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Chairman: Mrs. Mara RADIĆ (Yugoslavia).

AGENDA ITEM 49

World social situation: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/6703 and Corr.1, chap. VI, sect. III and chap. XI, sect. I; A/686, E/4324 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.1496/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.1497/Rev.1)

GENERAL DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF
DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued)

1. Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) said that it was a source of concern to her delegation that the percentage of funds allocated under the development programme in the social field had decreased from 17 per cent to 12 per cent between 1962 and 1967. There was every indication that Governments tended to assign low priority to social development programmes. It was her contention, however, that increased financial assistance represented only a partial solution of the problem.

2. Her delegation, which had long realized the crucial importance of human resources, welcomed the changes introduced into the activities in the field of social development. Social and economic development were interdependent and one could not survive without the other. For that reason her delegation agreed with those delegations which considered that the declaration on social development should from the outset have been incorporated in a great charter of development and it hoped that that would be done in the future. Her delegation also shared the view of those who felt that the Second and Third Committees should consider ways and means of co-ordinating their discussions on the problems of development more closely. It might be advisable to revert to the practice of the 1950s of holding joint meetings of those two Committees, or at least joint working parties, particularly when new policies were being formulated in their final form. Her delegation did not support the suggestion that the Second Committee might take over social questions, leaving the Third Committee to concentrate on questions of human rights, for that would prevent the Third Committee from studying the very conditions that impeded the exercise of human rights. Nevertheless, the traditional allocation of items to those two Committees

could be reviewed, with a view to rationalization of effort.

3. The programme of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/4324 and Corr.1, annex I) was impressive in its scope. The real problem was to give the proposed activities some meaning in the eyes of the people of each country and to adapt them to the local realities, taking important historical, spiritual and cultural elements into account. At the same time, the assistance given must be capable of rapid adjustment to changes in the condition of each country; hence it was of the utmost importance that there should be national research bureaux, so that planning could be based on accurate facts. There should also be built-in evaluation procedures so that the efficacy of the programmes could be appraised. Her delegation also shared the views of many delegations on the fundamental importance of education. Without competent professional and supervisory personnel, any economic effort was doomed to failure. Training on the spot was usually preferable and innovations and non-conventional methods should be encouraged. The problem of the brain drain and its implications for United Nations assistance should be considered.

4. Her delegation considered that the declaration on social development could provide valuable guidance and stimulation. It hoped that the concept of the dignity of labour would be given a place in the declaration, since there was no substitute for sustained personal effort in the development process. It supported the Italian representative's proposal that the draft declaration should be referred to Governments for their comments.

5. The Director of the Social Development Division had stressed the importance of the participation of the people in development efforts (A/C.3/L.1495). A number of delegations had suggested that the apathy of the people was responsible for the disappointing results of the United Nations Development Decade. In order to encourage efforts by the people, however, plans not only must be well conceived but must have some meaning for the people and must speak to them in terms of their own plight and their own aspirations. Her delegation welcomed the proposed activities of the five special rapporteurs and hoped that they would take cognizance of the fact that the best plans at the bureaucratic level did not of themselves create a new and vital reality.

6. Expertise in the social field was not easily exportable. Moreover, results in the social sphere could not be assessed with the same precision as could the results of economic assistance. Lastly, she said that her delegation would support the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1496/Rev.1) in its broad outline and

would consider amendments that might add to its clarity.

7. Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that the world social situation gave little ground for optimism and that, although progress had been made in some areas, ignorance, poverty and disease persisted and the gap between developed and developing countries continued to widen. The lack of trained personnel, poor health facilities, unemployment, the decline in the production of food, inadequate housing and inadequate planning and social services presented serious obstacles to the progress of the developing countries. Moreover, as the economies of those countries were oriented towards foreign trade and their possibilities of growth depended to a large extent on the terms of trade, the fluctuations that had occurred in the prices of primary commodities since the Second World War, as also the development of synthetics and other substitutes, had seriously impaired the economies of the developing countries.

8. The basic goals of Liberia's development efforts did not differ from those of other developing countries. Efforts had been made to increase the *per capita* income and to distribute national income in keeping with political stability and social justice. The rate of growth of production and income in Liberia had averaged about 15 per cent per annum over the period 1950-1960; since then it had declined considerably. Nevertheless, the Government had made progress in the mobilization of human resources through education and the improvement of health services, with the assistance of UNESCO, WHO, the ILO and UNICEF.

9. The United Nations and its specialized agencies should increase their efforts to make the experience of the developed countries in science and technology available to the developing countries. It would be useful for the Commission for Social Development to study the social aspects of development on the basis of United Nations economic reports and the reports of such bodies as regional economic commissions, the Committee for Industrial Development and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The failure of the first United Nations Development Decade called for a careful study of criteria for the establishment of priorities and targets for the second Development Decade. Her delegation welcomed the appointment of the five special rapporteurs to examine and assess the programmes and methods used in the operational programmes of social development. It would be useful if the rapporteurs could also determine the practical orientation to be given to United Nations activity at the national level and could study the possibility of increasing United Nations technical assistance to the developing countries. Lastly, her delegation considered that the drafting of a declaration on social development would be an important factor in establishing guidelines for effective economic and social development.

10. Mr. SABIK (Poland) said that the present discussion should be followed by a preliminary evaluation of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2215 (XXI) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 (XLI), in view of the important work to be done during the current and the coming year by the Commission for Social Development. The precise definition of what was to be done was of great impor-

tance for the recommendations that were to be made to the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. The Polish delegation shared the conviction of most delegations that there were no valid reasons for changing the timetable established in resolution 2215 (XXI). The programme outlined in that resolution was of great importance and the evaluation of its implementation should be precise and objective.

11. The documents submitted to the Third Committee did not reflect all the main reasons for the unsatisfactory social situation prevailing in many regions of the world. Such factors as the aggressive wars, the armaments race and the unequal economic relations between the developing and the developed countries of the West had not been taken into account in those documents. Her delegation was glad to note that the statement by the Director of the Social Development Division had to a certain extent filled that gap.

12. The work programme of the Commission for Social Development (E/4324 and Corr.1, annex I) was the first of that type and, although it included some projects of secondary importance which in his delegation's opinion should be dealt with separately, it also included some of great importance. In the opinion of the Polish delegation, the essential conditions for the implementation of the programme were the following: first, the Commission for Social Development should take full advantage of the experience in social progress obtained in various parts of the world, particularly in the socialist countries; Poland was prepared to take a greater part in the work of the United Nations in the social field on the basis of the experience and achievements of its own social development; secondly, the United Nations organs dealing with social development should endeavour to carry out fully the recommendations in General Assembly resolution 2150 (XXI) concerning planning and co-ordination in the United Nations family or organizations; the important matter in that respect was to select questions of priority in the programme and to delete those of secondary importance; thirdly, the programme outlined for the Commission for Social Development should take into account the achievements in the work of various related bodies of the United Nations; there was, for example, the Seminar on the realization of economic and social rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, held at Warsaw in August 1967. It was not without reason that the resolution unanimously adopted at the Warsaw Seminar had requested the Commission on Human Rights to invite, among other bodies, the Commission for Social Development to take an interest in the results of the Seminar with regard to economic, social and human rights. That Seminar had been an important step towards the working out of fundamental principles of social progress for the United Nations family. A common position on several such questions of fundamental importance had been agreed upon at the Seminar and that was very helpful in the elaboration of the declaration on social development that was at present being undertaken.

13. Mr. BABAA (Libya) said that social and economic development were interdependent and that international bodies had only recently realized the need to include the former in their programmes. He thanked the dele-

gation of Argentina for the action it had taken with regard to the draft declaration on social development (E/4324 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix 4). He hoped that the declaration would state general principles in the field of social development for the second United Nations Development Decade and provide effective guidelines for sound national and regional social policies.

14. His delegation attached special importance to the forthcoming Conference of Ministers responsible for Social Welfare and hoped that it would be as important for social development as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) had been for international trade and development. It was confident that the conference, the twin of UNCTAD, would make an important contribution to the integration of the social and economic aspects of development.

15. Libya attached great importance to social development. Since independence it had achieved great progress in all sectors. As a result of the decision to allocate 71 per cent of its oil revenue for economic and social development and the rest to the regular budget, there had been great advances: *per capita* income had reached more than \$600 in 1966, education and medical care were free and malaria had been eradicated.

16. His delegation was interested in the progress of technical co-operation activities in the field of social development. They were still lagging by comparison with activities in the economic sphere. He therefore welcomed the emphasis placed by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development on the social aspects of industrialization. The bad effects of industrialization in the European countries must be avoided in the developing countries. With that in mind, his Government had engaged four specialists in town planning. It had also made a full inventory of all the country's social and economic services, which would be used as the basis for deciding on social policy in the second five-year plan.

17. Investment in human resources, although it brought no immediate monetary returns, was essential for long-term economic and social progress. He agreed with the representative of Finland on the importance of the role of women in social development. Social development could not be completely successful if the human resources represented by women were not fully mobilized. The participation of young people in development was also very important and his Government had given high priority to the question.

18. The 1965 Report on the World Social Situation^{L/} stated that development plans had been delayed by lack of popular support. Governments must mobilize information media and encourage the participation of the population, adopting policies to accelerate economic and social development. The enormous disproportion between the resources devoted to military expenditure and to international peace was tragic. The same must be said of the fact that enormous sums were spent on the exploration of outer space while millions of people were still suffering from hunger, disease and ig-

norance. Similarly, the developing countries had had to devote a large part of their energies to the struggle against colonialism. In the Middle East, the existence of a militarist and expansionist State had obliged the countries in the region to devote large resources to defence against aggression.

19. Finally, he expressed full support for draft resolution A/C.3/L.1496/Rev.1.

20. Mr. HASAN (India) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/L.1496/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors and said he would take into consideration the amendments submitted by seven Powers (A/C.3/L.1497/Rev.1), although he considered that their substance was already contained in the draft resolution in general terms.

21. Mrs. OULD DADDAH (Mauritania) said that the present item was an important one because it directly concerned the welfare of the individual and because, in particular, it was only when social development reached a certain level that the nation could be said to have justified itself. The interaction between economic and social development was total and absolute, as the United Nations Development Decade had shown, and she hoped that in the next Decade the influence of political factors would be given attention. She regretted the fact that lack of time made it impossible to give the subject the attention it deserved, since all countries had social problems, including the most highly industrialized, even if theirs were not as great and complex as the developing countries'.

22. The gap between the developing and developed countries was constantly growing and she hoped that the rivalry between the great Powers, instead of being applied to sterile ends, would express itself in efforts to reduce the gap. The extreme disproportion between the amounts spent on armaments and social development was unacceptable and the refusal of the leading industrialized countries to increase their assistance to less fortunate countries was incomprehensible. In view of the intolerable situation of two-thirds of mankind, the time had come to start a genuine dialogue with the industrialized countries and she hoped that the Charter of Algiers adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Seventy-Seven on 24 October 1967 would prove the starting point.

23. Her country was on the edge of achieving great progress in the economic and social fields and looked hopefully towards the future, although it was aware of the magnitude of its problems. While grateful for any foreign aid, it considered that it should rely basically on its own resources. It therefore followed a policy of austerity and strict financial control which led to the establishment of priorities. Thus it had given first priority to children and young people. A second principle was that quantity should be sacrificed to quality, particularly in education, in which Mauritania had preferred to seek a high level of teaching rather than a high number of pupils. Thirdly, it had given preference to objective over individual considerations in the satisfaction of needs.

24. She praised the excellent report of the Director of the Social Development Division and expressed her concern over the decline in the funds allocated to social development projects. She also welcomed the co-operation between the Commission for Social Develop-

^{L/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 66.IV.7.

ment and the specialized agencies and the fact that a draft declaration on social development was in the process of being drafted, which would give rise to fruitful exchanges of ideas and negotiations. On the question of setting a time-limit for the drafting of the declaration, she considered that it would be premature at the present time and supported the Romanian delegation's suggestion that the declaration should stress the importance of human resources. Finally, she agreed with the representative of France that the reports on the world social situation should be circulated to Governments in time for them to study them.

25. Mr. ALONSO CASTRILLO (Spain) said that the work of the Committee in recent years had centred mainly on questions relating to human rights. But the mere proclamation of rights did not appreciably alter social conditions, if the causes which gave rise to such great inequalities in the world were not analysed and remedied. Nevertheless, only four meetings had been allocated for the present item, and he hoped that at the next session it would be given the importance it deserved, particularly if the Committee could by then have the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation and, possibly, the draft declaration on social development.

26. Regarding the latter, he considered that since it would be intended to serve as a guide to all nations which had realized the possibility of making economic progress without first achieving certain minimum social standards, it should be drawn up in a universally acceptable form and should not contain any reference to economic and social systems which were based on specific political ideologies. Progress did not depend on the application of particular ideologies but on a combination of certain factors, which could be arrived at under any political and economic system, as was shown by the fact that the four countries whose per capita output, at constant 1958 prices, had risen most in the past ten years were Japan, Bulgaria, Spain and Israel, i.e. countries whose systems varied considerably.

27. The main problem facing the world was the more rapid rate of growth of the developed countries, which gradually increased the gap between them and the underdeveloped countries. It was therefore necessary to have a declaration on social development as a supplement to the charter of development under consideration by the Economic and Social Council. Spain could bring its own experience to the task of drafting the declaration, since it was one of the few countries which in recent years had passed from being an underdeveloped economy to a rapidly developing one, with the result that per capita income, which at the beginning of the fifties had been below \$300, had reached \$700, before the recent monetary changes that had affected the world. That had been possible because of the radical change in the social conditions of the Spanish people, whose mortality rate had declined spectacularly and among whom illiteracy had practically disappeared. The nutrition situation had improved radically and the rapid transformation of an agriculture society into an industrial one, with a consequent mass migration to urban centres, had made Spain the fifth nation in the world in the per capita construction of housing. That process had been accom-

panied by inevitable tensions and strains, which merely indicated that the country had awoken from its lethargy, a fact evident to the 18 million tourists who had visited the country in the past year and who had made Spain the world's second greatest tourist attraction. Consequently, he considered that his country, situated at the southern tip of Europe, at the meeting-point of the developed world of the great northern Powers and the developing world of the southern continents—North Africa, the Middle East and South America, in particular, which were linked to Spain by all kinds of historical and friendly ties—could co-operate actively, using the experience it had gained in its four-year plans, appropriately entitled economic and social development plans, in the drafting of the declaration on social development.

28. Miss LOPEZ (Venezuela) said that her delegation fully supported the draft declaration on social development, a text of fundamental importance for the achievement of the major social objectives, and expressed the hope that the Working Party on the draft declaration would take into account all aspects of social development and the opinion of the specialized agencies. If the Commission for Social Development was to be able to discharge its new functions successfully, it would need the staunch support of the United Nations family and of Member States.

29. Referring to the proposed designation of five special rapporteurs to examine and assess the operational programmes of the United Nations family in the social field, she emphasized that the persons appointed should be well qualified in social affairs.

30. The Venezuelan delegation welcomed the efforts being made by the United Nations to solve the demographic problems confronting the developing countries. Account also had to be taken of such factors affecting the population question as the improved utilization of human resources; in that connexion it was a matter for satisfaction that the General Assembly had expressed interest in determining the causes of the brain drain. It was essential that the necessary conditions should be created to ensure that professional men and women from the developing countries did not emigrate to the advanced countries in search of better remuneration.

31. The aggravation of the food deficit was an alarming phenomenon, and the efforts of FAO to solve the painful problem of famine were to be welcomed. What was needed was to increase agricultural productivity, by better use of fertilizers and other means. It was regrettable that the modest goal fixed for the first United Nations Development Decade had not been achieved. The errors of the past must not be repeated, and objectives must be fixed at progressively higher levels, in keeping with technological progress.

32. Mr. REYES (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, submitted the amendments (A/C.3/L.1497/Rev.1) to the draft resolution on the world social situation (A/C.3/L.1496/Rev.1). What had prompted the sponsors to draft their amendments was that they were unable to conceive any action by the Committee which failed to cover points of such importance as recognition of the interdependence of the economic and social aspects of development and the

need to expand international assistance in order to enable countries to improve their social situation. In its present form the joint draft resolution was incomplete, for although the points it dealt with were essential, the most vital issue—the need for concerted efforts to increase the capacity of the developing countries to meet their own needs—must not be passed over in silence. The efforts of the developing countries themselves, even if they were raised to the highest possible level, could not alone suffice to narrow the enormous gulf which separated them from the developed countries; to fill the gap a considerable volume of external aid was necessary. The sponsors of the amendments would accept any modification of their text which would enable the countries which had some reservations on the subject of financial assistance to support the draft resolution in its amended form.

33. Mrs. HLALELE (Lesotho) said that her delegation attached great importance to the item under discussion, which was directly connected with the serious problems afflicting mankind; it was happy to note the attention focused on the developing countries with a view to speeding up their progress. That attention was reflected in the 1965 Report on the World Social Situation and in the statement made to the Committee by the Director of the Social Development Division.

34. Lesotho, like many developing countries, had had problems in connexion with nutrition, and to deal with them it had between 1956 and 1960 carried out a broad survey, later followed by the launching of a programme in selected areas. As a result of that programme there had been a considerable increase in those areas in the production of eggs and vegetables, which in its turn had brought about a general improvement in public health. The programme had been carried out with the co-operation of the United Nations specialized agencies, which had provided valuable assistance.

35. She emphasized the important contribution which had been made by local voluntary organizations to the social development of her country in such fields as women's education, nutrition, health, child and youth welfare and education in general. In its efforts to solve the problem of totally or partially unemployed young people, Lesotho needed the advice of the specialized agencies and of Member States. For those who suffered its effects, that problem was a source of great frustration, and its solution would help to bring about the necessary social changes and economic development.

36. Education had expanded in her country at a remarkable rate. As in other African States, the foundations of the educational system in Lesotho had been laid by the religious missions. Although education today absorbed 17 per cent of the country's total budget, the Government still had to rely on the co-operation of religious agencies and other voluntary organizations to meet the growing needs.

37. Her delegation hoped that the forthcoming Conference of Ministers responsible for Social Welfare would have lasting effects on the participating States and would be an incentive to the implementation of the ideas emanating from its discussions.

38. Miss CHIEPE (Botswana) welcomed the reappraisal of the role of the Commission for Social

Development to be carried out under Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 (XLI), which emphasized the interrelated character of economic and social factors of development.

39. In its resolution 2063 (XX) the General Assembly had decided to set up a Fund for the Economic Development of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. That Fund had proved abortive. On 31 October 1967 the United Nations Pledging Conference on the United Nations Capital Development Fund had been held. In both cases the results had been disappointing. Yet according to the statement of the Director of the Social Development Division, in 1967 \$175 billion would be spent for military purposes, while less than \$7.5 billion would be spent on external assistance to the developing countries. That was the general trend in the world today, for all its talk of human rights and development decades.

40. The work of the Commission for Social Development pointed in the right direction, and all Governments and United Nations specialized agencies should seriously study Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 (XLI), the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/6703 and Corr.1) and the statement made by the Director of the Social Development Division (A/C.3/L.1495), and should co-operate with the Social Development Division in its efforts to carry out its task. Greater use should be made of the experience of the developing countries. That did not mean that the experience of the developed countries was not welcome, but that of the developing countries, particularly in the case of geographically contiguous countries, might be more relevant and might raise fewer orientation problems. Developing countries, therefore, should indicate to the Social Development Division the fields of social and economic development in which they could assist other developing countries.

41. Towards the end of 1966, on the eve of its independence, Botswana had produced a transitional plan of economic and social development pending the preparation of a five-year plan. Among its objectives had been the achievement in the shortest possible time of some measure of self-sufficiency, the expansion of job opportunities within the country, and the reduction of Botswana's dependence on foreign assistance for budget purposes. Until those objectives were achieved Botswana would continue to depend heavily on external assistance such as it was at present receiving. In that connexion her delegation wished to express its gratitude to the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and to the World Food Programme, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and other agencies for their assistance, particularly during the famine years in 1965 and 1966. The food provided had not only gone some way to meet the needs but had also performed an important social development function, since the recipients had been required to participate in community programmes in order to qualify for aid.

42. Under the transitional plan priority had been given to education, agriculture, water supply and the establishment of new industries. However, Botswana had lacked the funds necessary to carry out the planned projects; and the industrialization which might result from recent mineral discoveries would pose new problems, such as population movements from rural to

urban areas, the provision of social services, etc. It was regrettable that the protracted negotiations involved in applications for assistance often delayed projects to the point of negating them entirely, even where their importance and urgency were recognized both by the requesting country and the agency concerned. Similarly, it was somewhat disquieting to note the declining proportion of United Nations resources allocated to social development activities over the period 1962-1967, at a time when the number of countries requesting assistance had been increasing.

43. Mrs. RAOELINA (Madagascar) stressed the importance which her delegation attached to the item on the world social situation and fully endorsed the new orientation of the Commission for Social Development, particularly with respect to co-ordination and social development. She was convinced that the effectiveness of social development programmes depended largely on their co-ordination and noted with satisfaction the increased co-operation of the Commission, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies. She hoped that the ILO, WHO, FAO and UNESCO would study the possibility of intensifying their efforts to help the developing countries in the social sphere. Although the interdependence of economic and social phenomena had been recognized, it remained to be determined how those two aspects of development should be balanced. Madagascar had solved many difficulties but had to cope constantly with new problems resulting from growing needs in education, health, public services and so on.

44. Her delegation believed that social development ultimately contributed to the expansion of production, since it was the population that determined the success of development plans. Youth had a very important role to play in that respect, and Madagascar was thinking of modifying its educational system so as to bring more young people into the development process.

45. For those reasons, the Malagasy delegation attributed great importance to the preparation of a draft international social development policy, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session, in accordance with operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 2215 (XX), for it was convinced that, if positive results were to be achieved in the fight against misery, hunger, sickness and poverty, the question had to be tackled from both a national and an international point of view. She would also support any proposal to draft a declaration on social development.

46. Mrs. FRANCK (Central African Republic) expressed appreciation for the Secretary-General's report on the world social situation (A/6826), but hoped that a more complete document on the subject would appear in due course. She was also gratified by the implementation of the measures referred to in Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 (XLI).

47. She thought that the decision to change the name of the Social Commission to the Commission for Social Development was very important because it tacitly acknowledged the need for social development. She hoped that a new definition of the functions and responsibilities of the Commission would make it the true "social conscience" of the United Nations. With the

beginning of the second United Nations Development Decade, co-operation between the Commission and the specialized agencies to eliminate overlapping and duplication would be extremely important. For that reason, her delegation wanted the Commission to be consulted in the drafting of the guiding principles and policies of the second Development Decade.

48. The delegation of the Central African Republic welcomed the emphasis which the Economic and Social Council had placed on the future importance for social development of technical co-operation activities at the international level. It also welcomed the review of two-year and five-year programmes proposed by the Economic and Social Council. It was important that social development projects should quickly achieve concrete results to as not to disappoint the legitimate aspirations of the people. In that connexion, it might be advisable to include in the second Development Decade those projects whose implementation required a considerable amount of time.

49. Her delegation was also gratified by the work of the Commission for Social Development on the drafting of a declaration on social development, and hoped that the efforts of the Working Party would be successful. It also fully supported the decision of the Commission regarding the intervals at which the Report on the World Social Situation should be presented, inasmuch as the earlier method might have administrative and financial consequences prejudicial to the Organization.

50. With regard to the labour situation, she said that the economy of her country was basically agricultural, but output was limited owing to the use of backward methods, and her Government had therefore initiated the Bohassa programme to modernize farming and had also taken steps to reorganize the family agricultural unit by promoting the formation of co-operatives. At the same time, her Government had created bodies called "Regional Development Offices" to ensure the rapid marketing of products.

51. In the health field, it had considerable strengthened the infra-structure, although there was still a severe shortage of qualified personnel which it was trying to remedy by granting certain benefits to medical students. A Health Education Service had also been established, and the mortality rate had fallen considerably, while the birth rate had risen.

52. In education, she would mention her Government's policy of ruralization designed to familiarize a large proportion of her country's youth with the techniques of farming, animal husbandry and forestry.

53. As to social service activities, they were basically geared to mother and child welfare.

54. A constant concern of the Government was the improvement of the status of women in her country. For example, it had established a special service which was responsible for studying and promoting measures to improve the status of women. There was also a private organization, subsidized by the State, which was actively engaged in the education and training of women living in villages.

55. As to housing, the trend was towards construction with sturdier materials, and one of the most serious

problems was that of bringing drinking water into the various communities.

56. She trusted that the combined assistance of the United Nations and specialized agencies would, along

with bilateral technical assistance, contribute to the balanced development of her country.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.