

occupied territories. His delegation had supported those resolutions because it could not accept the situation in the occupied territories. The German Democratic Republic had always supported the just aspirations of the Arab peoples and would continue to do so.

92. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that the additional statement by the representative of the German Democratic Republic only proved his feelings of guilt.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

1636th meeting

Friday, 22 November 1974, at 3.15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Jihad KARAM (Iraq).

A/C.2/SR.1636

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters II, III (sections A to D), IV, VI (sections A to D and G) and VII (sections 1 to 3)] (continued) (A/9588, A/9592, A/9599, A/9633, A/9648, A/9649, A/9656, A/9699, A/9716 and Corr.1, A/9761, A/9813, A/9855, A/C.2/289, A/C.2/291, A/C.2/L.1342, E/5425 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/5467, E/5473, E/5499, E/5501, E/5519, E/5585 and Corr.1, E/C.8/21)

WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE (A/9603/Add.1 (part IV), A/C.2/L.1387)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference to introduce the report of the Conference (E/5585 and Corr.1).

2. Mr. CARRILLO FLORES (Secretary-General of the World Population Conference) said that of the three conferences on population sponsored by the United Nations, the World Population Conference held at Bucharest from 19 to 30 August 1974, had been the first to be of a political nature, and had brought together countries and recognized liberation movements representing more than 98 per cent of the world's population. The consideration of its agenda had required, firstly, scientific and technical preparation in which the United Nations Population Division, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies had participated; there had also been four symposia of scientists, at Cairo, Honolulu, Stockholm and Amsterdam. It had also required political preparations in the form of bilateral consultations with all countries, and regional meetings organized by the five United Nations regional economic commissions; that had permitted Governments themselves to work out more precisely the points of view which they would express later at Bucharest.

3. According to United Nations projections, the world was in an era in which the rate of population growth had reached its highest point ever: approximately 2 per cent annually. It was likely that in future the rate would tend to decline, but, because of the inertia of demographic phenomena, the world population would continue growing, and the predictions were that it would be stabilized only within a century, at between 12 and 14 thousand million people. Despite that fact, the dominant note at Bucharest had not been pessimism but the exaltation of life, which

did not mean that the challenge of offering existing and future generations reasonable access to food, housing and education for a larger population had been ignored.

4. He outlined some themes which, in his opinion, had predominated in the debate at the Conference.

5. In the first place, just as a great variety of demographic situations existed in the nations and regions of the world, the points of view of countries were also very varied, although there was a common awareness of the solidarity made necessary by contemporary reality. All States, and particularly developing States, had vigorously defended their sovereign right to define population policies. The suspicions created in many third world countries by the convening of the World Population Conference had abated, but it would be naive to suggest that they had disappeared completely. The statements made immediately after the adoption of the World Population Plan of Action (E/5585 and Corr.1, chap. I) showed that some countries, among them the most populous, were still concerned that some nations might try to impose restrictive population policies on the poor countries or, at least, to bring pressure on them to that end.

6. Secondly, there had clearly been unanimous agreement that population policies demanded sustained, vigorous and balanced economic and social development. The specific recommendations on population policy, which had received the approval of all the participants except the Holy See, had included the right of individuals and couples to obtain fertility control information and services, when they so requested. That presupposed the obligation of States to provide such services.

7. Thirdly, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (resolution 3201 (S-VI)) adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session had been clearly reflected in the discussions and decisions of the Conference.

8. Fourthly, the developing countries' sense of urgency concerning the population problem was not, of course, the same in Asia as in Africa or in Latin America, which perhaps presented the greatest diversity in that, as in other matters. Among the Asian countries, the differences were mainly political, and concerned the interpretation of the causes of demographic problems, and the role these countries contemplated for the international community.

9. Fifthly, there had been no dissenting voice on the subject of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, although the great variety of cultures in the world obviously caused the substance of those rights and their precise formulation to differ, sometimes radically, from region to region. On the question of abortion, for example, which had been widely debated in other bodies, the Conference, like the Amsterdam Symposium, had made no recommendations.

10. Sixthly, it had clearly emerged that the industrialized countries, too, had population problems, related to their large conurbations, the need for unskilled immigrant labour, the effects of technology on the environment and the crisis of values in traditional social institutions; with few exceptions, those countries had rejected the "zero population growth" target.

11. Lastly, some economically highly developed countries recognized the enormous difference between the rich and poor countries in the consumption of natural resources, which imposed on the former moral and political responsibility not to widen the consumption gap. For the developing countries, it meant abandoning the illusion that they could reach the consumption levels which had prevailed throughout the highly industrialized world, since it was unlikely that those levels could be maintained. The developing countries, particularly those poorest in natural resources, would have to emulate those among them which had already developed their own models.

12. He was sure that political action by countries in that field would not be so difficult if the sovereign right of all countries, particularly small and medium-sized countries, to decide upon their population policies, was scrupulously respected. International co-operation should be limited to those countries which needed it and asked for it, and no direct or indirect pressure should be exerted on any country to adopt a particular population policy. Fortunately, many bodies were already providing co-operation in that way. Anything which was done to strengthen the capacity of the various bodies of the United Nations system in that field would be of benefit to the world.

13. The World Population Plan of Action did not envisage the creation of new bodies. He believed that to be wise; what was necessary was to strengthen and improve the existing bodies, and improve co-ordination between them. At its fifty-eighth session, in the spring of 1975, the Economic and Social Council would have a chance to make a thorough study of how to achieve that double objective.

14. The fundamental changes that had taken place in the international economic situation over the past three years were absorbing the attention of Governments and public opinion and made it more difficult to interest them in population problems, the effects of which would in general be felt in the longer term. However, the recommendations of the Plan of Action which had emerged from the Bucharest Conference were all compatible with whatever policies countries felt they had to adopt in order to solve their fundamental problems.

15. The outlook for the United Nations was quite clear: it should collaborate as broadly and as effectively as possible

with those countries which needed its co-operation. He cited the example of Bangladesh, the most tragic he could mention from personal experience, which unquestionably deserved bilateral or multilateral assistance from all States which were in a position to provide aid.

16. State authority regarding population questions could only be exercised through education, the provision of health services and persuasion. Changes in cultural patterns had a greater influence than government action on human behaviour. The Conference had therefore paid great attention to problems concerning the family and to the status and role of women.

17. He did not attach any importance to the fact that the World Population Plan of Action was less specific, on certain very controversial points, than the Secretary-General's draft, and emphasized that it would be easier to bring about effective action through general recommendations than through very detailed guidelines received from outside, especially in the developing countries. It was of greater importance that there had been no disagreement with the view that population policy was a legitimate sphere of action for the modern State. It should not be forgotten that in the developing countries, where there was a new equilibrium based on low mortality and birth rates, that result had been achieved not only without government action, but also at times in the face of government opposition. It would be naive to assert that doctrinal controversies had come to an end. It was to be hoped, however, that, after the Bucharest Conference, the existing generation and future generations, when dealing with population problems, would take into account current realities and not those which had influenced late eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century thinkers.

18. The World Population Plan of Action encouraged co-operation based on the peaceful coexistence of States with different social systems, and it was inspired by the idea of respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. Unquestionably, it was the most under-privileged who suffered from ignorance and the lack of the necessary services in that field. To educate them, to provide them with services and to try to convince them ran counter to no political or social ideology, nor to the struggle for independence and against colonialism, *apartheid* and other forms of discrimination. Whatever the United Nations could do to eliminate the areas of ignorance about population matters would greatly benefit mankind. In that connexion, he drew attention to the section of the Plan of Action devoted to research and to the review and appraisal of national and international activities.

19. It would be most unwise for developing countries to assume that it would be easy to develop a new international economic order. That had been demonstrated by the discussions and conclusions of the World Food Conference. It was a very difficult task to overcome the hard political realities which had thus far limited United Nations efforts to achieve greater economic and social co-operation. International relations had been marked by many injustices in the past, and no country should abandon its attempts to undo those injustices. One positive aspect of the World Plan of Action was that it placed the responsibility of national action, which represented the major hope for its success.

20. He hoped that the fact that the United Nations would be reviewing its own structure over a period of several months, and that it was important to await the results of the following year's deliberations of the Economic and Social Council on population matters, would not hold up action which was already under way nor prevent States which could increase their co-operation, either as a result of greater development or through the financial resources at their disposal, from doing so. In conclusion, he expressed appreciation to the officials and staff of the United Nations and to the various Governments for their co-operation in connexion with the World Population Conference.

21. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) expressed the appreciation of his Government to the Government of Romania for having been host to the World Population Conference, and to the Secretary-General of the Conference for his efforts and the report which he had just introduced to the Committee.

22. His country had fully supported the United Nations resolutions on the convening of a World Population Conference and had participated in the preparatory work of the Population Commission by providing it with such reports and studies as had been requested. Mexico had recently approved new legislation on population questions, including the establishment of a National Population Commission with responsibility for directing population policy.

23. He pointed out the significance of the fact that at Bucharest, population questions had for the first time been dealt with by representatives of Governments, so that political decisions had been possible. The earlier Conferences had been attended by experts only. His delegation hoped that, in the future, ways would be found to enable bodies possessing the necessary expertise in the field of demography to continue to participate in the discussion of population questions, but that decision-making would be left to organs which had the necessary political authority.

24. Since the Bucharest Conference had been fundamentally political, it had not been able to isolate itself from other important contemporary issues. Its recommendations and resolutions and the World Population Plan of Action covered the whole range of questions relative to population, development and international co-operation. Such co-operation, however, should not be made conditional on the adoption by countries of specific policies.

25. His delegation believed that the Plan of Action had succeeded in synthesizing the various approaches which had been presented and had recognized the principle of national sovereignty and the close interrelation between population problems and development activities. The amendments submitted in Bucharest to the draft Plan of Action, far from weakening it, had demonstrated that countries were interested enough to discuss and revise it and were willing to act in exercise of their sovereignty and in accordance with the specific circumstances of their peoples. The developing countries had succeeded in incorporating in the Plan of Action a greater emphasis on development, which was the most important factor in bringing about demographic change.

26. International organizations could perform the valuable task of gathering information which individual countries could use in pursuing their objectives. Such assistance should be provided to all nations on an equal basis and should not be made conditional on the acceptance of specific policies.

27. Mexico considered humanism to be the guiding principle in population matters. His country regarded the family as the basic unit of society and therefore provided constitutional guarantees to that institution. Mexico was perhaps the first country to expressly guarantee in its Constitution the right of couples and individuals to decide in a free, responsible and well-informed manner the number and spacing of their children. Mexico was well on the way to implementing its population policy, which was integrated into its over-all development strategy.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (*continued*)* (A/C.2/L.1370/REV.1 AND CORR.1)

28. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to resume consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1 and Corr.1, concerning international action to combat desertification.

29. Mr. CORREA (Chile) requested an explanation from the Secretariat as to why the name of Chile had been omitted from the list of sponsors appearing in document A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1/Corr.1, when it had been included in the list in document A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1 published only the previous day. He pointed out that Chile took great interest in the problems of desertification and that other countries had been added to the list of sponsors appearing in document A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1/Corr.1.

30. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretariat had followed what is considered to be an established and consistent practice, in line with paragraph 93 of annex V to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.12). If the representative of Chile desired a more detailed opinion on the subject, the Office of Legal Affairs could be consulted.

31. Mr. CORREA (Chile) protested that special action had been taken against Chile, probably at the request of one State, a request with which the Secretariat had complied. He did not believe that the Secretariat could issue a corrigendum such as that in question without a prior meeting of the sponsors of the draft resolution; he had consulted those whose names appeared for the first time in the corrigendum and had been informed by them that no such meeting had been held. He was sure the Chairman would agree that the usual practice in the Committee was exactly the opposite of that described in the paragraph cited by the Secretary of the Committee, on which no vote had ever been taken. That paragraph was not contained in the main body of the rules of procedure but, as stated in the foot-note on page 48 of document A/520/Rev.12, was merely among the conclusions which the General Assembly had declared to be "worthy of consideration". In his view, the normal practice was to permit any State which so

* Resumed from the 1629th meeting.

desired to become a co-sponsor of a draft resolution, without any other State's having the right to veto that request, since all members of the Committee were equal.

32. Mr. UDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on a point of order, recalled that the Chairman had announced that the Committee would take up the question of desertification. The representative of Chile, however, was discussing an entirely different question, in respect of which he (Mr. Udovenko) agreed with the paragraph of the rules of procedure cited by the Secretary of the Committee.

33. Mr. CORREA (Chile) said that he himself had originally been speaking on a point of order, so that no one, not even the Soviet Union, had the right to interrupt him. The interruption did, however, show what lay behind the move to exclude Chile from the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. The Chairman should ensure that his right to speak was respected.

34. The CHAIRMAN ruled that, since the representative of Chile had not expressly requested the right to speak on a point of order in making his original statement, the representative of the Ukrainian SSR had been entitled to raise his own point of order. The question with regard to the draft resolution was beyond his (the Chairman's) competence and knowledge and he appealed to the representative of Chile to await, if necessary, an opinion from the Office of Legal Affairs.

35. Mr. CORREA (Chile) requested that the question of desertification should not be discussed until an opinion had been obtained from the Office of Legal Affairs. He would also request a ruling on the matter from the Sixth Committee.

36. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) said his delegation was opposed to the dilatory proposal of the representative of Chile, especially in view of the importance attached to the point at issue by the sponsors of the draft resolution. He emphasized that the decision to alter the list of sponsors had been taken by the sponsors themselves and was in no way the responsibility of the Secretariat, whose duty was mainly to record and publicize action taken by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

37. Mr. CORREA (Chile) said that the delegation which had just spoken seemed to feel that it had the right to impose a veto on others, but that was not the case, since the rules of procedure established the principle of equal treatment for all States. The Sixth Committee had decided that States whose names were added to the list of sponsors of a draft resolution after the original draft had been issued should be afforded equal treatment, and the Secretariat must uphold that decision.

38. The CHAIRMAN said that he would seek a legal opinion on the question raised by the representative of Chile. He invited members of the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1.

39. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that many delegations, while agreeing with the principle of a confer-

ence on desertification, had felt that it should be set in the context of the international community's action against that problem. Accordingly the original text of the draft resolution had been modified to show that the General Assembly considered the fight against desertification to be a matter of priority. In that respect, he pointed out that the French version of operative paragraph 2 should be amended to conform with the original English text. UNDP should be added to the list of organizations mentioned in paragraph 3. Paragraph 5 referred to an Economic and Social Council resolution adopted on the basis of a recommendation by the Committee on Science and Technology for Development that an interagency group should be established to discuss the special problems of arid zones and the problems of transfer of technology encountered by the developing countries, particularly with regard to desertification. The quotation-marks in paragraph 6 should be deleted. Paragraph 7 had been included in view of the fact that many developed and developing countries had long and positive experience of combating desertification.

40. He stressed that the sponsors of the draft resolution sought action against all aspects of desertification, particularly the problems of arid and semi-arid zones and salinization. He hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution unanimously as proof of international interest in a phenomenon whose disastrous effects were more than evident. It was time for action before irreversible damage was caused to climatic and ecological balances in various parts of the world. In conclusion, he said that the Gambia should be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

41. Mr. SCHLAFF (Budget Division, Office of Financial Services) said it was clear from the context of the draft resolution that full substantive and administrative responsibility for the preparation of the proposed conference on desertification rested with UNEP and UNDP, but that the United Nations would be expected to provide conference servicing facilities. It was difficult to estimate the cost to the United Nations with any precision until the Governing Councils of UNEP and UNDP had considered the question at their next sessions. Experience showed, however, that the cost of convening a conference of the type proposed ranged from \$300,000 to \$550,000 at 1975 prices, should the General Assembly decide to convene the conference, provision for an amount of that order would have to be made in the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977.

42. It was expected that any additional costs for the United Nations in respect of the conference secretariat and the interagency task force mentioned in operative paragraphs 3 and 4 respectively would be met from the Fund of UNEP. Expenses for the participation of other agencies would, of course, be met from their respective budgets. There would therefore be no implications under those or the remaining operative paragraphs for the United Nations regular budget.

43. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1.

44. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) proposed that, in the absence of any specific request to the contrary, the

Committee should adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

45. Mr. CORREA (Chile) said that, since his delegation attached great importance to the draft resolution, it did not wish to delay the Committee's decision. On the other hand, it did not wish the Committee to side-step the question it had raised concerning the list of sponsors. The draft resolution should therefore be put to the vote after an opinion on that question had been obtained from the Office of Legal Affairs.

46. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) asked whether, in view of the fact that the Committee was already engaged in the process of taking a decision on the draft resolution, it could consider the procedural point raised by the representative of Chile.

47. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since he was not competent to rule on the question raised by the representative of Chile, the Committee should proceed to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

48. Mr. CORREA (Chile) said he had no objection to the Chairman's suggestion. His concern was to see that Chile was given the same treatment as all other co-sponsors not mentioned in the original version of the draft resolution.

49. The CHAIRMAN assured the representative of Chile that, as the representative of the Committee as a whole, he himself always maintained an impartial attitude towards all delegations.

50. Mr. CORREA (Chile) agreed with the Chairman and thanked him for his constant fairness.

51. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1 without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted.

52. Mr. NEUFELDT (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking in explanation of vote, said his delegation had supported the draft resolution because it believed that speedy action was required on the problem of desertification and agreed with the underlying idea that scientific knowledge on the subject was very limited. The mere creation of a new institution would not, however, suffice to solve the problem; what was also required was the political will to take effective action at the national and regional levels. He recalled that his country had made available more than DM 100 million for 1975 to provide assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian region. Although his delegation was not fully convinced of the need for a conference on desertification at the present stage, it hoped that the preparatory work and the conference itself would lead to effective results. It assumed that the proposed conference secretariat and task force would be small and would be dissolved at the end of the conference. The results of the conference should be communicated to the intergovernmental working group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to be established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1897 (LVII), paragraph 2.

53. Miss COURSON (France) said her delegation was fully convinced of the urgent need for an integrated world programme in the field of research and development and application of science and technology to the scourge of desertification, a question in which France had long demonstrated its keen interest. Her delegation therefore sympathized with the draft resolution, but regretted that the sponsors had deemed it necessary to call for an intergovernmental conference. The apparently growing practice of claiming that such conferences were the only way of drawing the attention of the international community to important problems cast doubt on the competence of the General Assembly. Her delegation felt that the United Nations system was already fully capable of considering all aspects of the problem of desertification, in view of the work already done by various of its organs and the specialized agencies. It did not consider that the proposed conference would make any significant contribution and believed that it was for the General Assembly, on the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, to take decisions in the matter.

54. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq) said his delegation, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, agreed with the representative of the Upper Volta that desertification was a problem with many aspects. It was, moreover, world-wide and differed from country to country. Accordingly, he wished to emphasize that during the preparations for the conference attention must be given to all facets of the problem, including those of arid and semi-arid zones and salinization.

55. Mr. MULLER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination) said that it had long been the regular practice of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) to consider problems of interest to the international community in which several United Nations agencies were involved. It attempted not only to prevent duplication of efforts but also to introduce the highest possible level of common programming and planning. Questions which had attracted its attention included that of arid zones, which were so vast in terms of area and development potential that the international community's growing understanding of the phenomenon of desertification could not but be welcomed. The question had been discussed at an interagency meeting of arid zone experts convened by ACC at Geneva in October to study three resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and two decisions by the Governing Councils of UNDP and UNEP.

56. At the meeting it had been decided that the report called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1874 (LVII), paragraph 7, should be prepared by the Special Sahelian Office. The action necessary to mount the broad, system-wide attack on the drought problem called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1878 (LVII) was currently being discussed at an interagency meeting. It had been further decided at the Geneva meeting that the report called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1898 (LVII) should be prepared by UNESCO, in co-operation with the other scientific and technical agencies concerned. The meeting had expressed unanimous satisfaction with the action taken by UNDP to prepare a report on the extent of the drought and its medium-term and long-term effects, for submission to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session. Finally, it had reviewed the UNEP

programme on soil, water and desertification requested by the Governing Council at its second session and had agreed that implementation of the programme should for the time being be co-ordinated by UNEP itself through *ad hoc* interagency meetings.

57. Implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1 would pose no intersecretariat problems. Much valuable experience of co-operation between secretariats within the United Nations system had been acquired during the preparations for the major conferences of recent years and would be applied to any conference on desertification.

58. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy), speaking in explanation of vote, said his delegation was fully aware of the gravity of the problem of desertification and of its multiple and complex aspects. His Government had already given ample evidence of its concern in that respect through assistance to the Sahelian countries and Ethiopia. His delegation had supported the draft resolution, and it particularly agreed with paragraph 1. However, it would have preferred a more gradual approach to the point covered in paragraph 2, with the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly reviewing all United Nations work relating to desertification before any decision was taken to convene a conference on the subject. He hoped that all the competent organs would pursue their work on desertification with the utmost urgency, due regard being had to the financial implications of the draft resolution.

59. Mr. KJELDGAARD-OLESEN (Denmark), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of his own delegation and the delegations of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said he was fully aware of the grave problems many developing countries faced as a result of the spread of desertification and felt that the efforts of the United Nations and the international community should be more oriented towards a solution of that problem. He had therefore been happy to participate in the consensus on the draft resolution, although he would have preferred the question of a conference, and particularly its timing, to be discussed first in the Governing Council of UNEP.

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT (A/C.2/L.1378)

60. Mr. PERCY (United States of America) said that, before introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1378, he wished to pledge his Government's full support for draft resolution A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1, which had just been adopted by the Committee. He drew attention to the direct relationship between the two texts, one of which dealt with the world's land resources and the other with its human resources. There were many examples in the United States of how desert land could be profitably reclaimed. Land reclamation was extremely important to the future production of food for an increasing world population. Parts of the United States had suffered a severe drought in the past year, with a consequent rise in prices and a fall in crop yield that had lessened the ability of the United States to meet national and international needs. Women played a particularly important role in the production of food and accounted for 50 per cent of the world's population. The draft resolution on women and development (A/C.2/L.1378) was based on the concept of ensuring that that 50

per cent of the world's human resources was employed in the development effort.

61. The draft resolution called on the United Nations to pay special attention, in all its assistance programmes, to the integration of women in the national economies of Member States. It also called on all United Nations agencies to increase the role of women in development planning and implementation at all levels of their own administrations. The draft resolution was a response to mounting evidence that women in many developing countries, particularly in rural areas, were being adversely affected by the development process. The goals of modernization and industrialization too often brought with them the values prevailing in already industrialized societies. The exporting of those values, together with the sex-role stereotypes inherent in them, had often undermined the traditional economic role of women in developing countries, for in most developing countries women were responsible for over 50 per cent of agricultural production. In parts of Asia, all of west Africa and much of Central America, women had traditionally played a major role in the management of village markets and small business enterprises. It was also true that women spent most of the world's money and helped to produce it.

62. Development policies had ignored the economic contributions of women, and development problems had been viewed in the light of conditions prevailing in industrial countries, with the result that women in subsistence agriculture or small enterprises in developing countries had been left out of national plans for modernization and frequently neglected in educational and training programmes. Therefore, as a country developed, more and more women stood to lose their traditional livelihoods to men trained in modern techniques. The development process had expanded opportunities for men and decreased those for women.

63. Unhappily, development programmes assisted by the United Nations had had the same effect. A 1974 report on current UNDP-assisted projects involving women indicated that, where women were concerned, UNDP focused almost exclusively on home economics or domestic science. Technical assistance in agriculture to women in African countries where they were the main labour force was marginal or non-existent. The report concluded that UNDP development policies were being more influenced by a segregation of sex roles than an understanding of the specific needs of women. The United States had made the same mistakes and only relatively recently had adopted a policy of integrating women into all phases of economic and social development. The United States had already approved legislation similar to the draft resolution before the Committee. It was moving to implement the so-called "Percy Amendment" to ensure that United States bilateral assistance programmes were administered so that women could participate fully in the tasks and benefits of economic development and growth. In the approval by the United States of assistance for development plans and projects, strong preference would be given to those which provided for the effective utilization of women.

64. Despite the positive stance of the United States on the integration of women in development, it was the developing countries that had taken the lead on the issue. The

Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had adopted, in 1971 and 1974 respectively, Plans of Action for the advancement of women in development. A recent seminar had proposed the creation of a Pan-African centre and a Pan-African women's task force to mobilize African women in all phases of development. In view of the commitment of the African and Asian countries and now also of the United States and other traditional donors, the United Nations should adopt draft resolution A/C.2/L.1378 and thus add its voice to the growing consensus that women should participate fully in the activities and benefits of economic and social growth. Improving the status of women was not only a matter of social justice; it was also a significant means of achieving economic and social development. The productive use of all human resources was the key to the success of development; if women were effectively integrated into the development process, the quality of life as a whole would be upgraded and the status of women improved.

65. If the resolution was to serve as more than a token gesture, all Member States and all United Nations organizations must make a conscientious effort to enable women everywhere to contribute to development more productively. Although the United Nations could play a catalytic role, the central responsibility for integrating women in the national economies rested with the Governments of Member States. The barriers which prevented women from playing a full role in their societies differed from country to country; thus, every nation must find ways to implement its own strategy appropriate to its social, cultural and economic situation. His delegation believed that adoption of the draft resolution would facilitate action by Member States to include women in their economies and societies in more productive ways. On the eve of the mid-point of the Second United Nations Development Decade, International Women's Year and the Conference of the International Women's Year, the draft resolution offered the United Nations an opportunity to give due recognition to the work that women performed, to provide an accurate picture of women's contributions to national social and economic progress, and to show the advantages to be gained by nations where women's talents and skills were fully used in the modernization process. Its adoption might result in a radically different mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy revealing, unlike the first review and appraisal, evidence of real progress, as required by the Strategy, in the full integration of women in the development process.

66. Several delegations had expressed interest in co-sponsoring the draft resolution. His delegation was engaged in extensive consultations and looked forward to a consensus similar to that achieved on draft resolution A/C.2/L.1370/Rev.1, in view of the high priority which should be accorded to full development of the world's human resources.

67. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that the substance of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1378 did not differ too widely from the draft resolution submitted to the Economic and Social Council recently. He suggested that a working group should be formed to merge the two texts.

68. The CHAIRMAN said that, in view of its heavy agenda, the Committee would defer further consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1378 until a subsequent meeting. He invited the Committee to resume consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1374.

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DEVOTED TO DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (*continued*)*
(A/C.2/L.1374)

69. Mr. COUSTÉ (France) said that his delegation did not agree with those who questioned the utility of convening the special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation. It was more necessary than ever to expand the dimensions and concepts of world economic and development co-operation—one of the goals established in General Assembly resolution 3172 (XXVIII)—inasmuch as the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order had not sufficiently advanced the concept of development, which must amount to more than a mere increase in gross national product.

70. His delegation endorsed the idea underlying paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1374, namely, that the seventh special session should strive for decisive progress in a few carefully selected sectors. In order to give new impetus to strategies on development, as called for in paragraph 6, the decisions envisaged must be clearly related to a new perception of what development was. The support of public opinion depended on such a perception.

71. The concept of development had evolved considerably since the beginning of the current decade, both within and outside the United Nations. A preambular paragraph should therefore be inserted in the draft resolution noting the need for a changed conception of development which would encompass such matters of concern as population, environment and natural resources, and also improved income distribution both between and within nations, with a view to promoting greater solidarity among States and thereby ensuring harmonious development of the world economy. The report requested in paragraph 4 should in any event devote adequate attention to such considerations. It should not be specified that the report was to focus on constraints "of a general policy nature which faced the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Development Strategy"; the Secretary-General must be able to take into account new constraints which might emerge in the coming months.

72. His delegation was firmly committed to making the United Nations system a more effective instrument of world economic co-operation—another of the objectives of the seventh special session mentioned in General Assembly resolution 3172 (XXVIII). It would be impossible to effect the structural changes which were needed to attain that objective and to which paragraph 5 of the draft resolution referred unless the procedures and methods of work of the system were also changed. The fact that, two weeks before the end of the current session, the Committee had yet to deal with the burning issues on its agenda, and the

* Resumed from the 1630th meeting.

deplorable abuse of the practice of consensus which had occurred on the preceding day, underscored the need for such changes. Moreover, draft resolution A/C.2/L.1374 had been discussed for weeks outside the Committee in a manner which had not allowed all delegations to express their views.

73. Accordingly, paragraph 5 of the draft resolution should be less restrictive and should call on the Secretary-General to submit to the Preparatory Committee a study containing proposals on procedural and structural reforms and changes in methods of work within the United Nations system, in order to enable the Organization to deal more effectively with the problems of international economic co-operation, thereby contributing to the establishment of the new international economic order.

74. Furthermore, the Economic and Social Council would be in a better position to set the dates for the meetings of the Preparatory Committee, taking into account the work and schedules of meetings of its subsidiary bodies and those of UNCTAD; accordingly, paragraph 3 should be deleted. Similarly, the General Assembly should not specify whose advice the Secretary-General should seek in preparing the report and the study envisaged in paragraphs 4 and 5. He also questioned the wisdom of calling for the establishment of a new group of experts, in view of the General Assembly's decision not to appropriate the funds needed for their recruitment.

75. His delegation's proposals concerning draft resolution A/C.2/L.1374 were prompted by its conviction that the General Assembly must seize the opportunity offered by the special session scheduled for September 1975 to regather and refocus its energies and avoid the discredit and sterility which would result from a disorderly diffusion of efforts in too many directions at once.

76. Mr. BERLIS (Canada) said that his delegation had substantial reservations concerning draft resolution A/C.2/L.1374. Although Canada supported the idea of a special session on development and international economic co-operation and appreciated the importance of preparatory meetings, it did not agree that there should be a third session of the Preparatory Committee devoted to the definition of targets and accountability within a time-bound frame. In his delegation's view, only two sessions of the Preparatory Committee would be necessary. The first would be organizational in nature and would be convened not later than February 1975. The second, to be convened in June, would combine the work of the second and third sessions as envisaged in the draft resolution, but should not go so far as to define a specific time-frame for targets. Moreover, work on the definition of targets in the Preparatory Committee should be suggestive and not explicit. If explicit targets were to emerge, it should be from the special session itself and within the context of a generally agreed work programme.

77. He wished to offer some suggestions for improvements which would make the draft resolution more acceptable to Canada and like-minded countries. His delegation considered the second preambular paragraph somewhat overstated, and would prefer the word "desire" rather than "united determination". Paragraph 1 would more appro-

priately be a concluding preambular paragraph, with the word "Endorses" replaced by "Recalling". His delegation did not like the wording "completion of negotiations" at the end of paragraph 2, since that might imply that explicit, binding, legal agreements were supposed to emerge from the special session. Canada believed that the work programme emerging from that session should be suggestive in nature, designed to guide nations in pursuing more effective and egalitarian development and economic international policy. He therefore proposed that the words "conclusion of discussions" should be substituted for "completion of negotiations", or that the paragraph should end with the word "level". Paragraph 5 gave the impression that the speedy establishment of the new international economic order was assured. Given the realities surrounding the adoption of the Declaration and the Programme of Action at the sixth special session, that assertion was open to debate. His delegation therefore suggested that paragraph 5 should be modified to reflect the real situation more accurately. Lastly, his delegation questioned the role to be played by the seventh special session in the review and appraisal exercise as described in paragraph 6 (b), particularly in the light of Economic and Social Council resolution 1911 (LVII), paragraph 18, which gave responsibility for the over-all mid-term review and appraisal to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

78. In his delegation's view, consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1374 should not be divorced from consideration of all the related issues, such as the organization of the work of the Council referred to in draft resolution A/C.2/L.1371; the problem of how and when the mid-term review and appraisal should be dealt with; what was to be done about implementation of the decisions of the sixth special session and the proposed Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States; and the Fifth Committee's consideration of certain aspects of the calendar of conferences.

79. Separate consideration of and decisions on each of those problems might well lead the international community to set itself an impossible programme of work for 1975. Although little time remained to the Committee, his delegation did not think that precipitate action should be taken on any of the items he had referred to; members must first have a clear idea of their interrelationship and of the Organization's physical capacity to cope with them.

80. Mr. TANK (United States of America) said that his delegation attached considerable importance to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1374, since the seventh special session would formulate conclusions on the action to be taken by the United Nations system following a year of debate on economic issues. That year was already under way and had thus far produced, *inter alia*, various economic reports, Secretariat studies and the decisions of the World Food Conference. The seventh special session was to be the peak of that activity, and it was important that it should deal with the urgent economic and social issues facing the international community, which must be defined at a high level during the two-week special session.

81. His delegation felt some concern regarding the machinery proposed in the draft resolution and the breadth of the issues to be covered. It was concerned at the prospect of

the Preparatory Committee's operating separately from the normal process of review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy in 1975. The convening of a session of the Preparatory Committee in August would not allow States to be properly briefed or to take fully into account the review and appraisal process. His delegation proposed that the February and June sessions of the Preparatory Committee should report to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-ninth session; the Council could then prepare the agenda for the special session. The three weeks in August following the fifty-ninth session of the Council would be needed to prepare documentation for the special session. The report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution should, in his delegation's view, be based on broader concepts and should include, for example, such issues as agricultural output and its capacity for further development. His delegation was not altogether clear as to what kind of experts would be required for the group referred to in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution and whether they would be studying relations between United Nations agencies, ways to accelerate the process of sending technical experts to developing countries, or the development of the agencies' programmes of assistance for developing countries. He felt that they might usefully review the question of the proliferation of United Nations meetings, attendance at those meetings and the lack of time to prepare for them. He drew attention to the extremely full calendar of conferences and meetings for 1975, which rendered it difficult for delegations to make a positive contribution to discussions. He would like to ask the sponsors of the draft resolution what kind of questions and changes they had had in mind when drafting paragraph 5.

82. His delegation welcomed the comments made by the Canadian delegation; it had intended to propose amendments to the draft resolution in informal discussions. However, it agreed with the Canadian amendments to paragraphs 1, 2, 5 and 6(b). His delegation would be prepared to submit amendments to the draft resolution in writing and hoped that other delegations would do likewise.

83. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, expressed surprise that Israel had repeated the charge of Arab aggression to justify its activities in the occupied Arab territories. It was well known that Israel had been set up on the basis of massacres and terrorism and that some of the most prominent Israeli leaders took pride in having participated in such terrorism. Israel continued to occupy the Arab territories, exploiting their resources and imposing racial discrimination on the population. In the State of Israel, the first-class citizens were the European Jews, the second-class citizens were Jews from the eastern countries and the third-class citizens were the Arabs, who were treated with the most cruel violence and aggression.

84. The report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories¹ contained many examples of Israeli terrorism and repression. There had been mass arrests, demolition of houses, expulsion of Arabs

from their homes and denial of the right to return, usurpation of natural resources, employment of Arab workers at discriminatory wages, and so on. He drew particular attention to paragraph 131 of the report, which stated that Israel was earning \$400 million per year in oil revenues from the Sinai oil wells. The report also contained a special section on the destruction of the town of Quneitra, and he read out the conclusions on that issue contained in paragraphs 156 and 157 of the report. In addition, Israel had carried out mass destruction in the towns of Port Said, Ismailia and Suez, 85 per cent of which had been destroyed. Israeli forces had bombed schools, hospitals and mother-and-child care centres. Terrorist gangs had been organized to murder and assassinate Arab supporters in, for example, Beirut, Paris and Oslo. In 1947 and 1948, 700,000 Palestinian Arabs had been uprooted from their homes and 387 Arab villages had been razed to the ground. Arab hostages had been shot and Count Bernadotte and his aide had been assassinated. Those were but a few examples of the way in which the Israeli Government worked. It was surprising that Israel considered the subject-matter of the draft resolution a secondary issue which should be dealt with only by the parties concerned. He asked whether the representative of Israel also considered the oppression of the peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe to be a matter of secondary importance. He drew attention to the close alliance between Israel and South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

85. He condemned the Israeli delegation for its attack against the German Democratic Republic, which had not inherited nazism. Zionism had forced Jews to emigrate to Israel and had used Jews as a means of pressure. For example, it was well known that Zionists had blown up ships full of Jews in Palestinian harbours to exert pressure for the establishment of the State of Israel. They had also bombed Jews in Iraq to urge them to emigrate to Israel.

86. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he had listened to the monumental distortion of facts by the representative of Egypt and other Arab countries. It was beneath the dignity of his delegation to engage in such arguments. He rejected all the baseless allegations made against Israel, which were merely Egyptian propaganda slogans. He refuted the absurd charge of Israeli aggression, belied by the pride which Arab leaders had taken in their surprise attack against Israel in 1973. Egypt had been responsible for all the wars that Israel had had to fight in self-defence. His delegation had already described the factual situation in the administered areas as well as its policy to ensure peaceful existence in those areas. That policy had been successful, according to many unbiased observers from the Arab States. Before 1967, the situation in the Gaza Strip had been one of misery and administrative disorder. Egypt was calling for a return to that situation. The distortion of the facts by Arab States could not change history, but were merely part and parcel of the policy of propaganda warfare against Israel. In view of the lateness of the hour, he did not wish to go into details at the present stage and reserved his right to reply at a subsequent meeting.

¹ A/9817.