be achieved. In that connexion, it would be necessary to identify targets to be attained by concerted international action and to specify the means of attaining them. A more important aspect of the work, however, was to reach agreement on the measures to be adopted by both developed and developing countries. In its first report on the subject, the Committee had suggested that it would be necessary for nations to make certain pledges regarding the action to be taken for realizing the targets, and in the report on its third session, it had reiterated that view. The importance of seeking an agreement on a global development strategy had also been emphasized by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in his report to the Conference at its second session. Unfortunately, no significant contribution to that aspect of the preparations for the next Development Decade had been made at the second Conference. The task nevertheless had to be done and must be taken in hand in earnest and immediately.

It was also clear that the negotiations necessary to reach agreement on concrete measures could start before the final results of the work of the Committee for Development Planning were available. Those negotiations and the work of the Committee were interrelated and needed to be undertaken and concluded more or less simultaneously. His delegation had suggested in the plenary that the Council might consider the establishment of some inter-sessional machinery for working on the concrete measures to be adopted for the international development strategy. What it had in mind was that the Council might consider requesting the General Assembly to set up an inter-governmental committee, to meet during the next session of the General Assembly and as

often as possible thereafter, to prepare an agreed document on measures to be adopted by both developed and developing countries for achieving the targets of the second Development Decade. That document could be submitted to the Council at its forty-seventh session and then considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.

Consultations with organizations of the United Nations system were important for the work of the Committee for Development Planning, since one of the main elements of the international development strategy would be the co-ordinated programme of action of those organizations. His delegation was glad to know that the first round of such consultations would be completed by January 1969. In that connexion, a very pertinent observation had been made at the joint meeting of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Council on Co-ordination (ACC) regarding the need to involve Governments in the preparations. It would save a considerable amount of time and would be of great help if the preliminary framework of the international development strategy was sent to the Governments concerned at the same time as to the different organizations, with the request that they should also send their comments to the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies, by January 1969. The Working Group of the Committee for Development Planning could meet again in February-March 1969 to consider the two sets of comments and the Committee would then be in a position, at its fourth session, more or less to finalize the document for consideration by the Council and subsequently by the General Assembly.

Before concluding, he wished once again to emphasize how important it was that the statement of objectives for the second Development Decade should be backed by pledges for concrete action. He hoped that the Committee would adopt a resolution incorporating his suggestions and any others that might be made during the discussion.

Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) said that, of the numerous documents before the Committee in its consideration of item 4 of the agenda, only the very brief note on the preparation of a preliminary framework of international development strategy for the 1970s seemed directly relevant to the Development Decade. His delegation agreed with the representatives of France and India that all documents available to the specialized agencies should be distributed as soon as possible to Member States.

The documents before the Committee were largely repetitious and they were not arranged in an orderly way; factual material was mingled with value judgements and the discussion of positive achievements was to be found alongside analyses of the

reasons for failure. Nevertheless, the picture which emerged from the documents was a highly disappointing one. The introduction (E/4488) to the World Economic Survey, 1967 recorded some successes - a growing awareness of the interdependence of the world economy, an increase in the volume of international aid, and an expansion of United Nations activities - but chapter I (E/4488/Add.1) reported that the increase in agricultural production had been inadequate (p.46) and that no coherent general trade policy had been established.

Regarding the idea of a charter for the Development Decade, he agreed with the United States representative about the value of increasing public awareness of the essential problem of development by some general declaration. But he did not think that the man in the street would be much impressed by the documents under discussion. They were so drafted that it was very difficult to distinguish major points from minor ones. Any document addressed to the general public should focus attention clearly on the basic issues of the development problem.

Turning to preparations for the second Development Decade, he said that the disparity between the developed and developing countries in the growth of their per capita incomes which had persisted during the current Decade showed that it would be pointless to set a target of 5 per cent for the developing countries during the next Decade. The only effective goal that could be set was to narrow the gap between the developed and developing countries by the year 2000.

As had been pointed out by a number of delegations, the very wide diversity among the developing countries themselves must be borne in mind in working out an effective development strategy. Further emphasis must be given during the second Development Decade to co-operation between them, which in many cases could eliminate the need for bilateral or multilateral aid.

Another problem, not adequately discussed in the documents before the Committee, was that of the cultural lag. Increased emphasis must be given to the diffusion of information and especially to the transfer of technology. The countries in the temperate zone, which had been the first to achieve a high level of development, had been the object of intensive scientific study, whereas the tropical regions had been largely neglected. The consequence was that information about the developing areas of the world was very sparse, and he hoped that the United Nations and the specialized agencies would make a major effort to make good that deficiency during the coming Decade.

The organizations of the United Nations family should make still further efforts to reduce administrative and other unproductive expenses. In their programming they should take special account of the objectives of the second Development Decade. He agreed with the French representative that the United Nations should also make a greater effort to keep in touch with world opinion on development problems. He had in mind not the establishment of any new information centre but a closer co-operation between the United Nations and national information services.

There was general agreement that it was the primary responsibility of the developing countries to promote their own development. Nevertheless, it was only too easy to forget the magnitude of the task which faced their leaders and people in their attempt to cover within the space of a few years ground which it had taken the highly developed countries many centuries to cover. Those difficulties were particularly great in a period of rapid scientific and technical advance like the present.

He agreed with the representative of Czechoslovakia that the state of the world economy as a whole and the interdependence of all countries must be borne in mind. He also agreed with the representatives of France and the United States that global strategy must be moulded by the national strategy of each particular country. Like the representative of India, he wished to emphasize the importance of continuing development efforts during the remaining two years of the current Decade.

He had not had time to make a thorough study of the preliminary framework of international development strategy mentioned in the Secretary-General's note, but his first reaction was to wonder whether it might not be more useful to devote the funds involved to the purposes of the Development Decade itself.

Mr. CONSOLO (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) (IBRD) said that the Bank would co-operate fully in discussions in the United Nations system on a realistic and consistent set of targets and a strategy for the second Development Decade. Its own preliminary projections indicated already that there was likely to be a very substantial expansion in the Bank group's activities. An expansion in almost all fields, and a particularly striking one in the financing of the agricultural and educational sectors, was expected. The general intention was that the Bank group would be ready to use its resources flexibly to attack whatever appeared to be the principal bottlenecks to development in each country.

In the expectation that the Bank would be able to increase its resources from the capital markets of the world and on the assumption of a speedy and satisfactory

replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank was looking forward to a period of greatly expanded activity in all parts of the world, but with particular concentration on Africa.

The Bank group expected to do much more than in the past to help developing countries to work out a realistic set of goals and a realistic operational plan for achieving them. Only such country development strategies would make really effective co-ordination possible between the various United Nations organizations and between them and bilateral development assistance programmes. The Bank fully supported efforts to work out country strategies consistent with what it hoped and expected to be a realistic global strategy.

Mr. ABE (Japan) said that although the first Development Decade had not produced satisfactory results, it had made Governments and the public in developed and developing countries aware of the need for concerted action to further the latter's economic and social development. If the second Development Decade was to be a success, the shortcomings of the first Decade must be examined objectively, with a view to finding realistic remedies.

He questioned whether the targets set for the first Decade were appropriate. For example, it was now generally agreed that the 5 per cent growth target for the developing countries was unsatisfactory, possibly owing to insufficient basic research in related fields. The level of development varied greatly from one developing country to another, as did geographical, historical, cultural and social conditions, yet an aggregate target had been established irrespective of those differences. Furthermore, statistics showed that the attainment of a certain rate of growth for a given period did not always guarantee sustained growth. Those facts should be taken into account in setting targets for the second Decade.

In that connexion, it was gratifying to note that the need to adopt a more sophisticated approach to development problems had been increasingly recognized during the first Decade. Since the beginning of that Decade, many developing countries had adopted comprehensive development plans, and a series of resolutions had been adopted in the United Nations system stating that economic planning adapted to the specific conditions and needs of each developing country was one of the main pre-requisites for rapid economic and social development. Furthermore, much had been learned about improving planning techniques and procedures. Consequently, developing countries were now in a much better position to assess the obstacles and to define realistic objectives for the next Decade.

The target for the transfer of resources from developed to developing countries, namely, 1 per cent of the former's national income, had also been found too simplistic. As pointed out in the introduction to the World Economic Survey, 1967, the wide fluctuation of performance among the principal developed market economy countries in respect of that target showed clearly that its applicability was limited. The capacity to give aid differed from one developed country to another, and the problem of sharing the burden fairly should be carefully examined.

During the first Development Decade, excessive emphasis had been placed on the quantitative aspects of development. Quantifiable factors such as foreign and domestic financial resources were undoubtedly important, but non-quantifiable factors were also highly significant. At the 1538th meeting of the Council the United States representative had referred to the importance of the technical skills, abilities and aspirations of the peoples of the developing countries, and he himself would add to that list the sense of civic duty. Some thirty developing countries had already attained the 5 per cent growth target set for the first Development Decade or seemed likely to attain it, and his delegation was convinced that the sense of civic duty had played a significant role in that success.

His delegation was glad to note that during the first Development Decade it had been increasingly recognized that the developing countries were primarily responsible for their own economic and social development. It was also gratifying to see that despite numerous difficulties most developing countries had succeeded in raising their savings ratio in the period 1955-1965. It had been repeatedly stressed that economic and social development must be a national undertaking, and that both the Government and the people of each individual country must display determination, self-discipline and self-denial in order to attain their development goals.

It was often said that the formation of domestic savings was difficult in the early stages of development, when national income was relatively low. However, even in the pre-war period, when Japan's annual per capita income had been as low as \$150, its savings ratio had been well over 20 per cent of the gross national product, and it had remained at that level until the present, except during the Second World War.

His delegation agreed with the previous speakers who had pointed out other shortcomings in the first Development Decade, such as the failure to recognize the complementarity of agriculture and industry, the failure to take account of the rapid

population increase, and insufficient co-operation between the various organizations of the United Nations system. He hoped that in considering the international development strategy for the 1970s, the Committee for Development Planning and the Council would take the following principles into account. First, targets for the second Development Decade must be realistic and objective, for over-ambitious targets would have little influence on world public opinion and would merely result in a feeling of frustration. Second, the targets should be flexible enough to include all elements conducive to development and to reflect changing conditions in each country. Third, periodic review machinery should be set up to ensure the necessary adjustment of programmes. Fourth, greater emphasis should be given to international co-operative activities.

His delegation was grateful for the efforts made by the Committee for Development Planning and the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies in connexion with the formulation of the international development strategy. The work involved was very complex and technical, and the Committee would need time to complete it. He was sure that that time would be well spent and would help to ensure the success of the second Development Decade. Some previous speakers had expressed concern that under the procedure suggested by the Committee for Development Planning, Governments of Member States might not be sufficiently involved in the preparatory work. He shared that concern. His delegation had an open mind with regard to any constructive suggestions to remedy that situation, provided that they did not involve duplication of effort.

Mr. VELEBIT (International Labour Organisation) (ILO) said that the second Development Decade called for a co-ordinated programme of action by the organizations of the United Nations system, each acting within its appointed field of responsibility. The objectives of the global development strategy being prepared for the Decade were of great interest to the ILO. Many of the objectives were directly related to the ILO's traditional field of responsibility. Others, while relating to the fields of responsibility of other organizations, were designed to further the achievement of the Decade's ultimate aim, namely, to increase the income and improve the welfare of the developing countries. That aim had been an underlying principle of the ILO since its establishment, especially since 1944, when the Declaration of Philadelphia had proclaimed freedom from fear and want as one of the ILO's objectives.

The similarity between the ultimate aims of the Decade and those of the ILO explained the interest which the latter had taken in the preparation of the global development strategy for the 1970s. Senior ILO economists had taken part in the first, second and third sessions of the Committee for Development Planning, and the ILO intended to pursue and even to intensify its association with that Committee in the future.

At the 1532nd meeting of the Council, the Director-General of the International Labour Office had described the World Employment Programme, which like similar programmes organized by other specialized agencies represented one of the basic elements of the global development strategy. The task of co-ordinating the Development Decade and the World Employment Programme gave rise to a number of problems which would have to be solved in the near future. The first steps in that direction had been taken at the discussion between the Director-General of the International Labour Office and the Chairman of the Committee for Development Planning early in 1968. According to the timetable for the preparatory work prepared by the Committee for Development Planning, the specialized agencies would be given opportunities to submit their comments at various stages of the planning cycle, and the ILO would make full use of those opportunities. Furthermore, the ILO had agreed that a senior ILO economist should be seconded for a year to work with the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies, thus providing a close link between the preparatory work for the Decade and work on the World Employment Programme being done at ILO headquarters and by ILO regional teams.

Mr. de SILVA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) (UNESCO) said that the lessons learned during the first Development Decade should be applied in preparing for the second Development Decade. At the beginning of the first Decade, which had been prepared in a very short space of time, the importance of human resources had been underestimated. That error had subsequently been corrected, but there was no doubt that the excessive emphasis placed on the development of natural resources had been one of the weaknesses of the first Decade. Similarly, the gravity of the problems arising from the inadequate training and utilization of human resources had been under-estimated.

He agreed with previous speakers that too much importance had been attached to the quantitative aspects of development in the first Decade. Quantitative hypothesis were useful, and given the necessary political will could be transformed into

objectives, but more attention should be paid to the qualitative aspects of the development process. In the educational sector, for example, statistics seemed to show that quantitative targets had been attained, but in the process qualitative problems had become evident.

The international community was approaching the second Development Decade with more experience and greater determination, and UNESCO, for its part would make a full contribution to the preparations for the Decade. It had attended the sessions of the Committee for Development Planning and would play an even greater part in the preparatory work in the future. His organization's contribution to that work would be based on the results of its periodic regional ministerial conferences, which set targets and revised them in the light of achievements. The United States representative had drawn attention to the danger of sectoral plans being prepared independently and on different bases. In that connexion, it should be noted that the UNESCO regional ministerial conferences were attended not only by ministers of education and science and representatives of the United Nations and the regional economic commissions, but also by representatives of national bodies responsible for planning and economic affairs. UNESCO was thus putting into practice the principle that sectoral planning should form a part of over-all planning. His organization agreed that the organizations of the United Nations system should adopt common statistical procedures and it would participate in the joint effort to attain that goal. Machinery for periodic consultation at the regional level already existed, but worldwide forecasts were needed for a global strategy. In that connexion, he wished to point out that the UNESCO International Conference on Educational Planning was to be held in August 1968, prior to the completion of the ILO World Employment Programme, in the preparation of which the two organizations were co-operating.

His organization and the ILO worked together in many spheres, for their fields of action were closely linked. As many economists had pointed out, the expansion of education should slightly exceed the expansion of employment, but the margin should not be so large as to lead to a waste of resources. If the General Assembly adopted the proposal to designate 1970 as International Education Year, the year should be devoted to devising practical means of action which could be carried out with existing resources, and determining whether the needs justified the allocation of additional resources.

Mr. MOSAK (Director, Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), referring to the French representative's statement, said he did not wish to leave the Committee with the impression that Governments had been given no information about the preparation of the preliminary framework of international development strategy for the 1970s. It was true that most of the documents mentioned in paragraph 104 of the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its third session were working documents which would be circulated only to the organizations of the United Nations system, but the estimates which the French representative had described as being derived from an unofficial source were in fact set out in an official United Nations document (E/AC.54/L.29/Rev.1), which had already been distributed in New York and would be made available in Geneva before the end of the current session. Comments by Governments would be welcome and would be taken fully into account in the future work.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.