

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTIETH SESSION

Official Records

**THIRD COMMITTEE, 1326th
MEETING**

Monday, 1 November 1965,
at 3.10 p.m.



NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Francisco CUEVAS CANCINO
(Mexico).

AGENDA ITEM 54

World social situation:

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

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Miss HENDERSON (Director, Bureau of Social Affairs) proposed to outline to members the main activities of the United Nations in the social field as they related to the items covered in the reports of the Economic and Social Council (A/5803, chap. VIII, sect. II; A/6003, chap. XII, sect. I). She hoped that in turn many representatives, particularly those of developing countries, would give some account of the ways in which their Governments and peoples had sought to cope with the main social problems in their countries. If there could be a frank discussion of failures and successes, and if the representatives of industrially developed countries could comment not only on general priorities in the United Nations programme but also on the ways in which their countries were prepared to increase their assistance through the United Nations, the deliberations would advance the efforts which the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council had decided to make in reappraising the Commission's role and the Organization's work programme in the social field.

2. At the eighteenth session the Secretariat had presented to the Third Committee the Report on the World Social Situation, 1963.^{1/} While attention had been drawn to substantial gains in some areas, particularly health and education, it had been necessary to point to a deteriorating situation in housing and social welfare. On the basis of that report, the Third Committee had urged that Governments should set social targets in their development plans and that the Secretariat should study the existing development

plans as a basis for the preparation of a draft international programme on social development for the second half of the current decade. As a result of a Secretariat inquiry, nineteen developing countries had prepared substantial information which the Secretariat had used as a basis for the report on targets of social development (E/CN.5/394 and Corr.1) submitted to the sixteenth session of the Social Commission. It had been clear that those countries had established definite targets in such fields as education and health, but had done little more than set general goals in areas like community development and social welfare. There seemed no doubt that the studies should be pursued; the very process of establishing precise targets and understanding the relationship of population growth and economic development to the achievement of social targets would have the effect of accelerating progress. The Secretariat had recently urged that countries which had not responded to its questionnaire should now do so.

3. The Secretariat had completed a first study on methods of determining social allocations (E/CN.5/387) and a study on administrative aspects of social planning (E/CN.5/393). She hoped that representatives would help to place those technical reports in the hands of Ministries in the social field and specialized planning officials. The Economic and Social Council had recommended that work in the important area of social planning should be continued in co-operation with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the Economic Programming and Projections Centre, both of which had received generous grants from the Netherlands Government. The Secretariat was beginning to translate some of that work into practical advice to Governments through seminars organized by the regional economic commissions and through United Nations interregional advisers on social development planning. One of those advisers was currently working with planning authorities in a number of Latin American Governments, and another was working in Asia.

4. The Social Commission was concerning itself to an increasing degree with problems of social reform. Among the changes which the Social Commission believed must take place in many countries was a change in the distribution of national income. It had been difficult to study that problem because of inadequate statistics; however, the Statistical Commission was now giving more attention to the question, and a group of experts was to be convened to review the relationships between income distribution and social policy. The Commission and the Council had agreed that equitable distribution of income was a measure of special justice and a fundamental policy in raising the levels of living of the poorest sections

^{1/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.IV.4.

of the population in all countries. The work would involve the co-operation of various units at Headquarters and a number of specialized agencies.

5. The Secretariat had joined with FAO and the ILO in preparing the Fourth Progress Report on Land Reform^{2/} and was attempting in its practical work to link community development efforts with agrarian reform programmes in the developing countries. On the whole it had found progress much too slow, although there had been notable successes in a few countries; both the successes and failures were dealt with frankly in the Fourth Progress Report on Land Reform. It was hoped that a major step forward would be taken with the joint World Land Reform Conference scheduled to take place at Rome in July 1966. The Secretariat was concerned also with the problem of urban land; speculation in urban land values was a major deterrent to the provision of housing and community facilities for low-income groups.

6. With regard to the social aspects of industrialization, in 1964, in co-operation with the Centre for Industrial Development, the Secretariat had organized a seminar in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, at which information on social programmes and policies facilitating industrialization had been exchanged and ways in which industrial development could have a maximum impact on present levels of living had been examined.

7. The Social Commission had given a high priority over the past seven years to the problems connected with rapid urban growth. While population throughout the world was increasing at a rate of 2 per cent per annum, urban areas were growing at a rate of 4 per cent and the population of some large cities was growing by as much as 8 per cent every year. The social aspects of the problem had been set out in the Report on the World Social Situation, 1957^{3/} and since then a series of seminars had been conducted on the nature and scope of the urbanization problem; over the past five years the Secretariat had responded to requests of a great many countries for help in town planning, housing, social services, urban community development and many other matters connected with the adaptation of families to urban living. The Secretariat was at the beginning of what it hoped would become a trend in technical assistance towards comprehensive requests in the field of urban development. The Government of Nigeria, for example, had asked a few years earlier for a comprehensive mission to deal with urban development at Lagos. The Singapore Government, more recently, had asked for a similar comprehensive mission, including a town planner, a housing expert, a sanitary engineer, a traffic expert and a sociologist; from that mission was growing a Special Fund project to help Singapore solve some of its most urgent problems.

8. At its sixteenth session the Social Commission had felt that more should be done to help countries to cope with their urban problems, not after, but before the great cities or capitals had become unmanageable. Some members of the Commission had felt that a policy should be developed to divert the

stream of rural migrants to new towns or new development areas. The Commission had considered the fact that a significant number of countries had now had successful experience in regional development sometimes based on the development of particular natural resources, and sometimes based on new industrial towns. The Commission had asked the Secretary-General to study that experience and to select ten to twelve such regional projects in which the host countries would co-operate in analytical studies of their experience and provide facilities for training personnel from countries in like circumstances. The Secretariat was preparing a major programme in that field, for which it had requested the co-operation of the regional economic commissions, the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning and the Secretariat units concerned with industry and resources. The programme, which would be of at least five years' duration, might provide some answers to the policy problems involved in a more rational distribution of population and economic resources in developing countries.

9. The Social Commission and the Council had continued to develop certain programmes of a more specialized nature which were not within the province of any of the specialized agencies. Social welfare was an area which had proved itself over many years to be of great concern to the developing countries, as reflected in their requests for technical assistance. With the help of a Yugoslav consultant, the Secretariat had attempted a thorough reappraisal of its social welfare activities; the resulting report of the Secretary-General recommended that first priority should be given to social welfare programmes in situations involving large numbers of people in a process of rapid socio-economic change (E/CN.5/AC.12/L.3 and Add.1). That priority fitted very well into the Organization's broader concern with industrialization and urbanization. The Commission had agreed that new efforts should be undertaken to assist countries in planning their social welfare policies and programmes within the framework of general development programmes. There had been general agreement that social welfare services should be considered an important component of such undertakings as urban renewal, resettlement schemes and rural improvement projects. The Commission had also given a higher priority to the training of social welfare administrators and to helping countries to improve their administrative machinery for welfare programmes. Those concerns had also led to a new look at training activities and the ways in which the Organization could assist countries in defining or redefining the functions to be performed by social workers and in improving their training institutions. There had been evident in the Commission a greater preoccupation with the adaptation of social work methods to make certain that they were realistically related to national development needs and possibilities and to the cultural and social milieu of the recipient countries.

10. Among the requests made to the United Nations in the field of social welfare, by far the greatest number were concerned with family and child welfare. Projects in that area benefited not only from the modest resources of technical assistance but also from the work of UNICEF. The Bureau of Social Affairs

^{2/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 66.IV.1.

^{3/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 57.IV.3.

now co-operated with UNICEF in some seventy-six projects in fifty-nine countries. More than \$5 million had been allocated for assistance in family, youth and child welfare.

11. Many excellent projects of lasting value had been undertaken, of which a few, such as the Philippines project to improve and develop social services for children through a social welfare administration, had been very broad in scope. It had been hoped to train 210 child welfare workers, over a three-year period, but in fact that goal had been exceeded. The programme had blossomed into a series of demonstration projects to accomplish such specific ends as reducing the number of children requiring placement away from their own homes. In another experiment, better ways were being found to help young people to find employment and live in a home-like atmosphere under adult supervision. The project had demonstrated the value of combining technical assistance in social welfare with technical assistance for housing and planning and of joining the Bureau's technical resources with the transport, supplies and stipends that could be provided by UNICEF. Projects such as those could do much to help countries to implement the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV)).

12. The Council in its resolution 1086 L (XXXIX) had urged that steps should be taken to accelerate the implementation of the Declaration and had also requested the Social Commission to consider at its seventeenth session the adequacy of the provision for the needs of children in programmes of social development. Efforts in that direction were being made through the seminars on planning for children and youth. Lastly, the Council had approved a set of guidelines for Governments on the extension of social welfare services for families, children and youth.

13. A closely related activity was the assistance given to countries in the rehabilitation of the handicapped, which continued to be a programme of great appeal to many Governments. It often constituted a useful beginning for a social programme which must show concrete results for the investment of scarce resources. It also sometimes proved an excellent means of securing the co-operation of doctors, social workers and vocational training specialists in restoring neglected groups of the population to their full potential. Valuable projects of that kind were being carried out in Yugoslavia, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Brazil.

14. There had been considerable support in the Social Commission for a conference of Ministers responsible for social welfare. Such a conference could develop a broad consensus that might provide the basis for the formulation of a more dynamic United Nations policy in social welfare. The Secretary-General had been asked to consult Governments concerning the desirability of convening such a conference and to invite suggestions concerning its agenda. It was hoped that replies to the queries sent to Governments would be received by 15 November 1965.

15. During the past several years the problems and special needs of youth and the role of youth in national development had emerged as an important concern of many Governments, particularly in countries undergoing rapid urbanization and social change. A number of Governments had made special administrative arrangements for youth work and had initiated various youth programmes and experimental projects. At the international level, the importance attached to the younger generation in the United Nations Development Decade programme had provided new impetus for action. That concern had been reflected in the Council's resolution 1086 J (XXXIX) on youth and national development. The United Nations already had one adviser working in that field, and out of first-hand discussions with Governments it expected to develop a long-range concerted programme involving the ILO, FAO, WHO and UNESCO. Those agencies were already working on specific aspects of the problem, and it remained only to increase the impact and improve the quality of the assistance through a real partnership between the United Nations and the agencies.

16. In the matter of social defence, the Commission and the Council had concerned themselves during the year only with the organizational arrangements for United Nations work. The Secretary-General had decided to integrate the work at Headquarters and had been requested to proceed with the establishment of a funds-in-trust account for the purpose of strengthening social defence activity. Member States were being asked to make voluntary contributions to the account. Perhaps of greater interest to the Third Committee were the results of the Third United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which had been held at Stockholm in August 1965 on the invitation of the Swedish Government and had attracted some 1,200 participants. The latter, who had come from eighty-four countries, had emphasized the need for more effective co-ordination between researchers and practitioners. They had agreed on the need for more technical knowledge in the development of social defence policy and more imaginative approaches to the prevention of crime. The Secretary-General wished to thank the Swedish Government for its efforts in connexion with the Congress. The Government of Japan had invited the United Nations to hold the fourth United Nations congress on that subject at Tokyo in 1970.

17. Community development had not been dealt with by the Commission or the Council during 1965, except in connexion with land reform. It had continued, however, to be an area in which large numbers of developing countries, particularly of Africa and Latin America, had requested United Nations help. In Africa there appeared to be a growing interest in the use of community development approaches to resettlement problems. In the Sudan, for example, the United Nations had been concerned with the resettlement of 50,000 Nubians from the area flooded in the Aswan High Dam project. The undertaking had been greatly facilitated by assistance from the World Food Programme. The United Nations had also been involved in establishing a pilot community development project which had been included in the Sudanese Government's

national development plan. The Government was now vigorously pursuing a policy of encouraging provincial and local authorities to undertake community development projects. From the various community development programmes in which the United Nations was co-operating it appeared that community development was of special importance in countries undergoing rapid social change and that it represented an important link between the needs felt at the village level and the national economic plans of the Government.

18. The most pervasive question in governmental discussions during 1965 had been that of re-examining the work programme and priorities in the social field and the role of the Social Commission. A number of Governments had expressed dissatisfaction with the present programme on the ground that insufficient attention was paid to fundamental problems of social reform and to programmes closely linked with industrialization or the elimination of the results of colonialism. Other Governments had been even more concerned with the amount and character of assistance which the United Nations could provide to developing countries struggling to meet the minimum demands of their population in the whole range of social needs. The Social Commission had re-examined its terms of reference on more than one occasion since 1960. There seemed to be a general consensus that the Commission should strengthen its general social policy functions. In 1961, the Council had endorsed a reinterpretation of the Commission's terms of reference (resolution 830 J (XXXII), operative paragraph 1). At its sixteenth session, in May 1965, the Commission had continued to struggle with the question of achieving a balance between its functions in the field of general social policy, issues of social reform and recommendations in such specialized fields as social welfare and social defence. At its thirty-ninth session the Council had adopted a resolution (1086 E (XXXIX)) inviting the Commission to re-examine at its next session in April 1966 the role which it should play within the framework of United Nations programmes in order to meet the needs of Member States, and inviting the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission a report based on the replies of Governments to a questionnaire to be addressed to them.

19. The Secretariat did not take the view that the present programme was adequate or that it could not be improved. The total value of United Nations technical assistance in social fields within United Nations jurisdiction had amounted to \$4.5 million in 1964. Translated into human terms that meant nearly 418 technical advisers, over 500 fellowships and many seminars, workshops and training courses. The resources of UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the Special Fund had added much-needed supplies, equipment and training facilities. Yet many legitimate requests of Governments for help remained in a lower category for lack of necessary resources. Even with the total assistance of the major specialized agencies in the social field, the need for external capital and technical resources was far greater than the international community had been able or willing to mobilize.

20. A letter dealing with the reappraisal of the activities and work programme of the Social Commission had been addressed to Governments in August 1965. Very few Governments had replied as yet, and she hoped that representatives would impress upon the appropriate officials the importance of a prompt response. The Third Committee's discussion of the present agenda item would, she hoped, supplement the replies and provide a sound basis for the kind of effort which the Social Commission and the Council must make if the United Nations was to fulfil its mission in the social field.

21. Miss WILLIS (United States of America) observed that, since the Committee's last consideration of social items, much had been done. The Secretary-General had prepared a preliminary report on targets of social development (E/CN.5/394 and Corr.1) showing that the pattern of priorities differed markedly from country to country because of differences in values and actual social achievements. Unfortunately, the number of replies to the questionnaire on which the report was based was only nineteen. The Secretary-General had invited further replies, and her delegation hoped that further information would make it possible to expand the preliminary report and to undertake a study relating social targets to economic projections for the second half of the United Nations Development Decade. Yet even the preliminary report had raised issues that might well be the subject of "far-reaching studies ... of basic problems in the social field", envisaged in General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII).

22. The same General Assembly resolution raised the question of priorities in the social field and requested the Secretary-General to review Economic and Social Council resolution 496 (XVI). In its reply to the request for views on the subject, her Government had suggested that countries should be classified into several broad categories based on levels of economic and social development and that the Secretary-General might then suggest guidelines for national and international action appropriate to the different categories. A programme for the social aspects of development could then be formulated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII), and Council resolution 496 (XVI) could be revised. She noted that the Council had invited the Social Commission to re-examine its role at its seventeenth session in 1966. Her delegation supported that decision; it believed that the re-examination could be pursued while work continued under the current work programme, which the Economic and Social Council had approved at its thirty-ninth session.

23. Her delegation endorsed the decisions taken by the Council at its thirty-ninth session on the work programme and other social questions. In the matter of social defence, the Council had endorsed the principle that the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality should be undertaken as part of comprehensive development plans (Council resolution 1086 B (XXXIX)). Her delegation considered criminality to be an important social issue suitable for consideration by the Social Commission; criminality was related to the very fabric of a society, and its treatment should therefore be considered in

a social context. Her delegation supported the Secretary-General's view that staff and programmes in the field of social defence should be strengthened. It endorsed the proposal that United Nations activities should be expanded through the establishment of a funds-in-trust arrangement and regional programmes. It believed that the two social defence units could best be unified at Headquarters, making possible improved co-ordination within the Bureau of Social Affairs and close and direct association with the United Nations assistance programmes.

24. She supported the research-training programme on regional development, designed to assist countries facing problems of excessive rural-urban migration. In her view, the solution lay in a comprehensive programme involving rural improvement, regional development and decentralization, and the training of migrants for urban living and their integration into urban life. The enthusiastic support for the programme expressed by nearly all delegations in the Economic and Social Council demonstrated that it met an important need. She hoped that Member States would co-operate with the Secretary-General in making national experience available and would consider the contributions they could make to the implementation of the new programme.

25. One of the problems revealed by the Secretary-General's report on methods of determining social allocations (E/CN.5/387) was that social programmes were not easily evaluated from an economic standpoint. She hoped that that difficulty would not lead the Committee to underestimate the significance of the social aspects of national development. She was convinced that the social programmes of the United Nations had a very important contribution to make.

26. Mr. K. C. PANT (India) observed that the Committee's recent discussions on human rights were not so far removed from social development as the clearly delineated items on the agenda might suggest, for what the Committee did in the field of human rights clearly affected economic and social development, and development in turn affected the extent to which basic human rights became a reality. All too often, in discussing conventions and other legal instruments, the Committee confined itself to the purely legal aspects of human rights questions; however, if the conventions were to have reality and an impact on individual human lives, they must have a social content. Unfortunately, objectives were all too often pursued in one "sector" of human activity without adequate consideration of their impact on other sectors.

27. During the last few years there had been a marked shift of emphasis from the pursuit of social objectives as an end in themselves to the furtherance of social goals considered in relation to economic development. An almost romantic notion of social development had prevailed until very recently, but there was now much more concern with human resources as a means of economic development. The reason for that change was that the developing countries lacked the resources to embark upon ambitious social programmes considered as ends in themselves. The replies to the Secretary-General's questionnaire on targets of social development showed that in nearly every social sector countries had indicated shortages of funds and per-

sonnel. That was, in his opinion, the heart of the matter, for the pursuit of social objectives without regard to their economic implications might have unforeseen and even disastrous consequences.

28. During the fifteen years of its planned development, India had devoted much attention to the development of health as an end in itself and had achieved some spectacular results: some diseases such as malaria had been almost completely eradicated; the life span had been greatly prolonged; and there had been a very marked reduction of mortality. However, the effect of those achievements, combined with a simultaneous increase in birth-rates, had been a greater population pressure than ever before. Obviously that experience showed that health programmes must be undertaken in conjunction with birth-control programmes.

29. India had also devoted a large proportion of its limited funds to education, which it considered the element of infrastructure most essential for economic development. However, many Indian engineers and doctors went to more advanced countries to continue their studies and often settled there. The result was that the painfully scarce funds that had been devoted to their education did not ultimately contribute to the country's development.

30. In the present state of India's resources, social programmes that contributed directly to economic development must necessarily receive priority.

31. His delegation had submitted a draft resolution requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a report on targets in the social field, which had ultimately become General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII), in order to emphasize the importance of considering social targets in relation to economic targets and the need for considering social planning as an important part of over-all planning.

32. The Committee must now take a more sophisticated view of how resources for social development should be allocated in order to maximize the over-all rate of development. It must determine exactly what kinds of investment would have the maximum effect on the total development process, and what the consequences of such investment would be. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's report on methods of determining social allocations (E/CN.5/387) and hoped that work on planning in the social field would continue to emphasize the interaction of economic and social development. As India's experience showed, however, planning in itself was not enough unless it produced economic and social change at the local level. The problems of implementation needed further analysis and his delegation therefore looked forward to the results of the study to be completed in 1967 on methods and techniques for introducing social change and development at the local level and for stimulating citizen participation in development.

33. In reappraising its role, the Social Commission must concern itself with basic institutional reforms in such areas as land reform and income distribution. It was becoming increasingly apparent that over-all development did not necessarily bring its benefits to all the population equally. His country was making a study of the extent to which the benefits of economic

development were reaching the lowest levels of the population. Under certain circumstances, even a welfare State might inadvertently widen the disparity in income among its population, for assistance to the less fortunate sectors of society was often taken advantage of by those too well off to qualify and there were often sharp regional differences in levels of development.

34. Balanced development did not necessarily mean that development funds should be allocated equally among areas or people. His country's experience showed that a concentration of assistance in sectors or areas where conditions were most favourable might be highly beneficial, especially at the initial stages of development, in providing a stimulus for other areas. India's community development programme, which had been designed to reach 600,000 villages, showed that without an adequate infrastructure and without conditions favourable to growth the mere machinery of development was not enough to produce the desired changes.

35. The interdependence of social objectives and economic goals could be studied through particular programmes, such as programmes of industrial development, and it might be wise to consider what social programmes contributed most directly to industrial growth at the project level.

36. Naturally, there must be appropriate machinery for achieving social development objectives. and, both nationally and internationally, there must be more sophisticated systems than had yet been devised to evaluate the repercussions of development in one sector upon another sector. The Social Commission might conceivably become a committee of experts on social development. Consideration could perhaps be given to the setting up of an international fund for social development which would have at its disposal funds contributed multilaterally for assistance to developing countries in the social field. Such a fund could not only provide assistance in such key sectors as family planning, but could also influence the pattern of national planning through establishment of over-all priorities.

37. The dilemma facing the developing countries was exemplified by India's recent experience. When the five-year plans were drawn up in terms of physical targets and it was found that the resources fell short of requirements, his country had had to prune them according to their effect on development as a whole. It had therefore given priority to those items, such as industrial projects, which had the immediate effect of speeding up economic development and had cut back purely social schemes which had no direct bearing on economic development. Social planning in relation to its impact on economic development was a necessity for the developing countries and his country would welcome any expert studies of that problem.

38. His delegation welcomed the Secretariat's intention, mentioned in paragraph 407 of the Economic and Social Council's report (A/6003), to undertake a study relating social targets to economic projections.

39. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that representatives of the USSR in the Economic and Social Council and the Social

Commission had always expressed dissatisfaction with the type of activities carried out in the social field by the United Nations. Obviously, the main effort should be directed towards promoting the social development of the developing countries, which expected the United Nations to produce positive recommendations and practical action that would help to eliminate the consequences of colonialism and to raise the standards of living of their peoples. At a time when hundreds of millions of persons were still illiterate, hungry and unemployed and lacked medical care, the United Nations was concentrating its attention on secondary social problems and neglecting such vital matters as land reform, the proper use of national resources for social needs, and maternal and child health, all of which had been mentioned by the Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs in her statement but were certainly not being treated as the main concerns of the United Nations in the social field. Similarly, although the work programme of the Social Commission was a sizable one, many of the items included in it were not of primary importance to social progress and would not serve the purpose, set forth in the United Nations Charter, of achieving international co-operation in solving international problems of a social character. The programme placed the main emphasis on social welfare activities and did not give due priority to assistance by the State, which alone could provide the necessary resources to improve health services, to eradicate illiteracy, to train skilled personnel and to ensure full employment. Her delegation appreciated the value of voluntary welfare organizations, especially in many countries where the State was not yet able to assume full responsibility for social development, but the importance of State planning and support should nevertheless be emphasized by the United Nations. The Secretariat did not pay adequate attention to the vast experience accumulated by the USSR and other socialist countries in planning for economic and social development, information on which had been submitted in reply to questionnaires and should be made available to developing countries striving to implement national development plans. She drew attention in that connexion to Economic and Social Council resolution 1086 M (XXXIX).

40. The question of land reform was of tremendous importance to the great majority of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, where no development problem was more vital than the proper distribution of land, which should revert to those who cultivated it. Land reform included both economic and social measures, such as the organization of relations between landowners and agricultural workers, an improved supply of credit, the improvement of working methods and the establishment of co-operatives. Although the importance of land reform had been stressed in many United Nations resolutions and some recommendations had been made to Governments, the question had not been dealt with in depth and the experience of countries which had carried out successful programmes had not been made available to others. The question of convening an international conference on the subject had been postponed for years, and it was only under pressure from many countries that it had finally been decided

to hold a World Land Reform Conference in 1966. Although the subject was on the agenda of the Second Committee (agenda item 12), the social organs of the United Nations should also deal with the substance of the question, and research which would really serve the needs of the developing countries should be undertaken.

41. As in the past, the work programme of the Social Commission placed too much emphasis on community development, which could never replace State action as the main tool for social development. Nor was the experience of the capitalist countries always relevant to conditions in developing countries. The time had come to make greater use of the experience of the socialist countries and of countries which, after being liberated from colonialism, had pursued an independent course of development.

42. There had been no unanimity in the Social Commission or the Council on the advisability of convening a conference of Ministers responsible for social welfare. In some countries, such ministries were responsible for many services, such as education, welfare, health and pensions, whereas other States had separate ministries for each service. Such a conference would serve a useful purpose if it was to consider definite goals and recommend positive measures to be taken by States, but if it was to deal primarily with non-governmental activities it would achieve no greater success than the social organs of the United Nations had done in the past.

43. The scope of United Nations social defence activities, including the amount of financial resources allocated to them, needed review. Social defence should, of course, be retained in the work programme, but attention should be concentrated on such questions as juvenile delinquency, leaving aside purely legal matters which were not of prime importance to social development.

44. She did not need to stress the importance of General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII), in which the Secretary-General had been requested to prepare a draft programme of social development for the second half of the United Nations Development Decade.

45. The preliminary report on targets of social development (E/CN.5/394 and Corr.1) did not make sufficient use of the voluminous material which was available in addition to the replies received from nineteen developing countries, and it did not go deeply enough into the problems of development planning and the question of the resources needed for social development. Her delegation trusted that those shortcomings would be corrected in the final report. The problem of the equitable distribution of income in the nation required close study, since without a balanced distribution the funds needed for development could not be obtained.

46. The question of reviewing Council resolution 496 (XVI), referred to in General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII), was closely linked with the reappraisal of the Social Commission's role. She hoped that the Third Committee would take a decision aimed at making the work of the Social Commission more effective and better adapted to the needs of the developing countries.

47. Mr. TSAO (China) said that the Committee had to consider the needs and problems of the developing countries and must find ways and means to increase the effectiveness of the assistance given by the United Nations family in the field of social development. That was a particularly appropriate subject for discussion in 1965, which marked both the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the mid-point of the United Nations Development Decade. Although the United Nations family had done much during the preceding twenty years to bring about higher standards of living and social progress, especially in the developing countries, even today two thirds of the population of the world was still suffering from hunger, disease or ignorance, and the gap between per capita income in the developing and in the developed countries was widening.

48. His delegation was gratified that the Economic and Social Council and the Social Commission had decided to reappraise their functions and work programmes. That reappraisal would take considerable time in view of the diverse nature of activities of those bodies.

49. The experience of the United Nations family in the field of social development showed, first, that while the social problems of the developing countries differed, all those countries had one problem in common: a shortage of funds and trained personnel. Consequently, financial assistance and the training of technical staff should receive the highest priority in United Nations development programmes. Secondly, the United Nations and the specialized agencies should concentrate on direct assistance to Governments rather than on academic research projects. A handbook on methods of social planning or land reform techniques was of far more use to the developing countries than, say, a definition of the function of social workers, especially since, due to the shortage of trained personnel of all kinds, social workers of the developing countries often had to work in many different fields. Thirdly, national social projects, to be effective, must be part of a well-conceived national development plan. While economic growth provided funds for development, social development could greatly foster economic growth. Hence, social targets must be included in national development plans and adequate funds allocated. Fourthly, since most developing countries were agricultural and since land reform programmes were a highly important means of improving living conditions, land reform must be considered not as a purely economic programme of land distribution and compensation, but also as a supplement to social development programmes.

50. In view of the close relationship between land reform and social development, his delegation felt that the Social Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the World Land Reform Conference to be held in Rome in 1966 should give attention to the social aspect of land reform programmes. Because of the success of such programmes in China, his Government had been conducting seminars in farming techniques and methods of organizing farmers' associations in which a number of students from Asian and African countries participated, and was also exchanging its experience in rural and urban land

reform and farming techniques with several South-East Asian countries.

51. His delegation was gratified that the Social Commission and the Secretariat were trying to translate their research work into specific recommendations to Governments. It also welcomed the increasing emphasis placed by the Social Commission on the close relationship between land reform programmes and community development and the increasing attention being paid to the new problem of urban land reform, which was common to many developing countries.

52. Mr. WEERASINGHE (Ceylon) observed that, although patterns of priorities for social development differed widely from country to country, the key to the problem was the shortage of funds and personnel and the consequent need for financial and technical assistance. In Ceylon, the allocation of approximately 35 per cent of the total annual budget was barely adequate to maintain the existing relatively high standard of social services in the face of the rapidly growing population. The introduction of free education in 1945, coupled with demographic growth, had necessitated the provision of additional school accommodation, and the shift in emphasis from academic to technical and vocational education in order to meet the country's economic requirements had been retarded by the lack of adequately trained teachers. The main emphasis in the health programme was on the development of preventive services and the improvement of environmental sanitation through the provision of sewerage, drainage, and pure water supplies in urban and rural areas.

53. The Government of Ceylon recognized the importance of maintaining a balance between social and economic development and the need to increase productivity in order to build a self-sustaining economy. Projects aimed at increasing productivity would therefore continue for some years to be given the highest priority. However, until surpluses became available from over-all economic activity, external assistance in funds and personnel would be needed if social services were to be expanded and improved. Nevertheless, Ceylon was grateful for the Secretary-General's report on methods of determining social allocations (E/CN.5/387), which would give some guidance for the allocation of available funds.

54. Under General Assembly resolution 418 (V), a special allocation for social development had been made from the regular programme of technical assistance. That allocation had compared unfavourably, however, with those for economic projects. That practice had been discontinued, and priorities were now left entirely to Governments. As most developing countries had accepted the need for balanced economic and social development, he hoped that social projects would be given higher priority than in the past, and he suggested that the Special Fund might extend its policy to include the financing of such projects.

55. His delegation attached great importance to Economic and Social Council Resolution 1086 C (XXXIX) on regional development, which made provision for a programme of special significance to

developing countries faced with the problem of rapid urban growth and rural-urban migration. The rational redistribution of population and a better urban-rural balance were essential if the worst features of urbanization were to be checked, and regional planning and regional development could play an important role in that respect. Even a small country like Ceylon was confronted by such problems; his Government was carrying out a programme of planned resettlement of population from the congested provinces in the sparsely populated dry regions of the country, under which the State provided irrigation facilities and farmsteads, together with dwellings for the new settlers. He suggested that the projects selected for study under paragraph 2 (c) of the Council's resolution should include projects in small countries, such as Ceylon, which would provide useful guidance to other small countries. It should also be kept in mind that there were different kinds of regional development—metropolitan projects, aimed at checking the growth of large metropolitan areas, projects centred on an industrial complex or on the exploitation of a given natural resource, and projects concerned with rural development—all of which should be represented among the projects selected.

Organization of work

56. Mr. MACDONALD (Canada), referring to the point of order raised by the representative of Cyprus at the previous meeting, said that he had consulted a number of delegations of western countries. While they would have preferred to keep to the original schedule, because the Third Committee was already behind in its work and had already granted one such extension of time, they were willing to support the request made for an extension, in the interest of expediting the Committee's work.

57. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should extend the time-limit for the submission of amendments to the implementation clauses of the draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (agenda item 58) to 4 November 1965, at 6 p.m. and, in the meantime, take advantage of any hiatus in the debate on the world social situation to discuss the final clauses of that Convention.

58. Mrs. DELLA GHERARDESCA (Italy), supported by Mr. COMBAL (France), said that it would be unwise for the Committee to discuss the final clauses before the implementation clauses.

59. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) thought that the implementation clauses could be treated separately. His delegation would therefore have no difficulty in discussing the final clauses before the implementation clauses.

60. Mr. ZOUPANOS (Cyprus) proposed that the time-limit should be extended only until 6 p.m. on 3 November 1965.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.