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Chairman: Mrs. Halima EMBAREK WARZAZI (Morocco).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Ronald Macdonald (Canada), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair,

AGENDA ITEM 54

World social situation (continued) (A/6303, chap. X, sects. I, II and III; A/6409 and Corr.1, A/6434, E/4206, E/CN.5/402 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-3, A/C.3/L.1419, A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.1424, A/C.3/L.1426, A/C.3/L.1428-1430)

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued)

1. Mr. KOITE (Mali) said that the continuing deterioration of the world social situation to which the Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs had referred in her opening statement at the 1453rd meeting was a source of constant concern to the developing countries. As a result of the discussion of that situation held each year by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council certain principles had emerged, including the principle that the United Nations must play a major role in improving the world social situation.
2. As the objectives set forth in Articles 55 and 58 of the Charter had already been attained, the United Nations should concentrate above all, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 2035 (XX), on preparing a programme of concerted practical action aimed at accelerating economic and social development in the world, and particularly in the developing countries. A balance between economic and social development should be achieved, and to that end careful attention must be given to planning and account must be taken of the experience gained by some countries in mobilizing their material and human resources, and of any other creative initiatives which would promote social progress.
3. The gap between rich and poor countries was constantly widening and, to make matters worse, the States newly liberated from the colonial yoke were

confronted with urgent, difficult and complex tasks, including the reform of their social structures with a view to enlisting the people in the work of promoting social progress.

4. Recent experiments in various under-developed countries showed that systematic literacy programmes helped to intensify community participation in both productive activities and social programmes properly so-called, such as the control of endemic diseases and the improvement of health conditions in rural areas. He drew attention in that connexion to Mali's project, the "chantiers d'honneur", in which the people joined of their own accord in building roads, schools, clinics, irrigation ditches, etc. and the Government had to supply only technicians and equipment.

5. There was no question but that priority should be accorded to social programmes contributing directly to economic development; in that connexion, he thought the establishment by the United Nations of a voluntary fund for social development might prove very useful as a means of compensating for the shortage of resources in the new countries.

6. He would support draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1, in which the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council were recommended to adopt measures aimed at establishing throughout the world social conditions leading to genuine well-being, and he hoped that the Committee would approve it unanimously.

7. Mrs. SOUMAH (Guinea), after expressing regret that there was no time for a detailed discussion, referred to the situation confronting the developing countries, burdened as they were with a multitude of problems inherited from their colonial past; the United Nations should undertake a fresh study based on the new realities in the young independent States. Instead of reviewing facts, it should study the underlying causes of the social situation in the countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia.

8. Her delegation attached great importance to operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1 and therefore could not support the United States proposal (A/C.3/L.1426, second amendment) to delete that fundamental paragraph.

9. Every country, while benefiting from the progress made elsewhere in the world, developed in its own way. Guinea, upon the attainment of its independence, had begun changing all its economic, cultural and social structures, which no longer met the needs of Guinean life, and at present 35 per cent of the national budget was allocated to social development, a figure without precedent in a developing country.

She then spoke of the enthusiasm with which the women of Guinea were participating in all aspects of social development, the interest of Guineans in education for both young people and adults, and the excellent results of the literacy campaigns.

10. Her delegation supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1, and favoured the idea that at its twenty-second session the General Assembly should give priority to the present item. She was in agreement with the statement made by the representative of Senegal at the 1458th meeting.

11. Mrs. RAMAHOLIMIHASO (Madagascar) expressed concern at the slow pace of social progress; in the light of that situation it might well be asked whether a sufficient effort had been made and whether it had been properly oriented.

12. While it was perhaps true that the slow rate of social progress was attributable to the slow rate of progress in the economic sphere, there could be no question that the latter was also influenced by the former; there was thus a vicious circle created by the interdependence of economic and social conditions.

13. The report under review analysed the existing obstacles to progress, among them the lack of spontaneous participation by youth in the work of development. In Madagascar an effort had been made to adapt school curricula to the special features of the country and to instill in young people the idea that their studies should lead to participation in development.

14. Turning to the question of panning, she expressed the hope that the five-year programme scheduled for the second half of the United Nations Development Decade would help to improve the social situation. She was glad that the Committee intended to consider the major problems characterizing the social situation—the population explosion, agrarian reform, housing, etc.—but she felt that the solution of all questions relating to the family and to administration were the responsibility of each country's Government.

15. In conclusion, she referred to the possible adoption of a declaration on social development. That would surely be a very complicated undertaking, since in drafting the declaration it would be necessary to take into account the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the other declarations and conventions already approved. She therefore thought the work should be entrusted to a group of experts.

16. Mrs. PONCE DE LEON (Colombia) withdrew draft resolution A/C.3/L.1424, which she had submitted together with the representatives of Mexico and Uganda. It was absurd that only three meetings had been scheduled for consideration of the world social situation. Documents A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1 and A/C.3/L.1419 required study, and it was imperative to devote more time to the item.

17. She then submitted amendments (A/C.3/L.1430) to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1 and drew attention to both the need to stress the interdependence of social and economic progress and the need to bear

in mind the debates concerning the United Nations Development Decade and the deliberations of the Third Committee.

18. Mrs. DE BROMLEY (Honduras) said that the slow rate of social and economic progress in the developing countries was discouraging. Governments should adopt a more dynamic approach, combat illiteracy, awaken interest in social and economic questions, and stimulate the critical spirit so that traditions could be studied objectively and steps taken to combat those elements of tradition which might be harmful today. Thought should be given to expanding the scholarship system, which would enable the inhabitants of each country to become directly acquainted with those of other countries, to make comparisons and perhaps to find solutions to certain problems. Due consideration should be given to the importance of industrial development, which would require economic assistance from the developed countries, and to questions directly affecting the economy of developing countries, such as the low prices of primary products.

19. She supported the view that the Committee should devote more time to the item under discussion.

20. Miss RICHARDS (United Kingdom) agreed with the representatives of Colombia and Honduras that there should be more time to examine the world social situation.

21. She had studied with interest the 1965 Report on the World Social Situation (E/CN.5/402 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-3) and deplored the fact that progress had been so slow. It was clear that there was a need for more research in social planning and more study of the ways which could facilitate innovation for the transformation of traditional societies into modern societies. In the United Kingdom an institute of that kind had been established at Sussex University.

22. She welcomed the endorsement given by the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council to the five-year work programme, which included an outline of the scope of future reports in the series on the world social situation. Those reports were a reliable source of information and reference on social development throughout the world. There was no doubt that changes in the world social situation were insufficient to justify the publication of a report of a general nature every two years; it was therefore a wise decision to deal in some reports with particular aspects of social development and to devote a report to the question of children and youth.

23. The United Kingdom delegation welcomed the approval of Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 (XLI) on the re-evaluation of the role of the Commission for Social Development, together with the five-year and two-year work programmes annexed to the resolution.

24. She then dealt with the question of a declaration on social development and document A/6434 prepared by the Secretary-General. In the opinion of her delegation, the time needed to draw up a comprehensive declaration acceptable to the majority of delegations

would be out of all proportion to the results that could reasonably be expected from such a declaration.

25. With reference to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1, she expressed support for the amendments proposed by the United States (A/C.3/L.1426), and thereafter introduced her own delegation's amendments, (A/C.3/L.1429). First, her delegation suggested the deletion of the final preambular paragraph because it felt that the priorities in the social field were perfectly well stated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 (XLI) and the paragraph in question might therefore lead to confusion. The second amendment was primarily a matter of drafting and was designed to give recognition to the fact that States Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies would have to co-operate with the United Nations in implementing the programmes set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 (XLI). She therefore hoped that those amendments would be accepted without difficulty. As to the fourth amendment, relating to consideration of the declaration by the General Assembly at its twenty-second session, it seemed preferable to defer any decision on the matter. However, if the Committee decided to keep operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1, she hoped that consideration would be given to her delegation's two amendments to paragraph 3. The first referred to the desirability of consultation with the specialized agencies, which would of course be of vital importance, and the second would have the effect of removing the time-limit for the submission of the draft declaration to the General Assembly.

26. Although her delegation had only submitted two amendments to paragraph 4, it did find the paragraph difficult to understand and it might wish to suggest other changes later on, after hearing explanatory statements by the sponsors.

27. Mr. RIOS (Panama) referred to the importance and complexity of the item before the Committee and reviewed the work in the social field that had been done by the United Nations, since the Charter itself laid down the international obligation "to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained" and the obligation of States to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. It was the creation of the Economic and Social Council, the specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations which served the purpose of promoting social progress, and the same purpose was served by various declarations and conventions, the tireless struggle for general and complete disarmament, full recognition of women's rights and the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

28. However, the results of the hard fight to improve the world situation had not been very promising; the population of the world was growing at an accelerated pace and outstripping food production. Hunger, disease, lack of housing and shelter, lack of schools, fear of war, and insecurity in all its forms persisted and were becoming even more serious. Only the United Nations could offer guidance to the Governments of the world and it was to be hoped that some

day the Organization would be transformed into a super-State able to impose birth control, agrarian reform, civilization for indigenous masses, free universal education, medical services and paid holidays for all, abolition of discrimination, of concentration camps, of exile through political persecution, of slavery, and, in short, of everything that was contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect that was due to human life.

29. With reference to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1, he said that while he congratulated the Argentine delegation on document A/C.3/L.1419, he thought it would be very difficult to draft successfully a declaration that defined the objectives of social development and the methods and means by which they should be declined.

30. Mr. BABAA (Libya) expressed his gratitude to all United Nations Staff members and bodies who had been working for economic and social development.

31. As a developing country, Libya had had to confront many economic and social problems. In 1951, when it became independent, the illiteracy and infant mortality rates had been very high; malaria, tuberculosis, trachoma and other diseases had been rampant; and the average per capita annual income had been only \$35. He wished to thank the United Nations for the protection it had extended to Libya in the early years of its independence.

32. In 1959, the situation had radically changed as a result of the discovery of oil in his country. The average annual per capita income had risen to more than \$400 and the Government had put into operation a development plan which had been based on the recommendations of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and in which it would invest more than \$500 million. Already, enormous progress had been made in education and technical training: elementary education was compulsory and free for both boys and girls; secondary and higher education was also provided free of charge. The percentage of children attending school had soared from 10 to 85 per cent. With the co-operation of WHO, great progress had also been made in the field of health, through the establishment of hospitals, clinics, mobile medical services and medical schools; and medical treatment was free for all Libyan citizens. FAO experts had helped in the establishment of a programme to study the country's food resources.

33. In recent years, the oil boom had aggravated the problem of migration into the towns. In order to deal with the problem, the Government had taken steps to strengthen the agricultural sector and had given priority to the problem of housing. It was planned to build 100,000 housing units in addition to those envisaged in the Five-Year Plan. Sixty per cent of the new units would be built in rural areas with a view to discouraging migration from the countryside.

34. Working and employment conditions had improved considerably during the preceding fifteen years; minimum pay had been increased on three occasions in order to adjust it to the rise in the cost of living. Social insurance services had also been

instituted to protect all workers against unemployment, sickness and old age. Actually, there was now a shortage of labour, especially of skilled labour, and agreements had been signed with some neighbouring countries in order to ease the problem.

35. In spite of all those achievements, Libya was still a developing country and attached great importance to social development. Measures were still needed at the regional and international levels to close the gap that existed between the developed and the developing countries. He wished to thank the delegation of Argentina for its initiative in presenting working paper A/C.3/L.1419, but he felt that there was not enough time to prepare a draft declaration on social development, and for that reason the Libyan delegation would support draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1. In conclusion, he expressed support for the proposal to establish a voluntary special fund for social development.

36. Mr. CARPIO (Guatemala) said that while the developed countries continued their uninterrupted advance, the under-developed countries remained stationary, and very few of them were actually developing. There was no doubt that, in order to achieve results in the struggle against poverty and hunger, it would be necessary to work very hard, and to approach problems from both the national and the international point of view. On the one hand, capable Governments which had a correct picture of national realities and served the interests of the whole population rather than of privileged groups were few in number. In much of the Third World, agrarian reform was essential to speed up economic and social development. The Guatemalan Government had prepared and begun to carry out a number of programmes to raise the level of living of the entire population.

37. In addition to internal efforts, however, international co-operation was needed in the form, for example, of long-term loans at fair interest rates, channelled through international agencies. It was discouraging to find, however, that the flow of capital from the industrial countries to the Third World continued to decrease and to recede from the minimum target set in 1964 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Moreover, in international economic relations, the prices of primary products had to be fixed on a fairer basis. He also stressed the importance of technical collaboration, which was indispensable if the developing countries were to utilize the experience of the more advanced countries. Referring to General Assembly resolution 2035 (XX), he said that there was universal agreement on the objectives of social development, but the means of achieving it would have to be clearly defined. The four cornerstones of development of the countries of the Third World were a minimum level of investments from the industrialized countries, just prices for their products, technical aid, and respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of all countries. Only through a combination of domestic means and international co-operation could the immense undertaking of improving the world social situation be successful.

38. He praised the work done by the Argentine delegation, commended the Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs for her statement, and in conclusion said that his delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1 with some amendments, such as those proposed by the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.1429) and Colombia (A/C.3/L.1430).

39. Mr. ABOUL NASR (United Arab Republic) thought that the implementation of social development programmes helped to bring about the application of human rights in the world, and also that social questions should not be considered outside their economic and political context. In the United Arab Republic work was being devoted to politico-socio-economic development. The elimination of all forms of exploitation, whether foreign or national, was a prerequisite of real development. The developing countries must multiply their efforts and use all their resources to achieve rapid industrialization, and for that purpose they needed technical assistance, capital and the goodwill of the developed countries. The human factor was essential in any development plan, within an order based on social justice and equal opportunity, which stimulated popular participation. He had been glad to note the new approved guidelines for United Nations work in the social field, in conformity with the principles laid down by General Assembly resolution 2035 (XX). In his judgement, the five-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development and the two-year programme of the Bureau of Social Affairs were important steps forward. Nevertheless, he stressed that the United Nations resources allocated for social development activities had declined in recent years and now amounted to only one-sixth of the total resources available for economic and social development, despite the increasing needs of the developing countries and of the high priority which the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council had recommended that Governments should give to those activities.

40. Referring to the social reforms and institutional changes in his country, he said that a nation-wide agrarian reform had been initiated in 1952, and that the primary objective of the redistribution of land was to improve the position of rural families.

41. Referring to the 1965 Report on the World Social Situation, he welcomed, in particular, the attention given to popular participation and motivation for development. His country had found it wise to stimulate the farmers through economic incentives, for example, through the creation of co-operatives and the provision of adequate credits. On the other hand, it had also discovered that economic incentives alone were not enough and that emphasis must also be placed on the social services. His country would benefit greatly from the study made by the United Nations.

42. He announced that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.1 had met before the start of the meeting and had taken note of the amendments proposed. He then introduced the changes which they had decided to make in the text. ^{1/}

^{1/} Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.1420/Rev.2.

43. In the third preambular paragraph, they had agreed to accept the suggestion of the United States and Uruguay that the words "the world social situation" should be substituted for the words "the social situation in many parts of the world".

44. They had accepted the amendment to operative paragraph 2 proposed by the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.1429, second amendment).

45. In accordance with the proposal of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey (A/C.3/L.1428, first amendment) they had agreed to replace the word "elaborate" in operative paragraph 3 by the word "prepare"; they had also accepted two other amendments proposed by Latin American delegations, to include a reference to the discussions which had taken place at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly and to request the Commission for Social Development to submit its report to the General Assembly for consideration at its twenty-third session at the latest.

46. In operative paragraph 4 they had accepted the Pakistan proposal to insert after the words "substantial improvement of" the words "the programmes related to", and the United Kingdom proposal to delete the words "and national institutes concerned" and "of peoples" (A/C.3/L.1429, fifth and sixth amendments).

47. Lastly, as mentioned by the representative of France at the previous meeting, a reference to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had been inserted in operative paragraph 5.

48. Mr. QUADRI (Argentina) referred to the draft resolution as amended, adopted by the Second Committee at its 1101st meeting (A/C.3/L.931/Rev.1), in which it was stated that "the possibility and advisability of proclaiming a charter of development underlying international co-operation in the interest of economic, social and cultural development" deserved further consideration and the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session "a progress report on the preparatory work undertaken by him" in that connexion.

49. His delegation welcomed the adoption of that document, since at the twentieth session of the

General Assembly and at the third session of the Trade and Development Board it had asked for a study of machinery which would lead to the preparation of a trade and development charter—an idea which was accepted in that document, which also took up another of its ideas, the preparation of a declaration on social development. Although the scope of the Second Committee resolution was broader than that of the text submitted in the Third Committee (A/C.3/L.1419), his delegation believed that the Third Committee was at a more advanced stage and strongly considered that the discussion which had been held had amply demonstrated the possibility and advisability of preparing a declaration on social development.

50. He welcomed the withdrawal of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1424. He would vote for the amendments submitted by Colombia (A/C.3/L.1430) and for the first and third of the United States amendments (A/C.3/L.1426).

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Víctor Andrés
Belaúnde, Chairman of the Peruvian delegation

51. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee of the death of Mr. Víctor Andrés Belaúnde and, on behalf of the Western European States and other countries, expressed their great sorrow at so grievous and irreparable a loss.

52. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) spoke with feeling in memory of one whom he described as an illustrious worker in that workshop of human hopes—the United Nations.

53. Mr. QUADRI (Argentina) associated his delegation and the delegations of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama, with the words of the previous speaker.

54. Mr. MALECELA (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed condolences on behalf of the Afro-Asian group and Yugoslavia.

On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Víctor Andrés Belaúnde.

The meeting rose at 11.20 p.m.