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*Chairman:* Mr. Francisco CUEVAS CANCINO  
 (Mexico).

AGENDA ITEM 55

- Housing, building and planning (concluded):
- (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (concluded) (A/5803, chap. VIII, sect. I; A/6003, chap. XII, sect. III);
  - (b) Report of the Secretary-General (concluded) (A/6073; A/C.3/L.1276, L.1277)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

1. Mr. OLONSO OLEA (Spain) said that, having regard to the draft resolution submitted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1024 A (XXXVII) (A/6073, annex), operative paragraph 1 (a) and (b), whose main purport was to recommend that the State should assume a major role in the solution of the housing problem, he proposed to describe his country's experience in the matter of building.

2. No one disputed that the State was responsible for drawing up housing programmes as part of the country's general development plans, and for determining the present and future housing requirements and how they were to be met. It was also incumbent on the State to acquire the necessary land and to take steps to prevent speculation in real estate, which was one of the greatest obstacles to low-rent housing construction. Whether the State should undertake directly to build housing was a more complex question, as Spain's experience showed.

3. Early in 1961 his Government had launched a vast programme of housing construction which, considering the country's population and resources, could be called revolutionary: 135,000 dwellings had been built in 1961, 164,000 in 1962, 206,000 in 1963

and 256,000 in 1964. In 1964 13 million square metres of living space had been provided, at the rate of 50 square metres per dwelling. Of the 256,000 dwellings, 25,000 had been built, without assistance, by individuals or private companies, 21,000 had been built directly by the State through public construction agencies, and the remainder—i.e., the majority—had been erected by building companies with State subsidies or loans. The State, then, had not done all the building itself, but it had played an extremely important part in stimulating the work. Under its stimulus the programme—which had overshot the targets originally set, ambitious though they were—had made it possible to clear virtually all the slums of Madrid and Barcelona, which had been absorbing 40,000 to 50,000 migrants a year.

4. His delegation accordingly considered that the role of the State in housing construction, mentioned in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution under discussion (A/6073, annex), should be understood to include not only direct construction activity but also, and above all, the provision of practical incentives in the form of loans, subsidies and various benefits.

5. Spain supported the remainder of the draft resolution unconditionally. It was prepared to put its experience to work for countries facing the problems which Spain itself had had to solve. The representatives of several Latin American States—Cuba, Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Peru and Chile—had already had an opportunity, in 1964, to observe the operation of various building companies on the spot, in Spain. His country would gladly continue making its contribution as a part of the international assistance mentioned in operative paragraph 2.

6. Mr. HNE (Liberia) said that the purpose of his delegation's amendment (A/C.3/L.1277) was to make the first preambular paragraph clearer by placing the stress on inadequate housing and on the urgency of the problems arising therefrom; as the statement made at the 1331st meeting by Mr. Weissmann, Director of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, clearly showed, it was in the developing countries that those problems were most acute and had to be solved with the greatest dispatch.

7. Mr. NEAGU (Romania) considered it desirable that international assistance should facilitate the financing of emergency programmes in urban and rural areas; in that connexion the Committee should bear in mind that it was for States and States alone to determine the urgency of national needs and the method of using the assistance received; the priorities obviously had to be adjusted to the stage of development.

8. The effect of inserting the word "technical" between the words "international" and "assistance", as proposed by France at the previous meeting, would be to specify the exact type of international assistance that should be furnished.

9. Mr. FUENTES IBAÑEZ (Bolivia) said that he had examined with keen interest Economic and Social Council resolution 1024 A (XXXVII) and the reports before the Committee, which gave some very useful suggestions on ways of solving the grave problem of housing. As a result of the population explosion, the flight from the countryside and the development of means of transport, the outskirts of towns were expanding chaotically.

10. The housing crisis was not as grave in Bolivia as in other countries, since the cold climate prevailing in the industrial areas did not favour a spontaneous outgrowth of flimsy and necessarily inadequate housing; but it was nevertheless serious enough to cause local authorities some concern. Moreover, a time came when the local authorities were overwhelmed by the extent and number of the questions to be resolved, and the State then had to intervene. It had to help the local authorities in dealing with legal questions which went beyond their competence, to make credit available on a vast scale, to establish specialized organizations, to develop a building materials industry, and to arrange for the training of technicians, engineers and architects.

11. As he saw it, the draft resolution under consideration should stress the fact that the central authority should take positive steps to assist the local authorities in discharging responsibilities which would otherwise be too heavy for them. In making that statement his delegation did not intend any criticism of the text in question, to which it fully subscribed.

12. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) commended the draft resolution before the Committee. He was gratified that the Economic and Social Council stressed the importance of the housing problem, which was growing constantly as a result of the increase in the world population and in the size of towns. His delegation was also pleased to note that the draft resolution recognized the importance of international assistance.

13. Even before the Second World War his country had begun taking a very active interest in housing. The Philippine Housing and Homesite Corporation had been organized to develop housing. Among other activities, it had acquired large parcels of land and launched a low-income and middle-income housing construction programme featuring easy payment terms for private individuals. Recently, a big boost had been given to housing activities by means of loans to individual home-owners and various building companies, through the co-operation, in particular, of the Philippine Development Bank, the Government Service Insurance System, and the Social Security System. The main expansion of building programmes, however, dated from 1953. The universities were training a constantly growing number of building technicians, construction engineers and architects; that development, coupled with the fact that the Philippines had an abundant supply of light building

materials suited to the local climate, augured well for the future.

14. It was true that squatters still presented a problem, especially on the outskirts of Manila. That problem, however, was receding, *inter alia* as a result of a resettlement programme supported by various rural development programmes launched by the Government and by private agencies.

15. Speculation in real estate and the inflationary effects of housing construction still remained to be overcome, but his Government had every hope that it would ultimately dispose of those problems.

16. Mr. RIOS (Panama) said that he would vote in favour of the draft resolution under consideration; if adopted, it would give all countries, including his own, an opportunity to draw on international assistance in solving their housing problems. Panama had a serious housing crisis because the population was increasing substantially, especially in the capital, with the result that the housing shortage was growing from year to year and private enterprise was unable to overcome it. For some ten years past, the Government had therefore been endeavouring to solve that problem as best it could. *Inter alia*, it had established a town planning bank and then, the previous year, a Housing and Town Planning Institute, staffed by technicians and specialists, which with the aid of the Inter-American Development Bank was working actively to clear the slums where thousands of people were living in deplorable conditions, creating serious health, social and educational problems.

17. U VUM KO HAU (Burma) said that, for the reasons given by previous speakers, he would wholeheartedly support the draft resolution before the Committee.

18. Mr. SAKSENA (India) said that he did not support the French representative's suggestion, which would limit the international assistance mentioned in operative paragraph 2 to technical assistance.

19. Financial assistance should also be provided; that was clear from paragraph 377 of the Economic and Social Council's report (A/5803), which stated that the Council shared the view of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning that external funds for housing, building and planning should be directed mainly towards financial institutions responsible for developing the infra-structure and producer goods in order to reduce reliance on imports in those sectors.

20. Mr. COMBAL (France) explained that his delegation had not expressed opposition to the Ceylonese amendment (A/C.3/L.1276) but had simply pointed out that in its present form, and inserted at the place indicated, that amendment might make operative paragraph 2 ambiguous. If that amendment was adopted, his delegation thought that it would be preferable to insert it elsewhere in the text, and that ambiguity could be avoided by inserting the word "technical" between the words "international" and "assistance" at the beginning of the paragraph. In any case, that was merely a suggestion and not a formal proposal.

21. He considered that, in a field of activity as wide as housing, building and planning, where there was so great a disparity between the needs and the means available, United Nations assistance could be only of an indirect technical nature and should be limited to advisory services, pre-investment studies and the organization and financing of pilot projects. It was to be feared that the Ceylonese amendment might be a source of ambiguity regarding the nature and scope of international assistance in that field.

22. Whether or not the French oral amendment and the Ceylonese amendment were adopted, it should be understood that, in casting its vote, the French delegation would not be committing itself to support anything more than a policy of indirect assistance, i.e., a policy of technical assistance.

23. Mr. ALISA (Iraq) said that he had been deeply impressed by the statement made by the Director of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, which showed that in an era of substantial progress the situation of the masses was deteriorating, particularly with regard to housing. It was true that the problem was extremely complex, but that did not mean that all hope of a solution should be abandoned.

24. In his country the main responsibility for housing lay with the Ministry of Housing. That Ministry, which had been established some time previously, had launched a housing programme for low-income groups, with the aid of the local authorities in the fourteen provinces. Government action in connexion with housing construction had been intensified from 1958 onwards. Many training institutes for building technicians had been opened; land was sold on favourable terms to co-operative building societies, which had been established all over the country; steps were being taken to prevent speculation in real estate; and building loans ranging from £300 to £500 were granted to private individuals. In addition, rural development projects had been undertaken to slow down the flight from the countryside.

25. His delegation would vote in favour of the text under discussion, which rightly stressed the essential role to be played by States in solving the housing problem.

26. Mr. GOONERATNE (Ceylon) announced that he was prepared to agree to the insertion of the words he had proposed before, instead of after, the words "pilot projects". The text would then read as follows: "... the planning and execution of emergency programmes in urban and rural areas and pilot projects...".

27. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the draft resolution submitted by the Economic and Social Council (A/6073, annex) and on the amendments submitted by Liberia (A/C.3/L.1277) and Ceylon (A/C.3/L.1276).

*The Liberian amendment (A/C.3/L.1277) was adopted by 76 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.*

*The Ceylonese amendment (A/C.3/L.1276), as orally revised by the sponsor, was adopted by 86 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*Operative paragraph 2, as a whole, as amended, was adopted unanimously.*

*The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted unanimously.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 54

World social situation (continued):\*

- (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (continued)\* (A/5803, chap. VIII, sect. II; A/6003, chap. XII, sect. I);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (continued)\* (A/6016; A/C.3/L.1275)

#### CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

28. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait), speaking on behalf of eighteen Powers including Yugoslavia, which had been omitted by mistake from the lists of sponsors, introduced a draft resolution on the world social situation (E/C.3/L.1275). As was evident from the discussions in the Third Committee, from the opinions expressed on the results obtained during the United Nations Development Decade, from the reports of the Economic and Social Council and the Social Commission, and from the replies to the Secretary-General's questionnaire, the world social situation was still far from satisfactory. The eighteen delegations had prepared their draft resolution with a view to remedying the most serious deficiencies. After drawing attention to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the proposed text indicated what seemed to be the most appropriate steps to accelerate social development and attain the objectives of the Development Decade. It listed a number of principles which the Economic and Social Council would be requested to bear in mind when reappraising the role of the Social Commission. The list was not exhaustive; the intention was rather to lay down general guidelines for the Economic and Social Council. He wished to draw the Committee's attention, in particular, to the principle of the interrelationship of economic and social factors, mentioned in operative paragraph 1 (b); the necessity for mobilizing natural resources, mentioned in operative paragraph 1 (c); the significance, stressed in operative paragraph 1 (d), of appropriate structural social and economic changes; and the necessity, recognized in operative paragraph 1 (e), of the widest possible utilization of the experience of the developed and developing countries with varying economic and social systems. As to the last point, international co-operation was essential in the modern era. Each country's experience should be available to all, for it formed part of the stock of human knowledge.

29. The draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft social programme, and the Economic and Social Council to submit proposals in respect of vital social problems. The two tasks were complementary, but the eighteen Powers had separated them, the better to uphold the division of functions laid down in the Charter and to keep faith with United Nations tradition. The eighteen Powers did not claim that their text offered the best possible solution, but they had endeavoured to take

\*Resumed from the 1331st meeting.

into account the concerns of the great majority of members of the Third Committee.

30. Miss AGUTA (Nigeria) said that, although her country possessed vast unexploited natural resources, its problems in the sphere of economic and social development were as numerous as they were complicated, and it was keenly aware of the need to channel international assistance so as to meet the most urgent needs.

31. General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII) provided an excellent framework. Because of the imbalance which characterized the world social situation, absolute priority should be given to the economic and social development of the developing countries. To that end, the first necessity was to make a careful study of the available potential and at the same time to define the tasks on which the United Nations should concentrate most of its efforts. For that reason her delegation would whole-heartedly support the eighteen-Power draft resolution.

32. She noted with satisfaction the ambitious goals which the United Nations had set itself for the future, and the results already obtained. However, a great deal remained to be done. It was essential to develop industry, train technicians and ensure full employment. That was the way to make good the shortage of financial resources and trained personnel which impeded development and which affected all the developing countries, as the replies to the Secretary-General's questionnaire showed.

33. In spite of the efforts being made, the success of development plans in those countries was endangered by the lack of resources and could be ensured only if adequate international aid was provided. Moreover, there could be no improvement of the world social situation without an improvement in economic conditions. In that connexion, the objectives which the United Nations had set itself for the Development Decade were essential. After five years of effort, however, the world social situation still showed considerable imbalance.

34. In 1962, Nigeria had launched a national six-year development plan aimed at effecting the greatest possible allocation of resources for economic growth. Nigeria had set the minimum desired growth rate at 4 per cent per annum, which presupposed a rapid development of education and vocational training. The various States making up the Federation of Nigeria were at present setting up the necessary economic and social services. They were encouraging the development of semi-public industry as well as capital expenditure in all fields, particularly in agriculture, industry and education, with a view to building a modern economy consistent with the democratic, political and social aspirations of the people. Thus the Nigerian delegation considered that all possible attention should be paid to social programmes linked with industrialization.

35. In conclusion, she expressed the hope that the Third Committee would have before it, at the twenty-first session, a draft for a long-range social programme as well as an encouraging report on the implementation of the aims of General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII).

36. Mrs. SEKANINOVA (Czechoslovakia) recalled that, during the general debate, she had indicated the tasks to which she considered the United Nations should give first priority. The proposed draft resolution was in line with her point of view and her delegation found it satisfactory; it was well balanced and realistic and set forth the basic problems. After duly recalling the documents which the General Assembly should bear in mind when defining its action in the social field, it properly recognized the interdependence of economic development and social development, and gave Governments an important role to play in the field of planning. It also stressed the necessity of making structural social and economic changes and provided for the exchange of experience between countries with different economic and social systems. Her delegation approved the idea of the preparation of a draft long-range social programme and a report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII), and proposals in respect of vital social problems on which the General Assembly might take action and make recommendations.

37. Mr. ZULOAGA (Venezuela) regretted that there was no reference in operative paragraph 1 (c) to the principle of sovereignty over national resources. The United Nations had sought, on many occasions, to protect the sovereignty of peoples over their national resources and General Assembly resolution 1314 (XIII) had endorsed the "permanent sovereignty [of peoples and nations] over their natural wealth and resources", which was one of the basic elements of the right of peoples to self-determination. He observed that during preliminary consultations on the draft resolution the phrase "with full respect for their permanent sovereignty over their natural resources" had been included. To facilitate the work of the Committee, he would not submit any formal amendment, but he would like his observations to be borne in mind by the sponsors of the draft.

38. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that she fully approved the draft resolution before the Committee. However, she would like some small drafting changes to be made in the latter part of operative paragraph 1 (a), and proposed that the following presentation should be adopted:

"(i) To promote higher standards of living;

"(ii) To promote full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development;

"(iii) To promote solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems;

"(iv) To promote international cultural and educational co-operation;

"(v) To make recommendations for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies."

39. With regard to operative paragraph 1 (b), she suggested that the words "the basic requirement that economic and social development should go together" should be replaced by the words "the basic requirement for economic and social development which proceeded together".

40. Mr. BELTRAMINO (Argentina) paid tribute to the efforts which had resulted in the draft resolution now before the Committee. His delegation had long been convinced of the need to help the Social Commission in reappraising its role. In that connexion, operative paragraph 1 was of particular importance since it set forth certain principles which the Social Commission would have to bear in mind when it carried out that reappraisal.

41. In the interest of clarity, the delegations of fourteen Latin American countries proposed two amendments.<sup>1/</sup> First, to replace the words "should go together with a view to improving standards of living" in operative paragraph 1 (b) with wording which would be more directly based on the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, and secondly, to add a new operative paragraph concerning the preparation of a declaration on social development. Such a declaration would have to be sufficiently general in character to allow Governments some latitude in the choice of methods or techniques appropriate to their economic, social and political systems.

42. Mr. KOCHMAN (Mauritania) said that his delegation saw no objection to adopting the Venezuelan representative's suggestion concerning operative paragraph 1 (b).

43. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) warned the Committee not to be tempted to make too many amendments for that would impair the balance of the text.

44. While he recognized the importance of the Venezuelan amendment, he observed that the question of sovereignty over natural resources was being discussed in the Second Committee which was drafting a resolution on the subject. In that connexion, he drew attention to the fact that the Romanian delegation had raised the question of an overlapping of the work of the Second and Third Committees and had even suggested the holding of joint meetings, particularly in view of the importance of the social aspects of certain items which were being considered by the Second Committee.

45. He endorsed the Moroccan delegation's first suggestion as he believed it appropriate to isolate each of the principles to be borne in mind. Thus, the principle of international cultural and educational co-operation which was not readily distinguishable in the present text should be clearly set forth because of its great importance at a time when the world was suffering more from a crisis of having than from a crisis of knowing.

46. On the other hand, he could not fully grasp the meaning of the second Moroccan suggestion which he thought rather weakened the text.

47. With regard to the amendments submitted by the fourteen Latin American countries, his delegation considered that, as it stood, operative paragraph 1 (b) adequately stressed a principle accepted by all; the notion of freedom was at the root of any enterprise—it was implicit—and it was thus not necessary to recall it in every resolution adopted.

48. While his delegation would not raise any objection to the proposed new operative paragraph, it would reserve the right to speak again on the various amendments.

49. Mrs. VEDER (Netherlands) said that her delegation appreciated the concern of the sponsors over the unsatisfactory social situation in many countries, which had prompted them to draft a set of general principles that they felt should be borne in mind by the Economic and Social Council and the Social Commission when considering the role the United Nations should play in the social field. It had no objection to the draft resolution, although it would have preferred certain paragraphs to have been drafted in a more general way.

50. While it recognized the competence of the General Assembly to lay down guidelines for the activities of its subordinate organs, it considered that to set guidelines of too specific a character might be prejudicial at the moment, for it would be anticipating the outcome of the work to be done by the Council and the Social Commission in reviewing and reappraising their roles and functions, their work programmes and their organizational framework.

51. Having noted, however, that the eighteen Powers had introduced some words that tended to give the guidelines a less mandatory character, her delegation was in a position to accept the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1275), on the understanding that it regarded the text as part of a solution finally to be worked out by the Economic and Social Council and the Social Commission.

52. She approved the first of the Latin American amendments, but preferred to reserve her delegation's position on the second.

53. Mr. ZULOAGA (Venezuela) asked the representative of Iran not to press his objections concerning the principle of sovereignty over national resources. He did not believe it possible to dissociate the economic and social fields or to conceive economic development without social progress and vice versa; a question as important as that of sovereignty over natural resources should not be passed over in silence on the pretext that it was on the Second Committee's agenda and that there was therefore a risk of overlapping.

54. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) said that the importance of the question raised by the Venezuelan representative had in no way escaped him; he had merely drawn attention to the fact that the question was at present being discussed in the Second Committee.

55. Mr. SAKSENA (India) agreed with the remarks of the representative of Kuwait and those of other delegations which had spoken in favour of the draft resolution; since the text was the result of long negotiations among the sponsors, who had tried to find a non-controversial wording, he wished to reserve his delegation's position concerning the amendments which had been submitted, with the exception of the suggestions concerning the form of operative paragraph 1 (b), which it welcomed.

56. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) confirmed that the sponsors, desiring to draw up a resolution that would

<sup>1/</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.1280.

receive general support, had submitted a compromise text which was a synthesis of the various proposals made.

57. As to the amendments which had been proposed, he considered that those which concerned the drafting would presumably raise no difficulty, with the possible exception of the Moroccan delegation's second proposal, concerning which, like the representative of Iran, he had certain reservations.

58. He would have no difficulty in accepting the Argentine proposal to replace a phrase in operative paragraph 1 (b) by another formula based on the Preamble of the Charter.

59. On the other hand, not wishing to prejudice the position of the co-sponsors, he would not commit his delegation with regard to the Venezuelan proposal, which related to substance and should be a matter for consultation. The same applied to the second Latin American amendment.

60. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the co-sponsors of the draft and the authors of amendments, including the representative of Venezuela, should meet to prepare a joint text on which the Committee would take a decision at the following meeting.

61. Miss WILLIS (United States of America) reminded the Committee that its task was essentially to deal with social questions, and that its intention was to draw up a practical action programme to help States solve their social problems, as indicated in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1275). It should not be overlooked that to request the Economic and Social Council and the Social Commission to study the possibility of preparing a declaration on social development might result in a corresponding reduction of the time which the Council and the Social Commission would be able to devote to the essential task which the Third Committee had set itself, namely the practical solution of certain social problems.

62. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) said that he fully understood the concern of the United States delegation, and suggested that it should join the delegations which were to undertake the drafting of a joint text.

63. Mr. BELTRAMINO (Argentina) observed that the second amendment submitted by the Latin American countries was in no way intended to divert the Social Commission's attention from the practical questions on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.