

United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE, 1156th
MEETING

Thursday, 18 October 1962,
at 3.15 p.m.



NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda items 12 and 80:</i>	
<i>Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VIII and IX) (continued)</i>	
<i>Advisory services in the field of human rights (continued)</i>	
<i>General debate (continued)</i>	105

Chairman: Mr. Nemi Chandra KASLIWAL
(India).

AGENDA ITEMS 12 AND 80

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VIII and IX) (A/5203, A/C.3/L.991/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.992-996, A/C.3/L.998) (continued)

Advisory services in the field of human rights (A/5226, A/C.3/L.997) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. RADVANYI (Hungary) said that his delegation welcomed the fact that the principle of planning was now generally accepted as essential for the achievement of balanced economic and social development, since no substantial progress in either field was possible without planning. It was therefore particularly regrettable that so little account had been taken of the planning experience of the socialist countries, since they had all carried through successful social revolutions in a very short period of time. According to the report of the Economic and Social Council the problem of planning social and economic development was so complex that further studies on the interdependence of social and economic development were still needed (A/5203, para. 481); yet had the wealth of experience of the socialist countries been taken into account the stage of study would have long been passed and the United Nations would now be able to furnish guidelines to the interested countries.

2. Hungary had recently placed experts at the disposal of one of the developing countries on a consultative basis and would be glad to meet further requests of a similar nature, whether bilaterally or through the United Nations. Its experience could be of particular value, because Hungary, which before 1945 had been a backward agrarian country plagued by poverty and unemployment, had, by means of planning, been able to change the nature of its entire national economy. Its national income had risen from an index figure of 100 in 1938 to 250 in 1961 and it had become a primarily industrial country with a highly developed agriculture. As a result, social conditions had changed considerably; unemployment had disappeared and more than half of the population was

gainfully employed. Living standards had risen and the per caput food consumption now exceeded that of many western European countries.

3. It was because of the economic transformation that the Hungarian people had made such progress in social and cultural matters. Ninety-three per cent of the population was now covered by social insurance, medical services were entirely free, the tuberculosis rate had been reduced to 19 per cent of the pre-war figure and the average life expectancy had risen from 54 to 68 years. Cultural development, which was not merely a result but in some ways a prerequisite of economic development, had been equally striking. Illiteracy—and there had been 600,000 illiterates in Hungary in 1941—had been completely eradicated, schooling was compulsory from six to sixteen years of age, and by 1965 there would be 70,000 students at the universities and institutes of higher education. Since the total population of Hungary was about 10 million, that meant that higher education was open to anyone who had the will and ability to learn.

4. Economic and social development was greatly affected by the arms race, which was a problem that could be resolved only through the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict international control. If that were accomplished, it would be possible to speed up enormously the rate of development of those peoples which had recently attained their independence.

5. Hungary was particularly interested in the control of narcotic drugs and agreed with the view expressed in the Council's report (A/5203, para. 532) that the existing treaties did not provide for effective control of the cultivation of the plants grown for narcotic drugs. It endorsed resolution 2 (XVII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs^{1/} requesting States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to encourage research into the problem of drug addiction, with special emphasis on the socio-economic and medical aspects, since a knowledge of the causes of any harmful phenomenon could indicate methods of eradicating it. However, the illicit traffic in narcotics and drug addiction were international problems and the significance and practical value of the resolution were considerably reduced by the fact that it was limited to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies. There could be no restrictions in such a humanitarian question and it was essential that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be able to make use of the experience acquired by all countries of the world, regardless of their membership in the United Nations or the specialized agencies.

6. One important question which the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should take up without delay was that

^{1/} See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 9* (E/3648), para. 137.

of preventing the sale to the public of drugs containing narcotics until after they had been adequately tested. He recalled in that connexion the recent case of the tranquillizer which, having been marketed without adequate tests, had led to the birth of malformed babies.

7. The Hungarian delegation reserved the right to speak on the draft resolutions at a later stage.

8. Begum KHATOON (Pakistan) expressed her delegation's appreciation of what UNICEF had done for children throughout the world. It welcomed the decision to extend UNICEF's field of activity and, in particular, the efforts being made to fit its programme into the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade. Unfortunately, UNICEF's financial resources were still inadequate and it was to be hoped that the industrially developed countries would respond more generously to the appeal to increase their contributions.

9. While it was impossible to over-emphasize the importance of balanced social and economic development, it was equally impossible to devise an over-all theory of balanced development that would fit all cases and any attempt to adopt a recommendation along those lines would be unwise. Each Government had to determine its own scale of priorities in the light of the conditions facing it. The best area of action for the United Nations would be that suggested in the Secretary-General's report entitled The United Nations Development Decade,^{2/} namely, the provision of help in obtaining information on the establishment of planning machinery and on methods of planning, and of assistance in formulating and implementing the plan finally decided upon. The United Nations should not attempt to give specific directions or recommendations to Governments.

10. The concept of planning was not new to Pakistan. It had already embarked upon its second five-year plan, which contained a substantial element of flexibility, postulating neither an exclusively capitalistic nor an exclusively socialist economy. The pragmatic approach was best suited to the realities of the situation in Pakistan and to the temperament of its people. It was felt that inducement rather than direction would provide a better balance between economic and social progress on the one hand and the realization of human rights on the other.

11. The plan had three main objectives: first, to achieve a breakthrough in agriculture by increasing production so that food supplies could keep up with the needs of the population—in this connexion some success had already been achieved by means of an extensive land reform which had had the effect of rousing the countryside and harnessing the creative energies of the rural population; second, to increase general economic growth by encouraging private enterprise in all practicable ways and by freeing the economy from superfluous obstacles and restraints; and third, to expand and advance education at all levels as rapidly as possible. Greater emphasis than before was being given to technical and industrial training and more money was being provided for research and scholarships. A substantial effort was also being made to increase educational facilities for girls, who now formed only 20 per cent of the school population.

12. Although a greater proportion of the available resources would be devoted to social measures in

subsequent plans, Pakistan had no choice at present but to concentrate on economic development in order to lighten the crushing burden of poverty. The compelling consideration was to make the economy grow at a faster rate than the increase in population. In that connexion, her delegation had been glad to hear that the Bureau of Social Affairs was devoting increasing attention to demographic problems. The growth in world population of nearly 500 million from 1950 to 1960, mostly in the under-developed countries, was alarming. The 1961 edition of the Report on the World Social Situation^{3/} had rightly pointed to the population explosion as one of the causes of the intensification of the world's social problems. The international organizations and bodies concerned with population questions should no longer be satisfied with demographic studies but should place greater stress on the social and economic consequences of population growth, especially in the less developed countries, so that their studies could be used by Governments as a basis for decisions of practical policy.

13. It was satisfactory to learn that the preparatory committee for the Asian Population Conference had recommended that the Conference should not concern itself merely with questions of data collection and research, but should also aim at recommending practical solutions for population problems. The World Population Conference scheduled for 1965 should also be given more flexible terms of reference and should preferably be held in an under-developed country in order to stress the importance of the population question to the under-developed world; it might well be held in a Latin American or African country, since a regional population conference was to take place in Asia in 1963. The Population Commission might also devote greater attention to the interplay of demographic factors and economic and social factors and to the question of policies for influencing the size and structure of populations. It might be well for the Commission to meet every year instead of every other year as at present.

14. Industrialization, urbanization and population growth had made the housing problem more urgent than ever. In Pakistan the housing shortage was particularly acute because of the growth of the towns and the massive influx of refugees following independence. In the second five-year plan a major share of direct Government investment had been allocated to the provision of shelter for homeless refugees, although most housing construction would be undertaken through semi-public or private enterprise.

15. Her delegation welcomed the initiative taken by the Social Commission in convening a group of experts on housing and urban development. Any housing and settlement programme had to be properly planned in order to avoid the growth of communities without adequate community services, a particular danger in countries lacking qualified architects and town planners. The problem of reducing the cost of building materials and of financing housing programmes, and the social aspects of housing could also usefully be investigated by the expert group.

16. The Pakistan delegation would support the draft resolution concerning the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/C.3/L.991/Rev.1). It had no particular objection to the USSR amendment to that text (A/C.3/L.993), save that it

^{2/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.II.B.2.

^{3/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 61.IV.4.

would introduce elements not directly relevant to the subject. In the case of the Ukrainian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.992), the objectives outlined in the operative paragraph were certainly desirable, but the preambular part could be improved.

17. Mr. DIAZ CASANUEVA (Chile) proposed that at the eighteenth session the Third Committee should place on its agenda an item entitled "Social development of under-developed countries", including as sub-items the questions dealt with in the Council's report and any further matters which the Bureau of Social Affairs might suggest. Under that more general heading, the debate would be more comprehensive and afford members an opportunity of attacking social problems in their broader sense, rather than concentrating on details.

18. Social development could not be divorced from economic development, for it aimed at raising levels of living from the material as well as the spiritual standpoint. The developing countries were determined to assign ever-increasing importance to the social aspects of planned development, but the choices they faced were very difficult, especially where planned development depended essentially on public resources. Governments and semi-public corporations had to fix strict priorities because of the great number of urgent demands. Even the best scheme for balanced social and economic development could not be applied if the developing countries remained highly susceptible to budgetary and market difficulties and to inflation. That situation should be given due account by the great industrial Powers. Despite foreign aid, the world was being increasingly divided into rich and poor countries. Political rivalry between the great Powers rendered the rational organization of the world economy difficult and produced disastrous effects on the developing countries. The latter were caught in a vicious circle, and to break it they needed greater international understanding and assistance.

19. The United Nations had not only demonstrated the need for balanced economic and social development but had also shown that social programmes decisively benefited economic development. The countries of Latin America had become aware that the achievement of balanced development required no less than a peaceful revolution. His delegation considered that if planned development in Latin America was to succeed, two fundamental steps must be taken. First, an end must be put to the anachronistic and unjust privileges of plutocratic minorities which held wealth and power and obstructed social development, and fundamental reforms must be made in the agrarian, tax and education sectors. Second, the countries concerned must speed up the process of regional integration through political, economic, social and cultural arrangements.

20. He believed that all current consideration of the social aspects of development should be placed within the context of the United Nations Development Decade. It was most encouraging that the Secretary-General gave much attention, in his report on the United Nations Development Decade, to the social factor, and particularly to the problems of children and youth, educational planning and community development. He heartily agreed with the idea underlying the report, that the objectives of development were valid only if they led to the promotion of human welfare and dignity.

21. He was happy to note the coincidence between the United Nations Development Decade and Chile's

ten-year development plan, which had recently been evaluated and approved by an international commission of experts. The Chilean plan aimed at the total restructuring of the economy with a view to correcting the basic imbalances which were, incidentally, those afflicting most developing countries. Under the construction programme, apart from the building of houses, schools and hospitals, plans would be prepared for the remodelling of cities and the eradication of shanty-towns. He was very much interested in the newly established United Nations Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, not only because of Chile's programme but also because of the serious earthquakes to which it was subject.

22. In assessing human resources as a factor in planned national development, man should not be thought of as a robot but as a being capable of creative achievement. People must be educated if they were to contribute to progress, and in that respect the countries of his region faced the fundamental tasks of eradicating illiteracy, extending educational opportunities to all and bringing education into closer accordance with the needs of national development. On the latter subject a very interesting seminar had been held at Santiago, Chile, under the auspices of UNESCO and ECLA.

23. Planned development further required modern methods and techniques. The newly established Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning was training specialists in development programming, providing advisory services to countries and conducting research on national planning techniques. His delegation was grateful to the Netherlands for its contribution to the establishment of a social development institute, announced at the 1147th plenary meeting, and would suggest, based on the experience of the Latin American institute, that it should be regional in character and should, with the help of the regional economic commissions, concentrate on some under-developed area of the world so that it could perform the double function of research and practical assistance.

24. Chile felt that its social and economic progress must go hand in hand with the safeguard of human rights. He endorsed the action concerning the periodic reports on human rights and advisory services in human rights proposed in resolutions 888 B (XXXIV) and 889 (XXXIV) respectively of the Economic and Social Council, on the understanding, however, that such action would not be considered as a permanent substitute for the draft International Covenants on Human Rights.

25. The programmes of the United Nations Development Decade unfortunately contemplated no action to improve the legal and social status of women. Despite the great advances they had made, women still did not enjoy full rights and opportunities. He was certain that the Commission on the Status of Women had a valuable contribution to make in the framework of planned economic and social development.

26. The improvement of mass information media was another important aspect of development programmes. According to UNESCO, the less developed countries suffered from a serious shortage of information media, which adversely affected efforts to educate public opinion, stimulate economic and social progress and advance human rights.

27. The economic and social consequences of disarmament constituted a subject suitable for consideration by the Third Committee, since moral and humanitarian issues of great moment were involved. What seemed sterile, however, was the mutual recriminations indulged in by the great nuclear Powers, to the consternation of the smaller nations, which had only their moral influence to exercise. World military expenditure almost equalled the total national incomes of all the less developed countries and represented a burden to the smaller countries as well as to the larger. His delegation hoped that the report entitled Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament^{4/} would be circulated throughout the world and summarized in a simple pamphlet for distribution to school-children. Children were more generous and imaginative than adults and could envisage disarmament as a natural prospect of mankind, while today's adults saw it only as a dream.

28. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's intention to collaborate closely in the social programmes of the United Nations.

29. Tenaku RAZALEIGH (Federation of Malaya) said that his Government fully endorsed the principle of national planning, which was essential for the achievement of balanced economic and social development. That was particularly true in the developing countries, where the need for social and economic improvement was pressing, where resources were inadequate and the gap between rich and poor was wide, and where only a massive and concerted effort could rescue the masses from hunger, disease, illiteracy and poverty. The task facing all such countries was that of getting the utmost out of the limited human, material and natural resources available, and there international co-operation through the United Nations and the specialized agencies was of vital importance.

30. After the attainment of independence in 1957, the Government of the Federation of Malaya had recognized the need for long-term programmes for improving social conditions and raising the economic and social level of the population. A first five-year plan had been implemented during the period 1955-1960 and a second, covering the period 1961-1965, was now in operation. Under those plans social expenditures had necessarily had to be limited because of the shortage of resources and the urgent need for economic development. Work had to be provided for more and more people, the country industrialized, agriculture diversified and poverty and hunger in the rural areas eliminated. Yet the needs of educational, medical, health and other social facilities were constantly increasing and the distribution of the available financial resources between the economic and social sectors thus became an extremely difficult and complex task. The policy of his Government was therefore to gear social development to economic expansion, since only increased production and trade could produce the resources necessary for social development.

31. In the social sector the main emphasis was being placed on the expansion of the health services—946 rural health units were to be established under the second five-year plan, thus bringing health services to some 2 million people—and on the eradication of such communicable diseases as malaria, tuberculosis and yaws. Substantial resources were also being

devoted to the expansion of technical education to produce the qualified technical personnel needed for intensive economic and social development.

32. His delegation had been surprised to hear the representative of Bulgaria say that the Federation of Malaya was devoting one-third of its budget to defence and armament. That figure had been true only for the year 1957, when the Federation of Malaya had just attained its independence and was still fighting the communist guerrillas. Since then defence expenditures had been very low and in 1962, for example, would account for only 9 per cent of the national budget.

33. While there had been considerable social progress in his country, much still remained to be done. His delegation therefore fully endorsed the view that the United Nations should strengthen and expand its assistance to developing countries in drawing up and implementing their social service programmes. At the same time, economic prosperity and social progress were meaningless unless the dignity and freedom of the individual were secured and the Federation of Malaya therefore regarded the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women as being of great importance and supported their recommendations as set forth in chapter IX of the Council's report.

34. His delegation also considered that the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights had proved its worth and should be continued. It approved of the programme of seminars and would welcome an increase in the resources allocated to human rights fellowships for 1963.

Mr. Albuquerque Mello (Brazil), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

35. Mr. DEDEI (Albania) congratulated the representative of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria on the admission of his country to the United Nations.

36. He went on to say that a serious social situation prevailed not only in the developing countries, mainly as a result of their colonial past, but also in economically advanced countries, where the inequality of different social strata was steadily increasing owing to unemployment, rising costs of living, higher taxes to cover armaments expenditure and racial restrictions. The solution of social problems had become a necessity of the first order, but it was clearly pointless to rely on the assistance of the colonialists or imperialists, for the former had demonstrated throughout the colonial era their unwillingness to improve social conditions in dependent territories, while the latter had not yet solved the social problems of some classes in their own countries. Experience had shown that when the colonial and imperialist Powers offered assistance to a country, they tried to exploit it so as to gain control of the country's economy and thus to influence its foreign policy or to establish military bases in its territory. A necessary condition for the solution of social problems was the complete liquidation of colonialism and the consolidation of political and economic independence.

37. The United Nations could render great assistance in the social field by organizing exchanges of experience and providing material and technical aid. His delegation had always held that less money should be spent on enlarging staff and creating new committees, and that attention should be focused on

^{4/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.IX.1.

methods of solving specific social questions so that effective aid might be extended to the less developed countries. In that respect the experience of the socialist countries must not be overlooked. The Report on the Organization and Administration of Social Services,^{5/} prepared by a group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General, had taken a very one-sided approach and its conclusions were based exclusively on the experience of Western countries.

38. The Economic and Social Council should give priority to the most urgent social problems, such as the struggle against sickness and illiteracy as well as the shortage of national executive man-power. Considerable assistance in the training of specialists could be offered by the competent specialized agencies.

39. His delegation was pleased at the interest in planning and integrated development shown by the Council and its subordinate organs. The rapid solution of social problems required the rational use of domestic resources, and that could be achieved only through planning. A further study of methods of planning and integration should be carried out, with due regard to socialist experience. His country had a planned economy which ensured balanced development. Owing to the public ownership of the means of production, all domestic resources and economic sectors were subject to planning. Albania, formerly an underdeveloped country which had moreover suffered tremendous losses during the war, had not only restored its economy in a very short time but had emerged from its backward state, increasing industrial production twenty-eight times as compared with 1938 figures. A large share of the national income was devoted to public health, housing, education and other social services. Medical care and education were free, and many low-cost services were offered to the working population. As a result of its education programmes, Albania now had its own specialists in all branches of the economy.

40. The needs of children and young people must be carefully considered in the planning and carrying out of social programmes, especially programmes relating to health, education and social welfare. The Bureau of Social Affairs, UNICEF and the competent specialized agencies could play a useful role in those matters.

41. Regarding human rights, he would vote for the Ukrainian draft resolution, which exactly met his delegation's views.

42. Miss NASSER (Jordan) appealed to the representatives of the great Powers not to introduce cold war issues into the Third Committee's debates. It was the small unaligned nations which suffered from such behaviour, since the items before the Committee were designed to promote what was essentially their cause.

43. Jordan believed in planned economic and social programmes. It was a young developing country, whose people were determined to overcome all difficulties in raising their level of living to that of the most developed countries. The problem of unemployment had been partly overcome and would disappear soon after the completion of the first five-year programme in 1967, which would lead to an increase of 60 per cent in the gross national product.

44. One aim of the five-year programme was to provide comprehensive and free social services.

Existing services included old-age pensions for government employees after fifteen years of service and free but not compulsory education. The programme included monthly subsidies to families which had lost their bread-winners and free hospitals for the poor, and greater emphasis was being placed on the construction of co-operatives and the co-ordinated utilization of manpower.

45. While it was true that women in Jordan did not enjoy full political rights, the women themselves and the Government were working towards the granting of such rights, for which the main prerequisite, in the Government's view, was education. Active steps were being taken to build more schools and teacher training colleges for girls. As a result of the policy of encouraging and improving education, the women would become more educated and the men more enlightened, and that would lead to complete emancipation. Women were now employed in various Government departments, where they received the same pay as men, and no problem had arisen in that respect in private employment, although the latter was not controlled by the Government.

46. On the question of the economic and social consequences of disarmament, she believed that if the nuclear Powers sincerely desired a better life for all mankind, the world could soon enjoy peace, progress and happiness.

47. Miss RENJU (Tanganyika) supported the views expressed in the Council's report, particularly the proposals for further work in planning balanced economic and social development (A/5203, paras. 479-484). Her Government's first three-year development plan, launched in July 1961, called for the full participation of the people. Such co-operation had always been the basis of the communal life of the African peoples and was one of the traditional values which her country intended to maintain. The modern co-operative movement was already a characteristic feature of national development, and self-help projects completed within the first six months of independence had saved some \$1.4 million that could be devoted to other essential projects.

48. Where housing and urban development were concerned, Tanganyika was for the most part a sparsely populated country, but some areas were over-populated for climatic and geographical reasons, and the annual population growth was estimated at 2.75 per cent. Her Government had drawn up settlement schemes to enable people to move to the less congested areas, and private housing construction was supplemented by low-interest building loans and the renting of low-cost houses built by the authorities. Co-operative and self-help housing efforts in rural areas were sometimes retarded by the lack of funds, owing to the preoccupation with other essential requirements.

49. Great progress had been made in her country in wiping out illiteracy, and 60 per cent of the students in literacy classes were women. It was recognized that the education of women and their full participation in public life were essential for national reconstruction and development. She paid a tribute to those people, and to such agencies as UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO, which had given assistance to her country in the important work of mass education, in both money and equipment, and she hoped that such assistance would be expanded during the United Nations Development Decade.

^{5/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.IV.1.

50. In the field of human rights, her Government was devoted to the United Nations Charter and had taken a firm stand against colonialism and discrimination as practised in some territories. She hoped that the plans concerning human rights would receive the attention they deserved.

51. Mr. DARAI (Iran) remarked that the reports of the Social Commission were evidence of diligent and praiseworthy work, but he noted that no mention whatever had been made of the position of old people, and would be happy to receive some information on that point.

52. The various resolutions of the Economic and Social Council referred to in chapter VIII, section I, of the report were in harmony with the objectives of the third five-year plan recently started in his country. The plan provided, *inter alia*, for a co-ordinated programme to establish health services suited to Iran's needs; one of the most important tasks of the Ministry of Health would be the creation of statistical services to improve health statistics. To combat illiteracy, the Ministry of Education would set up a new high-level body to co-ordinate the work of specialists in that field, and existing school buildings would be used after hours; UNESCO would be asked to provide a resident expert to plan the programme and to advise on the preparation of textbooks, while an expert committee would be established to study improvements in existing textbooks; another committee would co-ordinate the work and the financial resources of the universities. The system of land tenure was one of the main obstacles to the agricultural development envisaged under the plan, but execution of the agrarian reform would be postponed until after the redistribution of land in the communes had been completed. The plan also covered community development and the promotion of municipal affairs, including housing, and measures relating to the tribal population. In executing the plan, Iran would rely heavily, as in the past, on the assistance of the specialized agencies and UNICEF.

53. In the light of the foregoing, his delegation would give its unconditional support to Economic and Social Council resolutions 903 B, C and E (XXXIV).

54. His delegation's position on narcotics control was well known, but he wished to emphasize once again that the effective suppression of illicit traffic called for a strengthening of international co-operation. His Government had always sought and given such co-operation, and he would support the draft resolution on this subject (A/C.3/L.995). He also endorsed Council resolution 888 E (XXXIV).

55. He commended the activities of the Commission on the Status of Women, which had done much to improve the political, cultural and professional status of women throughout the world. The position of women in Iran continued to improve, and women had recently been given the right to vote in municipal elections.

56. The Iranian people attached particular importance to the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and he hoped that the twelve-Power draft resolution, of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, would be adopted unanimously.

57. Miss VILLGRATNER (Austria) stated that her Government highly appreciated the activities covered

by the report of the Economic and Social Council, particularly those connected with the United Nations Development Decade. Efforts to raise the level of living of all peoples should be concentrated on the developing countries, which had difficulties in adjusting their national economies and social conditions to the increasing interdependence of nations; it was for that reason that Austria had contributed, within its means, to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund and had also given bilateral assistance to various countries.

58. Austria's extensive social legislation, based on the principle of equality of the sexes, provided security in case of unemployment, illness and old age, and constant family welfare assistance; but certain economic problems arising from the loss of independence in 1938, the effect of war conditions, and the fact that full independence had been regained only in 1955, remained to be solved. They were not entirely unlike the problems existing in the developing countries. A development programme had been put into effect three years previously for an area where the relatively low level of living had led to large seasonal migrations. Through the strengthening of the agricultural co-operatives and the establishment of rural industries, together with assistance in the form of loans and information through the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to encourage private enterprise, the infrastructure had been thoroughly rebuilt, after which a thorough system of agricultural reform had been instituted. The combination of co-operatives and private enterprise had proved very successful, and a sound consolidating process, as well as a noticeable increase in income, could already be observed.

59. In a similar area, concerted planning had led to the establishment of specialized agricultural production, small rural industries on a co-operative basis and a new system of communications; the intensive research work of the agricultural extension services and the vocational schools and training institutes had proved extremely helpful and the retraining of young women for agriculture had been an important factor in the success of the programme. Most important of all had been the voluntary assistance of the people themselves, which could be enlisted only by offering them special solutions for special problems, developing existing skills by intensified training, and providing guarantees of legal stability through a sound system of public administration. In the light of experiences within its own borders, Austria was ready to help the developing countries by putting trained experts at their disposal through the technical assistance programmes or on a bilateral basis.

60. In the field of human rights, her delegation welcomed the efforts to establish a world-wide system of covenants or declarations, although human rights had been guaranteed by law in Austria for so long that such instruments were not of great interest to Austria itself. The seminars and fellowships provided under the programme of advisory services had shown very good results—particularly the seminars, which had contributed to mutual understanding and to an objective appraisal of practical solutions.

61. Mrs. DICK (United States of America) said that her Government strongly supported increased emphasis on social planning, particularly in relation to national development programmes. Economic and Social Council resolution 903 A (XXXIV) would help the developing countries to apply the broad principles

which had been firmly established for some time and might, indeed, be one of the most far-reaching actions in social matters taken by the Council.

62. However, the Social Commission's emphasis on planning and social policy should not be to the detriment of the important social service programmes that had long been within its purview. She drew attention in that connexion to Economic and Social Council resolution 903 D (XXXIV), which her Government strongly endorsed, and to the value of the increasing co-operation between UNICEF and the Bureau of Social Affairs. She also emphasized the actual and potential value of community development programmes.

63. The United Nations Development Decade gave the Social Commission, the regional economic commissions and other United Nations bodies a new opportunity to translate broad social objectives into specific goals, and her Government therefore strongly supported Economic and Social Council resolution 903 E (XXXIV). Her delegation was convinced of the imperative need for additional staff if the Bureau of Social Affairs and the regional economic commissions were to discharge their growing responsibilities in the United Nations Development Decade. It was also important that Member States' contributions to the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance should reach the target of \$150 million.

64. With industrialization and the movement to the cities, the problem of housing grew daily more acute, and her Government attached very great importance to the decision, in Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV), to establish a Committee on Housing, Building and

Planning, which could make a contribution equal in importance to that of UNICEF. The Council's decision had been a compromise between those who would have preferred a commission or a specialized agency and those who wanted a group of experts to report to the Social Commission. While her Government would have liked the Committee to have a larger membership, it had agreed to the compromise figure of eighteen; however, in view of the great interest in the subject, it had joined seven other delegations in submitting a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.998), welcoming the establishment of the Committee and advocating the enlargement of its membership to twenty-one. The Council's action was a reaffirmation that the United Nations Development Decade should aim at balanced economic and social progress, since housing not only fulfilled a social need but had an essential place in any national plan for the provision of work and industry.

65. The emphasis being placed on mobilizing economic resources during the United Nations Development Decade imposed a special responsibility on those working in the social field. They must remind their colleagues concerned with economic development that that the latter's work was subordinate to a wider purpose—the creation of a civilized and dignified environment in which men and women could have a meaningful life—and also that economic development itself would not be maintained unless the ideals, ambitions, skills and energies of men and women were mobilized.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.