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Fifty-sixth Session

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Volume I\*

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH TO  
SEVEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETINGS

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
from 22 April to 2 May 1974

Chairman:

Mr. SMID

Czechoslovakia

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\* The summary records of the 738th to 750th meetings, held from 3 to 14 May 1974, appear in volume II.

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724th meeting

Monday, 22 April 1974,  
at 3.30 p.m.Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

## ELECTION OF TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN

The CHAIRMAN said that, as suggested by the Bureau of the Council, each Committee should elect two Vice-Chairmen on the basis of the principle of geographical representation. If there were no objections, he would consider that the Committee decided to elect two Vice-Chairmen — one from the Asian group and one from the Latin American group. Since there had been no nominations, the election would be postponed until the following meeting.

It was so decided.

## ORGANIZATION OF WORK (E/L.1587)

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the note by the Bureau concerning the organization of work (E/L.1587), as revised and adopted by the Council that morning.

In paragraph 5 of that document it was suggested that, before the item concerned was taken up by a committee, all relevant proposals should be submitted in writing, and attention was called to Council resolution 1623 (VI), in which the Council had decided that "as a general rule and in order to avoid repetitious debates, consideration of the reports of all its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies should be confined, as far as possible, to matters which require decisions or guidance from the Council".

With regard to paragraph 6 of the note, the Council had adopted in plenary meeting the target dates suggested by the Bureau for the completion of groups of items, as proposed in the annex of the document. The target dates proposed for the Social Committee were the following: 1 May for the completion of items 15 (Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations), 14 (Report of the Commission on the Status of Women) and 8 (Social questions), which should be considered in that order; and 15 May for the completion of items 9 (Narcotic drugs) and 10 (Human rights questions).

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(The Chairman)

In his view, it would be possible to complete those items by the target dates. It was essential for the Committee to make the maximum use of its meetings during the first half of the session, since after 28 April it would have to share meeting services with the Council and the other Council Committees and would therefore be able to hold fewer meetings.

If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee decided to endorse the suggested order of consideration and target dates for the completion of items given in the annex to document E/L.1587, with the amendment consequential upon the deletion of item 7.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN announced that, in order to assist the Committee in its deliberations, the Secretariat had prepared a summary of the agenda items to be considered by the Committee (document E/AC.7/L.652 and Add.1).

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (E/5452 and Add.1;  
E/AC.7/L.652, paras. 25-27)

Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, introduced the Committee's report (E/5452 and Add.1) and said that the Committee had considered 31 applications and reapplications for consultative status and requests for reclassification, which appeared in chapter II of the report.

Consideration of those applications and requests had taken up most of the Committee's time, and it had often been difficult to decide the category in which each non-governmental organization should be placed despite the guidelines provided in Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) concerning arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations.

That difficulty had underlined the need for the members of the Committee to be given clear data in order to understand the activities of the applicant organizations and the role which they could play in supporting United Nations activities in various fields. It had also reinforced the view that the Secretary-General should further explore the question of the process for the review and classification of new applications and requests for reclassification. That was reflected in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report.

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(Mrs. George, Trinidad and Tobago)

The Committee had adopted a United Kingdom proposal to include an additional question in the questionnaire to non-governmental organizations, which was reproduced in paragraph 16 of the report. Despite the inclusion of that new question, the Committee members had questioned the realistic character of the existing criteria derived from Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), particularly with regard to the existing system of categorization. In that connexion, some members had considered that the replies to the questionnaire should be more detailed, so that the organization concerned could be properly assessed. Others had felt that the presence of a representative of the organization applying for consultative status would be useful for the purpose of clarifying the data submitted.

There seemed to have been general agreement that the terms of paragraph 10 of the resolution were not sufficiently precise and could be open to varying interpretations. In that connexion, the members of the Committee had expressed the view that the contribution which non-governmental organizations could make to the work of the United Nations was not well known or appreciated. Many delegations had said that consideration might be given to the possibility of broadening the sphere of activity of non-governmental organizations, giving greater attention to those areas not strictly within the competence of the Economic and Social Council, such as disarmament and decolonization.

In the context of such a re-evaluation, care should be taken not to complicate relations with the non-governmental organizations. In that connexion, reference had been made to the constructive role which the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations could play in the harmonization and rationalization of the operational relations between those organizations and the United Nations.

As stated in paragraph 22 of the report, the Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had met informally with the Chairman of the Committee of the Security Council established in pursuance of resolution 253 (1968) concerning the question of Southern Rhodesia, regarding the reference in Security Council resolution 253 (1968) and in the subsequent press release dated 4 April 1973 that had been sent to the non-governmental organizations describing anticipated assistance from those organizations.

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(Mrs. George, Trinidad and Tobago)

Following that informal meeting, it had been considered that the Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should, whenever possible, initiate informal contacts with the non-governmental organizations specifically engaged in activities related to the implementation of the resolution, in order to develop an awareness of the role which they could play in the implementation of the resolution. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that, although she had accepted the results of the informal arrangement, she would not be able to initiate the activities unless more realistic arrangements were made to enable her to establish those physical contacts.

With regard to the maintenance and strengthening of the dialogue between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations, it must be admitted that, if the dialogue was to be successful, it had to be a continuous one. For that reason, the Committee, which had welcomed the statements made by several representatives of non-governmental organizations at its most recent meetings, hoped that that form of dialogue would be further developed at the informal meeting to be held in Geneva before the summer session of the Economic and Social Council.

The Committee had decided to recommend approval of a request made by the French representative for the granting of a hearing to the International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians at the Economic and Social Council's fifty-seventh session, to be held in Geneva. It was to be hoped that the Social Committee would endorse that recommendation.

Other matters considered by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had included the cycle of the Committee's meetings and an increase in its membership in the light of the increase in the membership of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands), speaking as Rapporteur and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, said that his delegation attached great importance to its membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, because it considered that the Committee's work was closely related to the development of the Economic and Social Council itself. The process of revitalization of the Council should necessarily be reflected in the revitalization of its subsidiary organs and therefore of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

In recent years, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had dealt

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(Mr. Gajentaan, Netherlands)

principally with applications for consultative status. Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) had provided the basic frame of reference of the Committee in the past eight years, but the implementation of that resolution - and the resolution itself - might well need a thorough review; the final report of the Secretary-General should provide an opportunity for such a review.

His delegation felt that the 1975 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should address itself to a whole range of basic questions concerning the relationship between the non-governmental organizations and the Economic and Social Council. It would be necessary to consider whether the present system of classification of non-governmental organizations, or any other system, was conducive to the strengthening of those relations; whether the system should be more restrictive and admit only truly international non-governmental organizations; what were the practical possibilities for reviewing consultative status once it had been granted; whether consultative status should be granted only for a limited period; what, if any, had been the effect of the granting of consultative status to non-governmental organizations and, lastly, whether the granting of consultative status in different categories was a worth-while exercise.

Those questions should not only be raised in the governmental bodies of the Economic and Social Council, but should also be discussed openly with the non-governmental organizations themselves, in order to determine how they viewed their relationship with the Economic and Social Council and how they thought that the dialogue between them and the intergovernmental bodies could be intensified.

The Secretariat could play a useful role in the intensification of the dialogue between Governments and non-governmental organizations, but it should be equipped to do so.

At the most recent session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, several representatives of those organizations had displayed a definite awareness of the need for a review of those questions. His delegation hoped that concrete suggestions would be forthcoming.

Another matter which required careful attention was the scope of the activities of non-governmental organizations and, in particular, activities which were not within the competence of the Economic and Social Council, such as disarmament and decolonization.

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(Mr. Gajentaan, Netherlands)

With respect to the report, his delegation hoped that the Council would support its main conclusions. His delegation had taken note of the Committee's recommendation on biennial meetings, beginning in 1975, in accordance with resolution 1768 (LIV). His delegation believed that it was more appropriate to postpone action on that recommendation until after the forthcoming session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

Finally, his delegation had noted with particular interest the activities assigned to improve the relations between UNDP and the non-governmental organizations; in the operational field, many activities of those organizations had contributed to the success of important United Nations undertakings and that was an important part of the dialogue between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations.

Mr. WANG (China) said that despite resolution 2758 (XXVI), in which the General Assembly had decided to restore the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, elements of the Chiang Kai-shek clique, with the support of reactionary forces, continued illegally to use the name of China to carry out their activities in some non-governmental organizations which were, or would be, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. There were, for example, the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design, whose reclassification had been recommended to the Economic and Social Council by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its meetings in February, and the Baptist World Alliance and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, which had applied for consultative status. His delegation was categorically opposed to the establishment of any relationship between the Economic and Social Council and the non-governmental organizations which had failed to implement General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

His delegation would not participate in the vote on the categorization of non-governmental organizations because it was not sufficiently acquainted with some of the international organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wondered whether the Committee's recommendations to place one organization in category I, 11 organizations in category II and 18 organizations on the Roster were in harmony with the strict requirements stipulated by the Economic and Social Council in its

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

resolution 1296 (XLIV) and in particular paragraph 4, which referred to the representative and international character of the organizations applying. In accordance with the provisions of that resolution, the Soviet Union supported the Committee's recommendations in the case of severed non-governmental organizations, including some from socialist countries and developing countries, because it considered that they would widen the geographical representation of the non-governmental organizations in consultative status. However, at the same time, it could not ignore the fact that many of the non-governmental organizations in consultative status, or which the Committee had recommended for that status, were hardly representative and that their orientation was one-sided; in particular, that applied to the non-governmental organizations from Western countries.

His delegation was opposed to the recommendations concerning the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and the Lutheran World Federation, and had serious doubts about those concerning the Church World Service Inc. and some other non-governmental organizations. It believed that the Social Committee should refrain from taking a decision on those non-governmental organizations so that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations could re-examine the matter.

With respect to the interim report of the Secretariat, which attached great importance to the improvement of relations between non-governmental organizations and the Economic and Social Council in order to increase the effectiveness of those organizations' contribution, as indicated in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1730 (LIV) and 1740 (LIV), his delegation wished to emphasize that, in order to improve those relations, it was necessary to act in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, and that the measures adopted to that end should not have financial implications for the Organization. The interim report was very brief but some of the statements in it gave rise to serious objections. The recommendations to eliminate the distinctions among categories were without basis and could lead to the adoption of illegal measures, in that they would involve a violation of the provisions of resolution 1296 (XLIV). He also had grave doubts concerning the suggestion by the Secretariat that it be permitted to recommend the category to be assigned to the various non-governmental organizations. The Secretariat should limit itself to submitting reference documents and leave the

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

categorization to the Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, it did not appear that the Secretariat's desire to facilitate contacts with non-governmental organizations was justified. The Secretariat must always act on the basis of decisions adopted by the competent bodies.

Finally, special attention should be given to the possible contribution of non-governmental organizations to the implementation of various declarations adopted by the United Nations, such as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Mr. HUCKE (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation had studied the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/5452) and, in principle, regarded it as acceptable subject to the reservations which it had expressed, at the Committee's spring session, with respect to the classification and reclassification of some of the non-governmental organizations mentioned in the report.

The German Democratic Republic had deep respect for the work of the non-governmental organizations, and especially for their efforts leading to the implementation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, it was convinced that co-operation between the Economic and Social Council and non-governmental organizations was necessary for the progress of the United Nations by enabling more people to participate in the Organization's activities. Nevertheless, it could not ignore the growing number of non-governmental organizations requesting consultative status; while that was a positive step for the reason previously mentioned, at the same time it might over-burden the Secretariat and the Council with work to co-ordinate the activities of those non-governmental organizations.

Taking into account the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), his delegation believed that there could be only one approach to the problem and that it should be based on the following principles. Firstly, the number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status should be limited; to that end, careful selection should be made of organizations which could contribute effectively to the work of the United Nations and which reflected, in their composition, the widest possible range of views and interests. Secondly,

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(Mr. Hucke, German Democratic Republic)

non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to co-ordinate their activities among themselves. Thirdly, the criteria for the inclusion of non-governmental organizations in different categories should be strictly observed and, in that connexion, special attention should be given to geographical representation and the significance of the contribution which those organizations could make. Finally, United Nations bodies, including the Secretariat, should limit their activities concerning co-operation with non-governmental organizations exclusively to those cases in which such co-operation was recommended in decisions of the Economic and Social Council and other bodies. If the Council adhered to those principles in granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations, it would avoid over-burdening the Secretariat and would ensure more concrete and useful contributions from the non-governmental organizations.

In conclusion, with respect to the cycle of meetings of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the German Democratic Republic agreed with the idea of biennial meetings put forward in paragraph 19 of document E/5452, since it believed that such an arrangement would improve the organization of the Committee's work and make it more effective.

Mr. WIGGINS (United States of America) said that he had listened with interest, but with some consternation, to the statement by the representative of the Soviet Union, who appeared to be saying that only non-governmental organizations from the socialist countries should be granted consultative status with the United Nations, while non-governmental organizations from the Western world should be denied it. He believed that politics should not be introduced into the debates held on that aspect of the activities of the United Nations and that the only logical criterion was to grant consultative status to any non-governmental organization, regardless of its origin, whose participation would be useful to the United Nations.

He believed that the Soviet Union's position on religion was not a sufficient ground for barring the admission of organizations such as the Church World Service Inc. He further believed that the International Council of Voluntary Agencies met the criteria for reclassification to category I, as recommended by the Committee. Both organizations could provide information and advice on matters within their competence that would be of assistance to the United Nations.

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(Mr. Wiggins, United States)

In conclusion, he hoped that the Committee would recognize all the non-governmental organizations whose admission or reclassification was recommended in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, and trusted that in future debates no questions of a political nature would be raised.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) admitted that Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) contained various criteria which might be difficult to interpret and harmonize. However, the accusations made regarding the motives of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in recommending the admission or reclassification of certain non-governmental organizations were unwarranted. It would therefore be preferable for the Social Committee to abide by the votes taken in the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

Mr. WILSON (Liberia) said that it was not appropriate to reopen the discussions which had taken place in the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations regarding the admission of some organizations. It was regrettable that efforts were being made to impose a political philosophy with no regard for the importance of the contribution that a particular non-governmental organization could make. For example, some years ago, the current President of Liberia had presided over the Baptist World Alliance, and Liberians were well aware of the achievements in the education and health fields of that and other non-governmental organizations working on the African continent.

In his view, the reason why so many Western non-governmental organizations had been recommended for admission was simply that they were the only organizations interested in requesting consultative status.

Lastly, his delegation supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and hoped that they would receive the support of the Social Committee.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should consider the recommendations in chapter II, sections A and B, of document E/5452. To judge from the opinions expressed in the debates, alternative procedures could be followed. One would be to go through the list of non-governmental organizations one by one and ascertain the Committee's views. The other would be to consider as a

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(The Chairman)

whole first the requests for reclassification and then the new applications for consultative status, on the understanding that the Committee's report would reflect the statements of those delegations which expressed reservations regarding particular non-governmental organizations. For his part, he would recommend the second alternative, since it would facilitate the Committee's work.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he was not opposed to the second alternative, provided that the summary record of the meeting reflected his delegation's objections concerning the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and the Lutheran World Federation.

Concerning his previous statement, he wished to clarify that his delegation supported the admission of broadly representative non-governmental organizations with an international membership - in other words, organizations that did not belong exclusively to the Western world but also included people from the socialist countries and from the developing countries.

The CHAIRMAN asked the members of the Committee whether they agreed with the recommendations for reclassification in chapter II, section A, of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

Mr. ESSY (Ivory Coast) asked what criterion the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had followed in making the recommendations.

The CHAIRMAN said that the criterion followed with regard to requests for reclassification was embodied in Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

Mr. ESSY (Ivory Coast) felt that the report should have included an explanation of the criteria upon which the recommendations were based, because it was particularly difficult for new members of the Economic and Social Council to take a decision without knowledge of those criteria.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee decided to recommend the reclassifications proposed in chapter II, section A, of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that

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(The Chairman)

the Committee decided to recommend six organizations for category II and a further 18 for the Roster, as indicated in chapter II, section B, of the report.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN, referring to the cycle of the Committee's meetings, mentioned in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, drew attention to the fact that the Committee had recommended that it meet in 1975 to consider the Secretary-General's report requested in Council resolution 1739 (LIV) and thereafter meet biennially. As stated in the Secretariat document entitled "Summary of issues requiring action by the Economic and Social Council under the agenda items to be considered by the Social Committee" (E/AC.7/L.652), the Secretariat had taken note of the Committee's recommendation in preparing the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1975. The Council might wish to take a decision on the matter at its fifty-seventh session, in the context of the item on the calendar of conferences and meetings.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that his delegation agreed that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should meet biennially. However, in paragraph 19 of the report of that Committee, reference was made to the problems that biennial meetings might pose, and in paragraph 20 it was recommended that the Secretary-General consult with non-governmental organizations. He wondered whether the object of those consultations would be to solve the problems referred to in paragraph 19 or to request the opinion of the non-governmental organizations on the question.

Mr. ROOSEVELT (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Secretary-General would consult the non-governmental organizations regarding the cycle of the Committee's meetings, since it had been considered essential that he should do so.

Mr. WIGGINS (United States of America) said that the non-governmental organizations should have an opportunity to express their views more than once every two years, and an informal meeting could provide such an opportunity. He would like to know the Secretariat's opinion regarding informal meetings.

Mr. GAJENTAAAN (Netherlands) said that his delegation was prepared to endorse the Committee's recommendation. It understood paragraph 20 of the report

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(Mr. Gajentaan, Netherlands)

to mean that the Secretary-General would consult the organizations and the Council and that the question would be taken up again in 1975.

Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) proposed that the Committee take note of paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report, on the understanding that the Secretary-General would ascertain the views of the non-governmental organizations on the matter.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to take note of the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations that it should meet in 1975 and biennially thereafter, as stated in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to endorse the recommendation in paragraph 21 of the report.

It was so decided.

Mr. WANG (China) said that the Committee, in addition to taking note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, should also take note of the views expressed by delegations.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/5452), as well as of the opinions expressed on the report during its discussion. The Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 15.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/5451; E/AC.7/L.652, paras. 22-24, E/AC.7/L.653)

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the Committee to chapter I of the report of the Commission on its twenty-fifth session (E/5451) and to the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.7/L.652). In document E/AC.7/L.653, the delegations of Colombia, Kenya and the United States had submitted an amendment to draft resolution III recommended by the Commission.

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Mrs. SIPIILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) introduced the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its twenty-fifth session (E/5451).

At that session, the Commission had had to consider a number of substantive issues, namely: a programme for the observance of International Women's Year, 1975; a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women, the implementation of international instruments already in existence and the question of communications concerning the status of women; the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning, the programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development; the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence; the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking; women and the mass communication media; and the establishment of priorities for the future work of the Commission. As a result of its deliberations, the Commission had submitted 14 draft resolutions for adoption by the Council.

The three questions of major importance to the Commission had been, firstly, the elaboration of a practical programme of activities for International Women's Year; secondly, the role of women in development, including the Commission's role in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade; and, thirdly, the interrelationship between the status of women and family planning.

Chapter I of the report contained a draft resolution setting forth a comprehensive programme of activities in connexion with International Women's Year to be carried out at the national, regional and international levels and also topics for research.

In draft resolution II, the Commission called upon the Secretary-General to accept voluntary contributions from Member States, organizations, foundations and individuals to enable the programme for International Women's Year to be carried out effectively.

Draft resolution III requested that an international conference should be organized during the Year, and the Governments of Colombia and Kenya had offered to act as hosts. In annex IV of the Commission's report relating to the

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(Mrs. Sipila)

administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution, the month of February was suggested as the date for the Conference if it were to be held at United Nations Headquarters. Another feasible date was June. The Secretariat was continuing to investigate the possibilities of undertaking the substantive preparation of the Conference from within the resources available, including funds that might be available from UNFPA. It hoped to be able to make a more detailed statement on the subject before the Social Committee acted on the draft resolution.

With regard to the second major issue dealt with by the Commission, she said that the Commission had considered that the International Development Strategy had not given sufficient attention to the role of women in development and consequently it had felt the need to ensure that that aspect was not overlooked in the review and appraisal exercise to be carried out at the midpoint of the Decade, 1975.

In draft resolution VII, the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal were requested to make recommendations to the General Assembly for improving the Strategy by strengthening its provisions concerning the integration of women at all levels and stages of development. In the same resolution, the Commission requested that all organizations within the United Nations system should evaluate the impact of their programmes of work on the status of women and their integration in development.

In draft resolution VI, the Commission welcomed the study made by the Special Rapporteur on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning and urged that it be circulated as a background document for the World Population Conference, which was to be held in August 1974 at Bucharest.

In the same resolution, Governments were urged to support the programmes of World Population Year and of International Women's Year in order to create a better understanding of the causes, nature, scope and consequences of population growth and its relationship to the promotion of the status of women and the quality of life. In addition, the Commission affirmed that the right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children was a fundamental human right.

The importance of the role of women in population and development had also been emphasized in the International Forum on the Role of Women in Population and Development, held at United Nations Headquarters and at Airlie, Virginia, from 25 February to 1 March 1974.

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(Mrs. Sipila)

The link between population factors and the status of women and their integration in development would be further elucidated at two intergovernmental consultations to be held in the ECAFE and ECA regions in May and June 1974, respectively. Two other meetings were planned for 1975 in the ECLA and ECWA regions.

In draft resolution IV relating to the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Commission had taken a significant step forward in encouraging data collection on women by inviting Governments to appoint national correspondents. The Commission had also noted that there had been progress in the field of women's political rights, although the trend for women to be appointed at high-level decision-making posts was still very slow.

Draft resolution IX concerned the employment of women by the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system. It urged the Secretary-General and the executive heads of those organizations to take all necessary measures to ensure that an equitable balance between women and men staff members was achieved before the end of the Second Development Decade at all levels in the system - international, regional and national. It also requested the heads of all United Nations agencies to establish an advisory committee within their respective secretariats to assist in formulating measures to accelerate attainment of the objectives of the resolution.

Resolution XIII recommended the adoption by the General Assembly of a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence.

Other draft resolutions concerned the influence of mass communication media on the formation of new attitudes towards the roles of women in present-day society, the legal capacity of married women, including the capacity to engage in independent work, the status of rural women, the activities of the ILO and UNESCO concerning women, and technical co-operation activities for women.

In its internal resolution 1 (XXV), the Commission had decided to request Governments to transmit their comments on the draft convention to eliminate discrimination against women prepared by the Working Group set up for the purpose.

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(Mrs. Sipila)

It had also decided, in principle, to prepare a single instrument on the topic. It had decided to delete the subitem on communications concerning the status of women from its agenda.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation agreed that the discussion of the report should be confined to chapter I and reserved the right to revert to the subject at a later stage.

She would confine her comments to draft resolution III, which requested the Secretary-General to organize in 1975 an international conference during International Women's Year. Her delegation wished to propose a minor amendment consisting of the addition, in the fifth line of paragraph 1 of the words "and the States Members of the United Nations" after the words "the organizations of the United Nations system".

The International Conference referred to could make a valuable contribution to the proceedings of the special session of the General Assembly that would follow it; it should also exert an influence on the implementation of the Second Development Strategy and have a constructive impact on the conceptual framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade.

The idea of an international conference was being broached at a time in human history when men and women were re-examining their roles and endeavouring to work together on equal terms for social development and progress in order to secure a better quality of life for all. At the same time, there was growing awareness of the relationship between the legal and social status of women and the major socio-economic questions of the day, such as population, illiteracy, poverty and peace.

Adoption of the draft resolution would be the best proof of the Council's determination to fulfil its obligations under the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and would constitute a further step forward in the quest for equality for all and the recognition that women were entitled to occupy their rightful place in planning social progress, economic development and peace throughout the world.

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Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) asked whether the non-governmental organizations referred to in the amendment submitted by the United States (E/AC.7/L.653) were those in consultative status with the Council or whether any non-governmental organization was meant.

He asked whether the list of topics to be dealt with at the proposed conference was restricted or not. If it was not, the Secretariat might suggest other topics for inclusion in the resolution.

Mrs. SIPIIA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said she understood that the list in the draft resolution was not restricted and that there was nothing to prevent the addition of other topics. In her opinion, the intergovernmental consultations on the integration of women in the development effort might contribute a number of ideas which could be incorporated in the agenda of the conference.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

725th meeting

Wednesday, 24 April 1974,  
at 10.50 a.m.Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/5451; E/AC.7/L.652,  
paras. 22-24, E/AC.7/L.653) (continued)

Mrs. de ZEA (Colombia) said that her Government supported the Commission's request, in its draft resolution III, for an international conference during the International Women's Year to examine to what extent the Commission's recommendations for the elimination of discrimination against women had been implemented, with special attention to the integration of women in rural areas in the total development effort. Such a conference would be one of the most important events of the Year, and would make it possible both to identify the relative handicaps from which women suffered in some parts of the world and to assess the progress achieved. However, the conference should not focus entirely on the results of efforts made within the United Nations system, but should also make an objective study of the steps taken in each Member State to achieve full equality of women. Colombia had co-sponsored the amendment in document E/AC.7/L.653 because of its conviction that the Members of the United Nations had a duty to ensure the full equality of women. Her country, for its part, had complied with the various United Nations recommendations, and the legal, social, political and cultural equality of women in Colombia had long been recognized. A major effort had been made to integrate women into the process of national development, as was shown by the large number of women members of the legislative and executive bodies, and the academic world. The importance which Colombia attached to the subject was further demonstrated by the fact that it had offered to host the conference to be held during the International Women's Year; it very much hoped that the offer would be accepted.

Mrs. SHUEH Yen-wa (China) said that in many countries women had waged persistent struggles and made positive contributions to the achievement of national independence and liberation and the promotion of human progress. However, quite a few countries and peoples were still under the yoke of imperialism, colonialism

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(Mrs. Shueh Yen-wa, China)

and neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid. Although many other countries had obtained political independence, their economic lifelines were still controlled by imperialism and colonialism, particularly by the super-Powers. Women of various countries still faced an arduous fight to achieve complete liberation.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, as a result of imperialist aggression, China had been reduced to a semi-feudal, semi-colonial country. Under such conditions, women had been subjected not only to the oppression and exploitation of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, but also to the domination of political authority, clan authority, religious and masculine authority. They had become aware that the cause of women's liberation must be closely linked with the cause of national independence and liberation. Led by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party of China, they had actively participated in the revolutionary struggle and, together with the entire Chinese people, had finally overthrown the oppressors and ended reactionary rule.

Since the liberation of the country, the social status of Chinese women had changed fundamentally. They were playing an increasing role in socialist revolution and construction. They not only had the same political rights and duties as men, but had become an important force in political campaigns. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, in particular, had brought about further profound changes in the mental outlook of Chinese women, who were currently taking an active part in the campaign of criticism against Lin Piao and Confucius. They were severely criticizing the reactionary ethical ideas left over from the long period of feudal society, and were attacking revisionist ideas of various descriptions, thus contributing to the consolidation of the achievements of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the prevention of capitalist restoration. Large numbers of women had come to the fore in industry and agriculture, finance and economy, culture and education, science and health, and had made outstanding contributions to their country. The Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese Government attached great importance to the training of women and the selection of women cadres, particularly advanced cadres from among the workers and peasants for leading posts at various levels, so that they could take a direct part in the management of State affairs and of their own homes.

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(Mrs. Shueh Yen-wa, China)

The activities of the International Women's Year should fully reflect the just demands of the women of various countries, as well as the social reality and actual struggle confronting them. Imperialism and colonialism were posing a serious threat to the independence and security of all countries and were the main obstacle to the liberation of women in all countries. The theme of the Year should be the promotion of unity among women throughout the world in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and hegemonism, and the struggle to win and safeguard national independence, national economic rights and interests, democracy and women's rights. With reference to the aim of ensuring that women as well as men participated fully and as equal partners in policy formulation and decision-making, included in the programme for the Year, her delegation considered that the concept of "decision-making" had broad implications and that any enumeration of them would inevitably involve many omissions. In particular, there was no need to specify "disarmament" in the policy formulation and decision-making in which women were to participate. On the question of disarmament, the position of the Chinese delegation was well known. It was firmly opposed to imperialism and hegemonism, which resorted to lies about "détente" and "disarmament" to cover up their aggression, arms expansion and war preparations. The super-Powers were constantly talking about "disarmament", although their nuclear arms race had reached a fanatic pace and their military expenditures had kept rising. Such deception, however, had long ceased to be effective.

Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the resolutions and decisions requiring action at international, regional and national levels set forth in the Commission's report were indicative of the vital need for exhaustive redefining of traditional attitudes involving women.

Her Government had expressed its general support for the programme for the International Women's Year submitted in 1973 by the Secretary-General. The 20 replies received from Governments, commenting on the programme, were indicative of the international significance of the Year; she hoped that that interest would be transposed into concrete action in the conference proposed in draft resolution III.

Her delegation supported the holding of a world governmental conference

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(Mrs. George, Trinidad and Tobago)

during 1975, because of the increasing recognition of the non-traditional political and economic contributions which women made to the total development of society, because of the need to synthesize their new modes of performance, expression and communication and to redefine relationships between men and women, and because of women's responsibilities in society, with particular reference to issues such as population policies and human and natural resources. In the search for new resources to replace the raw materials without which the modern world could not exist, full use must be made of all human resources. Women were currently set aside because of short-sighted and uneconomical discriminatory practices. Yet without their participation the battle of survival would be a social failure. The 1975 conference would represent an effort to commit all the human intellectual and physical attributes to the cause of development. It was therefore vital for existing economic and political models to be restructured to meet that and other objectives set forth, for instance, in paragraph 7 (a) of draft resolution VI, paragraph 5 of draft resolution VII, paragraph 4 of draft resolution XI and paragraph 4 of draft resolution XIV.

The agenda of the conference should go beyond the concept of "equality" towards a much larger concept of partnership. For that reason, and since operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution III did not focus enough on a particular theme or direction, her delegation would like the agenda to provide for extensive discussion on a subject such as the social impact of science, technology and art, as a major economic, political and social influence on the integration of women in development. The Committee might wish to consider the desirability of having a background working paper on the subject prepared jointly by UNESCO, UNITAR, UNCTAD and the ILO for presentation at the conference. Science had revolutionized the quality of life by releasing minds, particularly women's minds, from mundane domesticity. Art, which had formerly been an effective means of encouraging myths about women, was ceasing to portray them as non-cash contributors to the economic and material life of society. Technology had considerably reduced the energy required for traditional women's chores, so that women could now participate in development programmes. It was illogical that, while most countries were spending a sizable percentage of their national budgets on training and education, they still denied women the opportunity of fulfilling their aspirations.

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(Mrs. George, Trinidad and Tobago)

It was an indisputable fact that, if people became economically deprived, that deprivation inevitably extended to social and moral attitudes. It was obviously necessary for economic and political thinkers to address themselves, in the context of growth of technology, to those problems, which were a matter of concern to all humanity.

Her delegation was grateful to the Government of Colombia for offering to host the 1975 conference, at which Member States could evolve rational guidelines for encouraging new investigatory channels, at the national and regional levels, in order to lay the basis for a realistic assessment of the situation. Her delegation would support the establishment of a preparatory committee or working panel to organize and assess the documentation for the conference.

Her delegation was also in a position to support most of the other resolutions and decisions in the Commission's report.

Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand) expressed his delegation's view that the Commission on the Status of Women had done very commendable work for the promotion of equality between men and women, and its general agreement with the draft resolutions in chapter I of document E/5451. His Government had always attached great importance to the advancement of women and their integration into the development effort of the country. Draft resolutions VI, VII and VIII were especially constructive and timely, and deserved the general support of the Council. The decision of the Commission concerning the International Women's Year, contained in draft resolution I, was also of great importance; it would undoubtedly bring closer the goals of the equality and advancement of women, as well as world peace. His delegation also considered that an international conference should be held during the Year to review work done for the advancement of women, and to consider further programmes and concrete proposals and recommendations relating to the status of women, so as to give new impetus to the future efforts of the Commission and the international community. Although it was unfortunately too early to have a detailed agenda for the proposed conference, his delegation had no doubt that it would produce fruitful results if it closely followed the objectives of the International Women's Year. He also noted with satisfaction that the Commission

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(Mr. Chavanaviraj, Thailand)

had decided, in principle, to prepare a single comprehensive draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, and that the existing drafts would be sent to Governments for study and comment so as to enable the Commission to give further consideration to the question at its twenty-sixth session. His delegation sincerely hoped that the final text of that important convention would soon be completed, thus fulfilling the objectives set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which had been unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in 1967.

Mr. RYDBECK (Sweden) said that the struggle for equal rights and opportunities for women took different forms in different societies, but that, even in societies that had formally granted equal rights to women, direct discrimination had been replaced by more subtle forms of discrimination, for example in the field of labour relations. Whatever the laws of a country might prescribe, economic realities, social conditions and deep-rooted attitudes about the roles of men and women persisted. Therefore, a long-term programme for the political, economic and social liberation of women must be based on the conviction that all individuals must have not only the same opportunities as regards education and employment, but also the same responsibility for earning their living and for home and children. The required change in attitude would liberate both men and women, who would have a common role in a society based on solidarity and equality.

In Sweden, although legal equality between women and men had been achieved, equality in everyday life had not, and women were over-represented in the low-income groups and low-status occupations. An Advisory Council on Equality Between Men and Women, attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, had been appointed to guide governmental policy on the subject of equality between men and women. The Council engaged in a wide range of research and information activities, and was attempting to encourage enterprises to employ women in occupations and branches traditionally dominated by men.

The position of women and men in society was conditioned, among other things, by financial resources and employment opportunities. The transition from a traditional economy based on subsistence agriculture to a market economy, often coupled with migration to urban areas, had profound effects on employment

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(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

opportunities; while men, as heads of families, were able to find new employment, women found fewer opportunities in the new surroundings. Few women were currently employed in the modern industrial sector because, when unemployment was widespread, men were usually the first to be offered the jobs available. Working hours and working conditions might also make it almost impossible for women to have gainful occupations.

Family planning and child care services were prerequisites if a woman was to be able to receive education and find employment, but family planning could never be a substitute for structural reforms aimed at improving the over-all social situation of women. Women's lack of education and training seriously limited their chances of obtaining equal status with men, and women belonging to underprivileged groups were in a particularly vulnerable position. Education was therefore of vital importance, since there was a close correlation between the individual's educational standards and her or his possibilities of participating in and influencing the development of society.

The influence of religious and cultural factors on the implementation of legislation must also be taken into account. In some countries, women did not have legal capacity in customary law even if they had it in the written law. Legal improvements must therefore be complemented by practical measures.

It was currently recognized that economic progress must be coupled with increased social and economic equality; narrow concentration on economic growth left some groups of society in a more difficult position than before. Among underprivileged groups, women often constituted the hard core. The over-riding goal must therefore be to mobilize material and human resources to combat unemployment and obtain social and economic equality. Measures to improve the status of women should not benefit economically or otherwise privileged members of the sex at the expense of poor women and men, but should be co-ordinated in all spheres of society. For any action, a firm base of knowledge was required. The United Nations could greatly assist by adopting a systematic approach to the question of the status of women. For example, the following points should be considered in all development projects and programmes, including the UNDP country

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(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

programmes: how the social and economic situation of women would be affected by the proposed measures; whether the proposed measures would directly or indirectly weaken the position of women; what changes could be introduced into the programme to safeguard the interests of women and strengthen their chances of obtaining equality with men. Furthermore, United Nations bodies could also, in co-operation with Governments, trade unions, political parties and national and international women's organizations, make country studies of the status of women. That would lead to a constructive dialogue in the decision-making bodies, and to tangible and effective measures at the country level.

His delegation, while having a certain sympathy for the proposal that the question of the status of women should be dealt with in the General Assembly as a separate item, realized that such a procedure did not give as much importance to the question as a separate international conference. The preparations for the conference and the composition of the delegations must reflect the conviction that men too should take part in the work.

With reference to paragraph 5 of draft resolution VI, his delegation wished to emphasize that not only the composition of the delegations at the World Population Conference was of importance but also the extent to which women took part in the preparations and the follow-up of that Conference.

Concerning operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution VII, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women, his delegation wished to ask whether it would be possible to obtain the requisite information regarding the percentage of the total budget spent on programmes for women from the available budget material; in addition, since the specialized agencies had their own budgets, the figures might prove not to be comparable.

His Government had already transmitted its comments regarding the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. It felt that the specific protection provided for in draft resolution XIII should apply to all civilians and not only to women and children. Another objection was that the draft resolution dealt only with protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in

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(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, while such protection should apply to armed conflicts in general.

His delegation wondered whether it might not be wise to submit the report by the Secretary-General in document E/CN.6/586, as well as draft resolution XIII, to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly to be considered in the Sixth Committee under the item on respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which would include discussion of the report on the first session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts.

Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) said that the Commission's report showed the growing importance attached to international co-operation for the advancement of women. In recent years, Romania, as a member of the Commission, had striven to contribute to a constructive and effective approach to that problem.

The report fully reflected the priority accorded by the Commission to the organization of the International Women's Year proclaimed in General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII). The adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the recommendations put forward in the draft resolutions drawn up by the Commission would contribute to the success of that initiative. Romania was most gratified at the preparations being made since it had, at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, co-sponsored the draft resolution on the proclamation of International Women's Year.

His delegation wished to renew the official invitation made by the Romanian representative to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session that Romania should host an international seminar on the status of women in the modern world.

He wished to draw the attention of the Committee to other recommendations of the Commission regarding fundamental questions such as the protection of women in society, the legal capacity of married women, including the capacity to engage in independent work, the implementation of a programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women and their integration in development including the activities of ILO and UNESCO in that field, and the influence of mass communication media on attitudes towards the roles of women in present-day society.

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(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

The Commission had devoted considerable attention to the question of a new legal instrument of international law to eliminate discrimination against women.

His country's interest in international co-operation to improve the status of women stemmed from its domestic policy aimed at achieving full equality of rights between men and women in every aspect of social life. The fact that Romania was a socialist developing country also affected the way in which it solved problems involving the full emancipation of women. In June 1973, the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party had adopted new measures to enable women to combine their traditional role as wives and mothers with active participation in the scientific, cultural, political and social life of the country.

The Economic and Social Council should adopt the recommendations put forward by the Commission and ensure their implementation through broad, effective international co-operation. He hoped that the work of the Committee would make a practical contribution to such international co-operation in what was both a social and humanitarian problem.

Mr. DUMAS (France) said that France attached the greatest importance to all matters relating to the promotion of the status of women. The United Nations could achieve much in that field, but world attention must be focused on the problem. France would participate in the international conference, enthusiasm for which was growing among the French people.

Although his delegation was in no way opposed to the drafting of a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, it felt that it might be difficult to agree on satisfactory wording which could be applied to all cases and all countries.

Referring to the legal capacity of married women, he said that the importance attached by the French Government to that question was demonstrated by the sweeping changes made to French law during recent years. Those changes had resulted in true equality between men and women during marriage and, although the choice of domicile remained the prerogative of the husband, the wife was now entitled to manage and dispose freely of her earnings from independent work. Consequently, although his delegation agreed with the principle of draft resolution V, it wished to reiterate its conviction that the individual Governments concerned should be allowed the broadest discretion in finding appropriate solutions.

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(Mr. Dumas, France)

Turning to the question of family planning, he felt that the number and spacing of children should be decided by the wife according to individual circumstances. Any attempt to restrict that right would be contrary to the principle of freedom of choice. Furthermore, his delegation had some reservations with regard to paragraph 5 of draft resolution VI. In selecting delegates to the World Population Conference, the French Government must be free to base its choice on professional qualifications and not on sex.

At the end of 1972, the French Parliament had passed an act providing for equal remuneration for men and women engaged in the same work, in the conviction that the rights and freedoms of women should be protected by specific legislation.

Furthermore, efforts had also been made in France to improve conditions in rural areas, with particular emphasis on the status of women. Progress had also been made in overcoming the traditional attitude resulting in discrimination in employment on the basis of sex.

His delegation felt that, in addition to the adoption of new instruments, a world-wide concerted programme of action should be undertaken for the promotion of women. The Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women should work together to ensure that no aspect of the social development of women was overlooked.

The International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade stated that the full integration of women in the total development effort should be encouraged. That concern should therefore be taken into account by all the organizations of the United Nations system. As far as possible action by the Economic and Social Council was concerned, he supported the suggestion made by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-third session that that principle could be applied during the review and appraisal exercise to be undertaken in 1975.

Mr. ALI (International Labour Organisation), referring to draft resolution XI of the Commission on the Status of Women, said that the ILO was engaged in a number of activities related to the provisions of that resolution.

In November 1973, the Governing Body had decided to place the question of equality of opportunity and treatment of women workers on the agenda of the International Labour Conference to be held in 1975. A preliminary report on the

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(Mr. Ali, ILO)

question was already available, but was to be reviewed by the Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers in May 1974, before being submitted to Governments. It was likely that the matters to be discussed would include the practical difficulties and practical methods of ensuring equal opportunities and treatment for women workers, the removal of all forms of discrimination, the full application of the principle of equal pay, and the provision of facilities to enable working parents to meet their family responsibilities. The questions of vocational guidance and training were to be considered by the International Labour Conference in 1974 and 1975.

A study on part-time employment, currently nearing completion, showed that over the past 10 years the number of part-time workers had increased and that they were predominantly women. Governments were giving more attention to the regulation of part-time employment and employers, both private and public, were demonstrating a greater willingness to employ part-time workers. Trade unions, however, felt that the increasing employment of part-time workers was not good for careers or promotion, gave rise to exploitation, and could jeopardize the positions of full-time workers. The solution to those problems might lie in the establishment of shorter working hours for all. The trade unions considered that, where part-time work was permitted, it should be regulated.

The basic document of the ILO, as far as the question of equal pay for equal work was concerned, was the Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value. In 1975, as part of the general consideration of women's problems, the ILO intended to carry out, through its Committee of Experts, a survey of the application of that Convention, not only in the 79 countries which had ratified it so far, but also in those which had not.

He noted that, in chapter VIII of the report of the Commission, relating to the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking, the ILO was urged to look into the question of discriminatory treatment to which migrant workers, including young women, were subjected and to try to improve the situation. It should be pointed out that the ILO was devoting considerable attention to the whole question of migrant workers, which was to be discussed at the International

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(Mr. Ali, ILO)

Labour Conference in 1974. He would provide further information on the matter when the Committee considered the report of the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that his country, which had been one of the first to grant full rights to women, welcomed the designation of 1975 as the International Women's Year and believed that the events proposed for that year would enable women to go a long way towards achieving full equality as members of society. Mexico would take part in all international events designed to promote the status of women, on a basis of equality, and had already made preparations for its participation in International Women's Year.

His delegation warmly supported the initiative to organize an international conference. The conference should be held in a country such as Colombia, with which Mexico enjoyed close relations. However, paragraph 1 of draft resolution III did not explain exactly what was envisaged or what the impact of the conference might be. Consideration should be given to determining what the benefits of the conference might be and to formulating concrete measures designed to achieve the full integration of women into society.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that there was a growing awareness that social development was closely connected with the role of women, with their equal status, and with the degree to which they were integrated into society. Consequently, the Federal Republic of Germany took a great interest in the conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women and appreciated the efforts of the United Nations Secretariat to promote the equality of women.

His Government intended to make full use of the International Women's Year to draw attention to its achievements in improving the status of women and to stimulate further action in that field. His delegation approved of the programme for the Year recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women and supported the idea of holding an international conference during 1975 to focus attention more effectively on women's problems and on the measures needed to overcome continuing inequalities and discrimination.

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(Mr. von Kyaw, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

His delegation would vote in favour of draft resolutions I, II and III in document E/5451, and would give favourable consideration to any proposal to define more clearly the programmes for the International Women's Year and for the international conference. The problems currently faced by women and the measures needed to solve them were well known to those who would participate in the proposed conference. Consequently, the preparation of that conference should present no insurmountable difficulties. What women were rightly asking for was an international forum which would enable them to express their point of view and to have their recommendations and demands taken into account to a greater extent than had frequently been the case in the past.

Replying to a question put by Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America), Mrs. SIPIIA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that a statement of the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution III was contained in annex IV of the report of the Commission. Consultations were currently being held within the Secretariat with a view to preparing the conference by a reordering of priorities from within available resources. Those consultations had not yet been completed but she hoped to be able to provide full information on the question in the near future.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

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726th meeting

Wednesday, 24 April 1974,  
at 3.35 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/AC.7/L.652, paras. 22-24;  
E/AC.7/L.653) (continued)

Miss JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina), speaking on a point of order, said that the drafting of paragraph 129 of the report on the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women did not adequately reflect the debate that took place. At the 629th meeting of the Commission, the Argentine delegation had requested that at the beginning of paragraph 129 the words "It was also recommended" should be replaced by the words "Some delegations recommended". The present wording in Spanish might give the impression that the Commission had reached a consensus on the proposal that the study of the Special Rapporteur should be a basic document for the World Population Conference whereas in fact several delegations objected to the conclusions of the study and therefore recommended that the report should be considered merely as a background document for the Conference.

Accordingly, she requested an explanation from the Secretariat as to why the amendment submitted by her delegation had not been taken into account.

Mrs. LAHTINEN (Finland) said that the improvement of the status of women should not be discussed separately from other political problems; nor should they be discussed by women only.

Some of the draft resolutions recommended to the Social Committee, such as draft resolution VI, relating to family planning, draft resolution X, in which Governments were urged to establish non-profit-seeking industries for women, and draft resolution XI, which referred to the ILO recommendation on the employment of women with family obligations, reflected the policy of restricting the sphere of interest of women to certain particular fields, a policy which seemed illogical to her delegation.

Turning to draft resolution 1 (XXV) of the Commission, concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women, her delegation very much regretted that at its twenty-fifth session the Committee had been unable to agree on a convention of that kind. It hoped that

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(Mrs. Lahtinen, Finland)

Governments would comment as fully as possible on the draft convention which had been sent to them and they would initiate policies to eliminate all kinds of discrimination based on sex.

Her delegation welcomed the adoption of equality, development and peace as the central themes of the International Women's Year. With reference to draft resolution III, concerning the convening of an international conference, she would like clarification of the following questions. Was it the intention that the Conference should only review the implementation of the resolutions of the Commission? What was the meaning of the words "reordering of priorities" in operative paragraph 2? What would be the financial arrangements and their implications for the other priorities?

Turning to draft resolution VI, her delegation felt that family planning was a right and a responsibility of both men and women together. However, each country had the right to formulate a population policy suited to its socio-economic and cultural values. The improvement of the status of women by means of family planning could not be studied without taking into account the processes which affected the structure of society as a whole.

She intended to put forward certain amendments to draft resolution XI concerning the activities of the ILO, and would revert to that question after consulting the sponsors of the draft resolution and the ILO representative.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that family planning and the drafting of an international convention on the elimination of discrimination against women were subjects of special interest to his delegation.

The Commission had adopted 14 draft resolutions and 4 decisions in spite of the fact that the documentation was submitted too late for delegations to be able to prepare their positions in advance. He hoped that at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission the Secretariat would submit the documents within the established period of six weeks.

In the United Kingdom a co-ordinating committee had been set up, within the Women's National Commission, to organize all the activities related to the celebration of the International Women's Year.

On the international level, the International Conference proposed by the Commission would occupy the principal focus of attention. His delegation felt that

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(Mr. Macrae, United Kingdom)

the agenda of the Conference was too diffuse; it would be preferable to concentrate on one or two well-defined issues so that worth-while proposals and recommendations could emerge.

The present session of the Council was the last opportunity to decide upon the form of the Conference and to give proper guidance to the Secretariat regarding preparations.

His delegation believed that the main theme of the Conference should be the elimination of discrimination against women, a subject which could be combined with that of the integration of women into the development effort.

Turning to the question of drafting an international convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, he recalled that the United Kingdom delegation had been a member of the Working Group which had been entrusted with the preparation of a text for the Commission. It was a matter of regret that the differences in national practice had prevented the formulation of an agreed text. Delegations recognized that much more work would have to be done before agreement could be reached and that all Governments should have the opportunity to comment on the different texts of the draft articles, none of which took precedence over the other, although some sentences appeared in brackets.

The objective should be to draft an instrument of sufficient flexibility to elicit a large number of ratifications. It should provide the basic framework for each State to formulate its own policies for the achievement of the purposes of the Convention and any attempt to incorporate into the Convention practices relevant solely to individual countries would merely undermine its usefulness.

His delegation therefore hoped that the Secretariat would lose no time in requesting comments from Member States on the draft texts in the report and that at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission real progress would be made in reaching an agreed text.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the equality of all citizens, regardless of sex, race or national origin was inherent in the very nature of the Soviet system which was fighting against the exploitation of man by man. Since the birth of the Soviet State, women had enjoyed complete equality in all the activities of society. That equality had not only been proclaimed in the Constitution and in other legislative texts but also had become a practical reality in such matters as employment, wages, education, recreation, social security, State protection of mothers and children, assistance to unwed

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

mothers, paid maternity leave, establishment of day nurseries and so on. In the Soviet Union 60 per cent of the graduates of higher education and university establishments were women and since 1940 budgetary allocations for subsidies to mothers had increased more than 10 times.

Unfortunately, the situation was very different in many countries where women were subject to discrimination in various forms; hence it was essential to take practical and effective measures to put an end to that state of affairs. In any event, there were positive upheavals in the world and among them the policy of détente deserved special mention. It had given a new impetus to social progress because such progress and the rights to which it gave rise could only exist if there was a lasting peace. In that respect, he quoted the statement made in the Political Declaration of the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries to the effect that "the present strengthening of détente between East and West" represented an important achievement "by the forces of peace in the the world".

Turning to the report on the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/5451), he stressed that all the decisions included in it were not of the same importance and that the Commission had not considered such urgent problems as the situation of women in South Africa, the participation of women in the struggle against colonialism, racism and apartheid, the role of women in development and the need to ensure effective equality between men and women - not only legal equality but equality in all the spheres of life of a nation.

The most important decisions adopted by the Commission included that relating to the preparation of a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women. His delegation, which fully supported that measure, considered that the draft prepared by the Working Group constituted an adequate basis for future work since the wording took into account the changes that had taken place since the approval in 1967 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, particularly those achieved in the scientific and technological spheres, and since the adoption by the United Nations of the various human rights covenants. In view of the urgency of the question, he hoped that the Commission on the Status of Women could approve the text of the Convention at its next session.

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

Priority should also be given to the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. The declaration proposed by the Commission on that subject (draft resolution XIII) constituted a valuable contribution to the solution of the problem which was of particular importance because women and children suffered most in armed conflicts; moreover, the adoption of the declaration would constitute a further warning to the colonialist, racist and imperialist régimes which provoked such situations. Hence, the USSR delegation would support all the measures taken with regard to that question.

The Commission on the Status of Women was also to be congratulated on the effective work it had done in connexion with preparations for the International Women's Year; the programme it proposed included measures at the international, regional and national levels, and its success would depend to a large extent on the steps that would be taken on the national plane, which were to consist primarily in the promulgation and application of legislation. In any event, care must be taken to select activities which would really contribute to the success of the Year and did not involve over-heavy costs; for instance, his delegation saw little use in establishing regional commissions to study equality between men and women and the full integration of women in development.

As to the international conference to be held during International Women's Year in order, inter alia, to examine to what extent the organizations of the United Nations system had implemented the recommendations for the elimination of discrimination against women made by the Commission on the Status of Women since its establishment, the USSR delegation felt obliged to repeat the objections it had made in the debate in the Commission on that item. Indeed, it would be useless to convene a conference to study that question, which could be considered with more positive results by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, when it would be in a position to sum up the results of the International Women's Year and to prepare a new programme of activities for the future.

Another point that must be borne in mind was that five other important international conferences had been scheduled for 1975, which would involve considerable expense and a very heavy burden of work for the Secretariat and for the delegations of Member States.

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In view of those facts, the USSR delegation shared the doubts expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom as to the proposed agenda of such a conference, and it felt that, before taking a decision on that point, careful consideration must be given to the problems to which it might give rise.

Lastly, the USSR representative reserved the right to speak again at a later date.

Mr. GUARIGLIA (Italy) said that the Committee should take note of the following results achieved by the Commission on the Status of Women at its last session. First, the International Women's Year had taken concrete shape, thanks to the valuable work done by the Working Group appointed at the beginning of the session. Second, the Special Rapporteur had submitted a report on the interrelationship between the status of women and family planning which was a remarkable document. Lastly, the Commission had proceeded with consideration of the question of drafting a comprehensive convention on the elimination of discrimination against women and had decided that, before it went further with its work, the draft convention should be submitted to Governments.

It was clear from a careful consideration of the reports and the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women that its work programme was expanding and that the Commission itself seemed to be aware and concerned about that trend. It was difficult to say whether the expansion of the work programme was a first step towards placing more emphasis on the status of women within the totality of social problems or simply the consequence of the forthcoming International Women's Year. Various proposals made by the Commission, however, led to the belief that the expansion of its work programme was not a temporary phenomenon. The expansion of its activities to eliminate discrimination against women was to be welcomed for the very fact that it would reflect the aspiration of more than half the world's population which felt that it was in some degree, the object of discrimination.

Nevertheless, there were other elements which the Council had to take into consideration also, some of which were common to other functional commissions and, in general, to all intergovernmental bodies operating under the Council's mandate, while others referred specifically to the Commission on the Status of Women.

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With regard to the former, it sufficed to recall the continuous increase in the regular budget and programme of the United Nations, which could not go on indefinitely. With regard to the considerations specifically relating to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Council could not forget that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had to service not only the Commission on the Status of Women but the Commission on Social Development also, whose mandate was very broad and intimately linked with economic development. A proper balance must be kept in the work programmes of the two Commissions.

In those circumstances, the Italian delegation considered that the Council might act as follows: when considering the draft resolutions proposed by the Commission containing requests which would imply an expansion of the work programme, it should try to distinguish, among the various proposals, those whose approval would meet a real need and those which might have been hastily formulated without taking into account their feasibility, their cost or the concrete results which could be reached.

The Commission proposed the establishment of regional commissions on the status of women. There was no denying that such a step would favour rapid progress in the elimination of discrimination against women, and in their participation in national development. Similar proposals had been made in the past for the broad field of human rights but the results had been limited. At the present time, there was no knowing how Governments would react to the new proposal or whether they would consider it more convenient to enlarge the mandate of the existing regional economic commission. In such circumstances, his delegation believed that instead of appealing to Governments to create new regional commissions it would be preferable to ask the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the feasibility of the Commission's proposal, to be presented to the Council at its fifty-eighth session.

In the draft resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Commission proposed to invite Governments to consider as part of their long-term programme for the International Women's Year, the desirability of appointing as soon as possible national correspondents to assist them in obtaining and compiling the necessary data on a regular basis. That proposal stemmed from the fact that only 34 Governments had provided the Secretary-General with the data requested for the preparation of the

(Mr. Guariglia, Italy)

last report on the implementation of the Declaration and from the need to improve the efficiency of communications between the United Nations and Governments. In that connexion, he noted that the same problem arose with regard to all reports, and the best way to solve it was to reduce to a minimum the requests for information addressed to Governments. He also noted that the formula of national correspondents was already being applied in the field of social defence and that, before extending it to that of discrimination against women, it would be advisable to evaluate how it operated. For those reasons the Italian delegation was of the opinion that the question should be reconsidered by the Commission at its next session on the basis of updated information on any developments that might have taken place in the institution of national commissions during the International Women's Year.

The draft comprehensive convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women contained some articles in square brackets regarding the adoption of implementation procedures. It was to be hoped that when a comprehensive convention on the status of women was adopted the Covenants on Human Rights and the implementation procedures they contained would still be in force. The Italian delegation had some doubt about the advisability of establishing other implementation procedures, which would place a considerable burden on the Organization and on Member States. He therefore suggested that when the Secretary-General submitted the draft comprehensive convention to Governments, he should call their attention to the implementation procedures provided for in other international instruments.

In the draft resolution on the implementation of a programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development, it was proposed that the Council should authorize the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women or a representative chosen by her to serve as its representative to the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal. The question of a regular participation by members of functional commissions in those committees had been considered by the Commission on Social Development when the International Development Strategy had been launched but at that time the establishment of institutional links between the Commission and those two Committees had not been considered feasible. In the meantime, the

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Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had been created and the legitimate aspiration of the two Commissions to have their voice heard in the periodical evaluations of the results of the Strategy could be met by the regular participation of the Director of the Centre in the sessions of those Committees.

Lastly, he referred to the financial implications of the proposed international conference to be held during International Women's Year. His delegation supported the holding of the international conference, although it noted there was a contradiction between the financial implications of the Conference as shown in document E/CN.6/L.674, and the text of the draft resolution on the Conference, which called upon the Secretary-General to provide substantive preparation for the Conference by a reordering of priorities from within available resources. He noted also that the additional temporary staff requested for the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch, and the volume of pre-conference documentation seemed to be excessive. A further point was that the Conference must not be an obstacle to the implementation of other activities that had already been approved. Lastly, since the proposal to hold an international Conference had been approved by the Commission without it specifying what type of Conference should be held, he would appreciate receiving information from the Secretariat on that point.

There were other sectors of the work programme which might also be considered with a view to simplifying the activities of the United Nations and making them more effective. The Commission itself seemed to be aware of the possibility of combining various activities and of deleting others which were being dealt with by other organs.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in order to speed up the proceedings, the time-limit for the submission of amendments to the draft resolutions in chapter I of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women, except for draft resolution III concerning the international conference, should be 25 April at 1 p.m. He also recalled that the time-lime for completing the consideration of items 14 and 8 was 1 May.

If there were no objections he would take it that the Committee agreed to the time-limits he had indicated.

It was so decided.

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Mr. CABANAS (Spain), supporting draft resolution I, said that the Government of his country, following up the initiative of the United Nations, had agreed to proclaim 1975 as International Women's Year, with a view to attaining the objectives for which it had been established. His Government had also decided to establish a national commission to prepare and implement a programme of action which, based on the indicative programme outlined in annex V of the report, would achieve the objectives of equality, development and peace which constituted the theme of the Year.

He also welcomed the generosity of the Colombian Government which, in the interests of attaining the objectives of the Year, had offered to host the proposed international conference. The conference would attain its objectives of assessing the progress attained and tracing the general guidelines for action still to be taken. Nevertheless, the preparations for the conference and its programme of work must be approached with care.

Draft resolution V, concerning the legal capacity of married women, including the capacity to engage in independent work, was fundamental and should perhaps contain specific statements stipulating the following: (1) marriage did not restrict the capacity to work of either of the spouses, who should be considered juridically equal under the law; (2) each spouse, without requiring the authorization or consent of the other, could engage in any work, trade or profession he or she desired; (3) each spouse, without requiring the authorization or consent of the other, could exercise his or her exclusive rights and activities and administer and dispose of his or her exclusive property; (4) joint action or action by one spouse with the consent of the other would be required for the exercise of the rights enjoyed by both spouses. However, either spouse, acting alone, could perform acts pertaining to the maintenance of the family or the raising of dependants or acts relating to objects or services pertaining to domestic economic life; (5) parental authority was exercised jointly by the mother and the father in respect of the children they had in common; (6) marriage in itself did not alter the nationality of the spouses or, in general, restrict or affect the acquisition, loss or recovery of nationality by either spouse, independently of the other.

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(Mr. Cabanas, Spain)

With regard to draft resolution VI, concerning the study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning, he wondered whether it was not premature to make such decisive statements on matters which the Population Conference was to study and on which it would pronounce itself.

In general, and subject to more specific remarks which his delegation would make in due course, it endorsed the draft resolutions, which sought to ensure the full equality of men and women and to ensure that they enjoyed equal rights. If those rights were to be effectively guaranteed, they must be clearly and precisely formulated, society must be made fully aware of them, and specific instruments must be devised to review them or restore them should they be violated. With that aim in view, his delegation would welcome the elaboration and subsequent adoption of an international legal instrument which would be binding on States in that regard.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) said that the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women had been a valuable contribution to the efforts of the United Nations and of the democratic forces in the world to ensure the equality of men and women in all countries. That session had been significant not only because a number of important decisions had been taken, but also because it had been convened on the eve of International Women's Year, proclaimed by the United Nations in General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII).

As soon as Hitler's tyranny had been overthrown, full legal equality of men and women had been established in the territory of what was now the German Democratic Republic, and all regulations inconsistent with that equality had been revoked. Furthermore, realizing that equality before the law was not automatically equality in everyday life, the leadership of the German Democratic Republic, in building the socialist society, had always been guided by the objective of establishing and promoting the true equality of the sexes.

In particular, that had meant and continued to mean that efforts were made to create and improve material conditions which allowed women to exercise their equal rights, chiefly in the labour, political and educational fields, in conformity with the level of economic development; to formulate a new attitude towards the new role of women in society and in the family; and to create the necessary conditions for

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(Mr. Neugebauer, German Democratic Republic)

giving special protection to women as mothers and acknowledging the social importance of motherhood, for which purpose special measures had been taken in order to establish the compatibility of women's vocational and political roles with motherhood.

Although progress had advanced fairly well in that direction, the process had not been without obstacles and conflicts. A number of problems arose in daily life that the Government of his country and its social forces had to solve. One of those problems, for example, was the high degree of unemployment among women.

The implementation of the recommendations in the programme for the celebration of International Women's Year would be an important step towards the fulfilment of the demands of women in countries where they had not yet been met. Reference should be made in that connexion to the inhuman practices of the Israeli occupation forces in the Arab territories, the racist policies of the régime of apartheid in South Africa and the brutal colonialist terror in the countries still under Portuguese domination. In all those cases, it was women and children who suffered most, and it was therefore necessary to focus activities during International Women's Year on the enforcement of the most elementary human rights in those territories and countries.

In the programme for International Women's Year, emphasis should be placed on the responsibility of women for the maintenance and strengthening of peace, the promotion of a relaxation of international tensions and the co-operation of States on the basis of peaceful coexistence. Without a lasting peace, the fundamental rights of women were called into question. It was therefore vital for all democratic forces to strive for a relaxation of international tensions, as had been achieved particularly in Europe.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic strongly supported the proposal of the Commission on the Status of Women that a comprehensive international convention on the elimination of discrimination against women should be elaborated. The existing draft constituted a sound basis for the elaboration of an international convention, and the adoption of such a convention at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly would undoubtedly be a significant event during International Women's Year.

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(Mr. Neugebauer, German Democratic Republic)

His delegation considered that the proposal to convene an international conference in 1975 was highly questionable. The implementation of the programme for International Women's Year would be better served if all means and resources were employed where they would be really effective. To that end, account should also be taken of the justified demands voiced by many representatives of States Members at the sixth special session of the General Assembly that effective measures be taken to promote economic and social progress, especially in developing countries.

There was no need to convene the proposed conference. It would be preferable if efforts were made to draw attention to pending problems and to mobilize world public opinion. The realization of the equality of men and women was not a matter for women alone, but for all humanity, and particularly for States.

His delegation saw great value in the proposal made by the USSR delegation at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to recommend the inclusion in the agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "The situation and role of women in society, with special emphasis on the need to ensure the equality of women and on the contribution of women to the achievement of the goals of the Second Development Decade, the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, the strengthening of international peace and the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States". That item would not only be relevant to International Women's Year, but would also encourage women to contribute to the fulfilment of the lofty principles of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. BERLIS (Canada) said that many events were being planned in Canada to mark International Women's Year, including an international seminar under United Nations auspices to be held in Ottawa in September of the current year. Measures such as the conference proposed in draft resolution III should ensure that the endeavour to remove discrimination against women were given adequate international and national attention.

The Government and people of Canada looked with favour on the equality of women in society, while holding that recognition should also be given to the universality of many basic rights, regardless of sex or age.

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(Mr. Berliss, Canada)

His delegation supported the general approach and objectives outlined in chapter I of document E/5451.

Mr. MIKOLAJ (Czechoslovakia) said that the socialist society of his country was creating all the conditions necessary for the self-realization of women and their active integration in the process of development. For that reason great importance was attached to International Women's Year, the fundamental ideas of which were equality, development and peace. The Czechoslovak Union of Women, in co-operation with governmental organizations, was preparing a number of activities within the framework of International Women's Year on the basis of the programme prepared by the Commission on the Status of Women. His delegation was sure that the General Assembly at its thirtieth session would pay due attention to the progress and preliminary results of International Women's Year.

The idea of convening a conference during International Women's Year was an inspiring one and should receive due priority within the activities of the United Nations system. There were difficulties about the preparations, however, inasmuch as a number of important conferences, some of them connected with problems pertaining to women, were planned for the following year. It might be advisable to delay convening the conference until a later date, which would give more time to prepare the programme, to take into account the results of International Women's Year and to involve national and international social and scientific organizations in the preparatory work.

His Government attached great importance to some of the proposals contained in the draft convention, such as those relating to the elimination of discrimination against women and to the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. It likewise vigorously supported measures to ensure equality for women in education, work and other economic and social activities.

His delegation also attached great importance to the draft resolution on the protection of women and children in emergency and to the other human issues associated with the protection of women and children from the consequences of armed conflict.

Mr. CURTIN (Australia) said that his delegation hoped that the resolutions and decisions recommended by the Commission could be adopted with few difficulties.

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(Miss Cao Pinna, Italy)

Women's Year and the proposed conference. Preparations for the International Women's Year were already well-advanced in Italy; an interministerial meeting had already taken place in connexion with it and another would be held shortly.

With regard to the amendment proposed by the Brazilian delegation, her delegation had abstained for the same reasons which had led it to abstain in the vote on draft resolution VI, namely, because her Government had not yet concluded its consideration of the report of the Special Rapporteur.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

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742nd meeting

Wednesday, 8 May 1974,  
at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica)

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/5451, chap. I; E/AC.7/L.671)  
(continued)

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) requested the Secretariat to explain what was the present procedure for dealing with communications concerning the status of women, how the Commission on the Status of Women dealt with communications addressed to it for information, and how many and what kinds of communications had been received and dealt with.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights), replying to the representative of the Netherlands, gave some basic information concerning the procedures followed in dealing with communications.

Generally speaking, the basic resolution was Economic and Social Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to compile and distribute to members of the Commission on Human Rights before each session a non-confidential list containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication, however addressed, which dealt with the principles involved in the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights, and to compile a confidential list containing a brief indication of the substance of other communications concerning human rights and to furnish that list to members of the Commission.

In recent years, the Economic and Social Council had approved new procedures for considering communications which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as apartheid. Those procedures had earlier been given thorough study by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. In its resolution 1235 (XLII), the Economic and Social Council had authorized the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to apply the new procedures. In its resolution 1503 (XLVIII), the Council had spelt out the procedure in more detail and had laid down a number of stages for dealing with communications. At the first

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

in that connexion, he thanked the Government of Colombia for offering to act as host for the conference.

His delegation was among the sponsors of draft resolution XIII on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict; that draft resolution reflected the concern of the international community with the fate of women and children, who, because of their special situation, needed special protection. The adoption of that draft resolution was specially important in view of the massacres which were occurring in southern Africa and the continuing violations of human rights in occupied territories.

In conclusion, he stated that after the draft resolution had been adopted by the Economic and Social Council, his delegation would not object to having the resolution considered by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

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727th meeting

Thursday, 25 April 1974,  
at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

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ELECTION OF TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN (concluded)

Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) nominated Mr. SAYAR (Iran) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Sayar (Iran) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. CARRASCO (Chile) nominated Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. Mair (Jamaica) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/5451 and Corr.1 (French only); E/AC.7/L.652, paras. 22-24, E/AC.7/L.653) (continued)

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) noted that in a relatively short session the Commission had raised a great many issues and had produced 14 draft resolutions and four decisions on a variety of subjects. His delegation was able to support many of those resolutions and decisions, including the programme of measures and activities for the International Women's Year. Women's organizations in the Netherlands, with the co-operation of the competent authorities, had for some time been working to make the Year a success. His delegation also supported the convening of an international conference in the context of the International Women's Year. The Conference would serve to identify ways in which the participation of women in the development of an interdependent world could be made even more meaningful.

Draft resolution IX met with the full support of his delegation, but caution must be exercised in evaluating results. Not only the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations within the United Nations system should be guided by that resolution, but also the member States of the organizations, which should present a sufficient number of qualified women as candidates for recruitment to the secretariats.

His delegation appreciated the concern of the Commission for the question of

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(Mr. Speekenbrink, Netherlands)

those of resolution 76 (V). The procedure of resolution 1503 (XLVIII) involved a process of selection, and thus the elimination of communications which did not reveal a consistent pattern of violations of human rights. It would seem, therefore, that communications concerning the status of women could only be considered by the Sub-Commission in so far as they revealed a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, were the Council to endorse the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women. The communications on the status of women which were submitted to the Commission were, however, of a wide variety and included communications on two lists prepared by the Secretary-General. One list contained those communications which involved Member States and were of a confidential nature. The second was a listing of the communications of a more general character and was non-confidential.

His delegation submitted that to delete the consideration of communications on the status of women from the agenda of the Commission on the Status of Women would deprive the Commission of a valuable source of information needed for the proper execution of its mandate.

In view of all those considerations, his delegation's conclusion was that the procedure provided for in resolution 1503 (XLVIII) could not be regarded as a substitute for the procedures followed until now by the Commission and, moreover, that the change suggested to the Council would seriously affect the responsiveness of the United Nations to communications concerning the status of women.

His delegation was therefore submitting for the consideration of the Committee the following draft decision:

"The Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the discussions of the 626th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, held on 31 January 1974, relating to the consideration by the Commission of communications concerning the status of women, invites the Commission to continue dealing with these on the basis of resolution 76 (V) and its subsequently established practice."

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the representative of the Netherlands had disinterred resolutions dating back to 1947. However, Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), to which the Director of the Division of Human Rights had referred, established a new procedure for the consideration

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

of communications concerning violations of human rights, which should be applied to all communications received by the United Nations. The Working Group established under that resolution had already held two sessions and would be meeting again in July. The Working Group received all communications and submitted its conclusions to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which in turn reported to the Commission on Human Rights.

Consequently, the situation envisaged by the representative of the Netherlands - namely, a failure to consider the communications in question - would not arise. Those communications were considered and would continue to be considered. The procedure laid down in resolution 1503 (XLVIII) had proved to be effective in practice, and two years' experience had already been acquired. While it was true that the procedure was confidential, it was a fact that that approach had made it possible for all communications to be studied fully and in detail, in connexion with the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There was nothing to be gained by trying to sort out communications by subject-matter. The decision taken by the Commission on the Status of Women had been correct, and in adopting it the Commission had acted within its field of competence. The purpose of paragraph 4 of the report (E/5451) was to inform the Council of the decision taken by the Commission, which had rightly been considered to be of interest to the Council. All that the Council had to do was to take note of the Commission's decision.

Mr. CURTIN (Australia) pointed out that in the Commission on the Status of Women there had been much discussion on the question of communications. There were many Council resolutions on the question, and it was not clear from the wording of the latest one, resolution 1503 (XLVIII), that it referred to all communications. That resolution specifically cited resolution 728 F (XXVIII). Consequently, it could be argued that communications concerning the status of women would have to be considered in accordance with the provisions of resolution 76 (V).

Moreover, if the draft decision of the Commission on the Status of Women was approved, it would be tantamount to deciding that communications concerning violations of the rights of women would have to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights. However, it was not clear that the Commission

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(Mrs. Kinyanjui, Kenya)

workers were women, it had a particular interest in draft resolution VIII. Most rural women needed all the assistance that could be provided.

Her delegation supported all the Commission's other draft resolutions and decisions, especially the proposal concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women.

Mr. WILSON (Liberia) said that the United Nations had from its inception expressed its concern with women's rights and the status of women, as was shown by the Preamble and Article 8 of the Charter.

The extent of the Commission's contribution to the advancement of women in promoting their rights in the political, civil, economic, social and educational fields could best be measured by the number of instruments which the General Assembly had adopted since 1946. His delegation was therefore gratified that 1975 had been designated as the International Women's Year.

It was appropriate to celebrate the International Women's Year at a conference held in Colombia, since the Inter-American Commission of Women had been the first intergovernmental organization established to take action against discrimination by reason of sex. His delegation wished to express its deep appreciation to the Government of Colombia for its willingness to host the conference.

His delegation fully supported the views expressed at the preceding meeting by the representative of the Soviet Union that the Commission should study the status of women in southern Africa.

Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) said that women in many developing countries represented the most under-developed of those countries' human resources. Their under-development was closely linked with the over-all lack of development of their respective countries. Women had to contend not only with traditional forms of discrimination associated with racism and colonialism, but also with discrimination based on sex. The elevation of women to full partnership with men in the developing world was a difficult and multi-faceted operation. In the third world, their condition was attributable to lack of access to education and to scientific and technical knowledge and skills. Access to science and technology was a function of the educational system, which was itself determined by cultural, political and economic factors. Not only did the developing countries as a whole

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(Mrs. Mair, Jamaica)

lag behind the developed countries as far as access to education was concerned, but within the developing countries women lagged behind men. In some regions, the illiteracy rate among women was as high as 83.7 per cent. Recent gains in literacy had benefited the male population more than the female population. The current world illiteracy rate among adult males was 28 per cent, whereas that among adult females was 40.3 per cent, and the disparity was growing in those very regions of the world which had the highest rates of illiteracy. Although in those same regions the need for rapid economic development called for massive infusions of advanced technology, the limited vocational and scientific training opportunities available locally were offered to men rather than to women. Rural women, in particular, were being restricted from participating fully in the productive life of their communities because of their lack of access to technical expertise. The few women who gained access to industry found themselves employed in areas which were essentially extensions of their traditional domestic role.

If women were to be fully integrated into national and international development, they must be allowed the same access as men to education and technical and scientific training at all levels; they must be provided with equal job opportunities and enjoy professional status, equal pay and promotion and, above all, equal access to decision-making with regard to the uses to be made of science and technology.

The question was also raised of the extent of women's participation at all levels in research programmes such as those concerned with protein malnutrition, human fertility, population, low-cost housing materials, soil conservation and natural disasters. Those were all matters of special concern to women, who could play an important role in determining the priorities of such programmes.

The status of women in a given country reflected to a considerable extent the degree of development of that country. Any attempt to readjust relations between men and women without first restructuring relationships between the developed and developing countries would be unrealistic. She felt that, while the implications of that question should be more clearly identified in the Commission's report, draft resolutions VI, VII, VIII, X and XIV were related to the issues involved and provided some guidance for dealing with the question of the integration of women in development. In particular, the proposals relating to the International Women's

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Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) said that one of the questions raised by the Netherlands representative was whether or not the decision taken by the Commission on the Status of Women required endorsement by the Council. To that question her delegation replied in the affirmative. The decisions of the Commission on the Status of Women should be considered as substantive questions which should be approved or not.

Similarly, the Netherlands representative had asked whether communications relating to the status of women should be dealt with by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in conformity with Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). In paragraph 182 of the report of the Commission on Human Rights it was stated that the Secretary-General distributed to the members of the Commission confidential lists of communications, replies of Governments and a confidential document of a statistical nature. A non-confidential list of communications containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication which dealt with principles involved in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights was also distributed. The communications not selected by the Sub-Commission as revealing a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights were considered by the Commission on Human Rights. The same procedure should be followed in the Commission on the Status of Women.

There were two procedures for dealing with communications on human rights. One of them, the more general procedure, was laid down in Economic and Social Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII). In resolution 1503 (XLVIII) the Economic and Social Council dealt only with communications relating to gross violations of human rights.

She did not understand why the Commission on the Status of Women had taken the decision on communications relating to the status of women.

She felt that the draft decision submitted by the Netherlands (E/AC.7/L.671) was worthy of merit and she was ready to support it.

Mr. WIGGINS (United States of America) said that the decision concerning communications relating to the status of women had been adopted in the Commission on the Status of Women because the proposal made by the Soviet Union then appeared attractive to the members of the Commission since it advocated a single procedure

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(Mr. Wiggins, United States)

for dealing with communications. However, in the light of the subsequent debates and the clarifications made, it could be seen that the decision had been unfortunate.

Nevertheless, the communications relating to the status of women provided the Commission with an indication of the discrimination which existed against women and supplied it with useful information. To send those communications to the Secretariat for consideration under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) would be to deprive the Commission on the Status of Women of that information.

Consequently, his delegation supported the draft decision submitted by the Netherlands delegation in document E/AC.7/L.671.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) stressed that the text of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) was not an amendment to Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII); nor did it replace that resolution. On the contrary, it was an addition, as was clearly indicated in paragraph 1 of resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

The Economic and Social Council was duty bound to take a decision on the question. The decision of the Commission on the Status of Women raised the question of deletion. Under rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission could adopt such a decision. According to rule 6, the provisional agenda for each session of the functional commissions was based on decisions of the Economic and Social Council. Hence, the item on communications on the status of women should be included in the Commission's agenda. The decision of the Commission could not be considered as merely informative. On the contrary, it was necessary either to approve it or not to approve it.

None of the resolutions mentioned provided that the non-confidential lists of communications on human rights should be sent to any other body but the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. If the communications on the status of women were not considered in the Commission on the Status of Women, they would not be considered in any other organ of the United Nations. The decision adopted by the Commission did not favour the interests of women.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that in the Commission on the Status of

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(Mr. Roux, Belgium)

accepted at the European level, Belgium intended to organize a symposium to discuss a basic theme of concern to the countries of the region, with a view to formulating a long-term policy.

Referring to draft resolution XIII, he agreed with the representative of Sweden that the draft should be referred to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly for consideration by the Sixth Committee. The Economic and Social Council should, for the time being, simply take note of the draft so as not to prejudge the outcome of the Diplomatic Conference in Geneva and to avoid the fragmentation of humanitarian law.

Mrs. BAZARKHAND (Mongolia) said that the Constitution of the Mongolian People's Republic provided for equal rights for women in all spheres of life and that there were also a number of laws designed to protect the interests of mothers and children. Women played an active part in the construction of the socialist society and currently accounted for 22.9 per cent of the members of Parliament, 46 per cent of teachers, 50 per cent of physicians, 39.7 per cent of students at higher education institutions and 50.4 per cent of secondary school students.

Her delegation supported the celebration of International Women's Year in 1975. In that year, Mongolia would undertake a special programme of activities throughout the country. As far as the international conference was concerned, her delegation hoped that the purposes and expected benefits of the conference would be carefully assessed in the light of the numerous suggestions put forward by other delegations. Her delegation had listened with great interest to the proposal to hold a special session of the General Assembly devoted to International Women's Year. That proposal deserved careful consideration by the Committee.

Draft resolution I

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, while having no objection to the draft resolution as a whole, he wished to express some reservations with regard to the programme referred to in paragraph 1. His delegation intended to submit a number of amendments to the programme.

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the discussion of draft resolution I should be postponed until the Soviet Union delegation had submitted its amendments.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that it would be helpful if the Secretariat could provide answers to the questions asked by delegations concerning the International Women's Year and the international conference.

The CHAIRMAN said that he understood that the Secretariat would be able to provide the relevant information at the next meeting.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to draft resolutions I and III, asked whether the Secretariat could tell the Committee what related seminars and meetings had been held under United Nations auspices during 1972 and 1973, and what specific events were planned for 1974 and 1975.

Draft resolution II

Draft resolution II was adopted.

Draft resolution III

The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since some questions relating to draft resolution III required clarification and since, in particular, more specific information was needed concerning the financial implications, the Committee should postpone consideration of it.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution IV

Draft resolution IV was adopted.

Draft resolution V

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that Egyptian women participated not only in the economic and social spheres but also in the civil and political life of the country. They were active in politics at the popular level and were also represented in the National Assembly and the Cabinet. However, the provisions of paragraph 1 of draft resolution V had to be understood in the context of the

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

of women. It would thus be artificial to establish a dividing line between communications concerning human rights and communications concerning the status of women; the procedure provided for in resolution 1503 (XLVIII) should apply to both.

Consequently, his delegation supported the amendment proposed by Poland, and also considered the observation by Brazil to be very relevant. All the Committee could do for the time being was to take note and defer consideration of the question until a later stage, when the report of the Commission on Human Rights would be available.

Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) proposed that the phrase "and to submit to the Council at its sixtieth session a report on that matter" should be added at the end of the decision proposed by the Netherlands.

Mr. CURTIN (Australia) said it might be preferable to request the Secretary-General to prepare his report for the fifty-eighth session of the Council.

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil) formally proposed that the following phrase should be inserted at the end of the text proposed by Poland for the last part of draft decision E/AC.7/L.671: "and requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the fifty-eighth session of the Council, an explanatory report on all the relevant resolutions and procedures dealing with communications concerning human rights".

Mr. CURTIN (Australia) supported the Brazilian proposal and proposed that the words "with a view to allowing the Council to take a decision on the matter" should be added at the end of the Brazilian text. He also considered it would be preferable to say "bearing in mind the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women" rather than "takes note of the decision ...".

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) asked whether it would be possible to add to the Brazilian text the words "and the status of women".

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil) said he saw no objection to that proposal.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) asked whether Poland would object if the text submitted by Brazil, with the Australian addition, which he found acceptable in principle, were amended so that the words "status of women" were followed by

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(Mr. Speekenbrink, Netherlands)

"requests the Secretary-General to prepare, ...". In that way, the Council would take no measures pending receipt of the information it had requested. In any case, the Commission on the Status of Women would not meet in 1975 and there would be time to revert to the item with better preparation.

Mr. ILOY (Congo) said that, as the representative of the Soviet Union had observed, resolution 1503 (XLVIII) established a clear and specific procedure for dealing with communications. Adoption of the Netherlands amendment would perpetuate a situation involving duplication, which the Polish amendment sought to avoid.

If the Council wanted more information on procedural questions, it could add the text proposed by Brazil to the Polish amendment. It was unnecessary to perpetuate the division between communications concerning violations of human rights and communications concerning the status of women. Both cases involved violations of human rights.

He urged the Netherlands representative not to insist on that division and to withdraw his request to the representative of Brazil to add a specific reference to communications concerning the status of women to the Brazilian text.

Mr. LUBIK (Poland) said he could accept the text proposed by Brazil but not the amendment to that text suggested by Australia.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in his view the best course would be to accept the original Brazilian text. He felt that the addition proposed by Australia was not very appropriate, since it would mean that the Council would have to reconsider the question of communications as a whole. The report by the Secretariat would give a complete picture of the procedure followed with regard to communications, which would be very useful for the purpose of a better understanding and application of that procedure. However, the report should not be used for the purpose of changing the existing procedure.

Mr. CURTIN (Australia) said that he had submitted his suggestion with a view to reaching a better understanding in the Committee, and would not press it. He had no objections to the Polish text, but would have preferred it to read "bearing in mind the decision of the Commission ...".

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(Mrs. Bruce)

through a representative designated by the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women who had acted as an observer and also participated in the discussions of those two bodies. . The sponsors of draft resolution VII present in the Commission might be able to provide further elucidation.

Mr. THOMPSON-FLORES (Brazil) said that, although there were some precedents for the representation of one body on another body, that was not the normal procedure in the United Nations and the adoption of paragraph 2 might lead to a proliferation of the practice. Since the matter had not been fully discussed in the Commission on the Status of Women, he questioned whether the time was ripe for a discussion of the matter in the Committee.

Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) said that he was somewhat confused concerning the meaning of the second part of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution and the proposed role of the Commission in that context. It appeared that the assistance requested would be forthcoming from the Secretariat, so that the precise function of the Commission seemed unclear.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) proposed that, in view of the importance of draft resolution VII, particularly since 1975 would mark the mid-point review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade, the wording of paragraph 2 should be changed and the draft resolution adopted forthwith. Without prejudging the competence of the Commission on the Status of Women to revert to the question of appointing a representative to attend meetings of the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal, he proposed that paragraph 2 should be replaced by the following wording:

"Invites the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal to utilize the expertise available in the Secretariat in the field of women's integration in development when preparing comments on the entire review process".

Mrs. HENDSCH (United States of America) said that, in view of the

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(Mrs. Hendsch, United States)

importance of the role of women in all development programmes during the Second Development Decade and the importance attached by the Commission on the Status of Women to the enhancement of that role, it would be helpful if the Committee could be informed by the Secretariat of the implications for the Commission's programmes of the proposed change in the wording of paragraph 2 of draft resolution VII. There had been a great deal of discussion in the Commission concerning the slowness with which women were being integrated in the activities of the Second Development Decade. It had been felt that the increased involvement of the Commission on the Status of Women in the review and appraisal activities of the Committee on Review and Appraisal would assist the latter in making its final judgements in the mid-term review process. She felt that further clarification was necessary before the Committee proceeded to a vote.

Mrs. SIPIILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that she was not at present in a position fully to answer the questions put. With regard to the aspect referred to by the Brazilian representative, she would point out that similar cases had arisen before. It had been customary for a representative of the Commission on the Status of Women to attend meetings of the Commission on Human Rights. While the terms of reference of neither body stipulated that that should always be the case, the practice had begun many years earlier, because both bodies dealt with human rights and the Commission on the Status of Women had originated as a sub-commission of the Commission on Human Rights and had been established as a separate functional commission because the question of women's rights was so wide a field, affecting as it did one half of mankind. That separation had taken place as early as 1946. There was a close connexion between the issues before the two bodies, and representation of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Commission on Human Rights had helped the latter to follow the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and vice versa. From her own personal experience as a representative of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Commission on Human Rights, she had found that two-way interaction most valuable.

In the first review and appraisal exercise, the question of the integration of women and the integration of youth, which was a vital part of the international

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(Mrs. Sipila)

development strategy, had been completely ignored and there had been nothing on those questions in the relevant report or in the recommendations for the future. It had been her understanding that the Commission on the Status of Women had expressed the wish, at its last session, that someone having a full knowledge of the difficulties experienced by women should be present at meetings of the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal to raise pertinent questions and report back to the Commission. She agreed that the question of the integration of women in development should not become a science in itself. Unfortunately, there had been a trend in that direction, because some of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women had been attended by women representing their Governments but not participating in other United Nations activities and not linked with other United Nations bodies. Very few representatives to the Commission on the Status of Women were represented on the Economic and Social Council or the organs of the General Assembly.

In reply to the point raised by the United States representative, she replied that the Secretariat was always ready to give whatever assistance was requested of it. However, she did not know whether the Egyptian amendment would mean that a representative of the Secretariat would be required to be present in the two Committees on a permanent basis in order to raise questions as necessary in the course of the debate or whether the Secretariat would be required to play a passive role and merely make statements when specifically asked to. If more active participation was required, the Secretariat would be able to provide it, but she was not sure whether the Secretariat would be accorded the same importance as a person specifically designated by the Economic and Social Council to represent the Commission on the Status of Women and state its views.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the proposed Egyptian amendment was well justified. If the Chairman or a member of the Commission on the Status of Women participated in the meetings of the Committee for Development Planning or the Committee on Review and Appraisal, they would have to act within the terms of reference given them by the Commission and would not be in a position to speak in their personal capacity. The Commission on the Status of Women was an organ of the United Nations within its own strictly

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

delineated field. Other bodies, such as the Commission on Human Rights and the other functional commissions received documents prepared by the Commission on the Status of Women and took due account of them.

In paragraph 6 of draft resolution VII, he proposed that the term "non-governmental organizations" should be preceded by the word "competent" and followed by the words "in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council".

With regard to paragraph 8, in the light of the comments made by the Italian and Egyptian representatives, he rather doubted whether the Secretary-General would be able to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session such a broad report, covering budgetary expenditures involved in the implementation of programmes for women for the current biennium and the following biennium. It would be desirable to allow the Secretary-General flexibility in the preparation of the report, although exact figures would be useful if they could be provided. Specific injunctions as to what should be included in the report were inappropriate, because they would place an unnecessary burden on the Secretary-General.

Mrs. HENDSCH (United States of America) pointed out that the requests contained in draft resolution VII were the result of long deliberations in the Commission on the Status of Women on how to ensure the full integration of women in development. It had been felt that more action was necessary in order to make progress. The Commission had attached great importance to the integration of women in development, which was a major item in the programme for International Women's Year and the related international conference. It felt that the information requested was important and necessary for its further recommendations in that field. She urged the Economic and Social Council to bear that in mind before taking action to limit the information to be made available to the Commission in its future work.

Mr. CURTIN (Australia) thought that consideration of draft resolution VII should be postponed. He agreed that paragraph 2 needed to be changed, perhaps along the lines of the Egyptian amendment. He was not entirely sure that the last two lines of paragraph 6 were necessary. Paragraph 7 also required study.

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Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) reiterated that the Commission had made every effort to ensure that the integration of women in development was given the fullest consideration in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy. The original recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women should therefore receive appropriate attention.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should postpone further consideration of draft resolution VII and the proposed changes until its next meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

728th meeting

Thursday, 25 April 1974,  
at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica)

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/5451; E/AC.7/L.652, paras. 22-24 L.653, L.654, L.657, L.658) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Committee to continue their consideration of draft resolution VII (Implementation of a programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development).

Mrs. HENDSCH (United States of America) proposed that paragraph 2 should be amended to read:

"Requests the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal, when preparing comments on the entire review process, to utilize the expertise available in the Secretariat in the field of women's integration in development and to take fully into account the recommendations and conclusions of the various seminars organized under United Nations auspices in this field, including the interregional meeting of experts of June 1972." Her delegation could accept the amendment suggested by the delegation of the USSR concerning non-governmental organizations.

She suggested that paragraph 8 should be reworded as follows, in order to clarify its meaning:

"Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session a report on the allocation of funds and personnel to separate and identify programmes for women within existing development programmes being undertaken by the United Nations system of organizations aimed at achieving the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and of General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) for the current biennium and the proposed increase for the next proposed biennium."

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Mr. LUBIK (Poland) proposed that paragraph 8 be amended to read:

"Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session on the part played by women in achieving the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and of General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV)". The last three lines of the original version of the paragraph should be deleted.

He also suggested that paragraph 10 should be deleted.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) asked the representative of Poland to clarify his delegation's amendment to paragraph 8, since, if it were adopted, the exact scope of the report requested would not be specified. In the original text it was clear that the report would refer to programmes for women in the United Nations system of organizations. She would like to know whether, according to the Polish amendment, the report would refer only to United Nations programmes or also to programmes at the national level and, if the latter were the case, she asked how the relevant information on national programmes would be obtained.

Mr. LUBIK (Poland) said that he would answer Mrs. Bruce's question subsequently. He had suggested that the last part of paragraph 8, which referred to financial implications, should be deleted because he saw no need for such a reference.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the United States amendment to paragraph 2 was very similar to that proposed by the Egyptian delegation. The only difference was that the United States proposed that the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal should take fully into account the various seminars organized under United Nations auspices. His delegation had difficulties with that suggestion, because it was not certain to what extent United Nations organs could receive proposals from seminars. It would be best to achieve a balance between the work of the Committee on Review and Appraisal and the Committee for Development Planning, on the one hand, and the Commission on the Status of Women, on the other. For that purpose, it would be sufficient for the two Committees mentioned to take into account the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women concerning the objectives referred to in the draft resolution. It would not then be necessary to refer to the seminars.

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Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), referring to the amendment submitted by the delegation of the United States, said that it must be determined whether the reference to seminars also included the intergovernmental consultations on development to be carried out in the various regions.

Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) said that, if the United States amendment to paragraph 2 of the draft resolution was accepted, paragraph 4 would no longer be necessary.

Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago), supported by Mrs. HENDSCH (United States of America) and Mr. WILSON (Liberia), said that, in view of the difficulties arising from draft resolution VII and from the number of amendments submitted, it would be better to postpone a decision so that the amendments could be circulated in writing to members of the Committee.

Mr. DUMAS (France) and Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the suggestion of the representative of Trinidad and Tobago; the Secretariat should circulate the amendments in writing so that delegations would have a basis upon which to establish informal contacts with the sponsors of amendments.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, she would consider that the Committee decided to postpone consideration of draft resolution VII until delegations had submitted their amendments in writing.

It was so decided.

#### Draft resolution IX

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that, since draft resolution IX of the Commission had been adopted by consensus, his delegation had no insuperable difficulty with it. However, the Commission had not given sufficient attention to the wider considerations that governed questions of personnel management, and consequently the draft resolution displayed ambiguity and omissions which the Committee might wish to rectify.

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(Mr. Broad, United Kingdom)

For that reason, he proposed two amendments to draft resolution IX (E/AC.7/L.654). The first referred to paragraph 1, in which the words "in strict accordance with equitable geographical distribution" would be replaced by the words "without prejudice to the provisions of Article 101 of the Charter". The reference to Article 101 of the Charter would ensure that both equitable geographical distribution and the highest standard of efficiency were ensured.

The second amendment concerned paragraph 3, in which it was proposed to delete the words "without any financial implications" and insert "within existing budget allocations". While his delegation had doubts concerning the proliferation of advisory committees whose task, as in the present case, could be carried out by the respective personnel departments within the existing system, it did not wish to oppose such a suggestion. The phrase "without any financial implications" represented an impracticable proposal and it would therefore be more realistic to replace it by the phrase he had proposed.

Although he had not submitted an amendment to paragraph 4, he would like to place on record that, in his delegation's view, the information requested was already available so far as the United Nations was concerned in the documentation submitted annually by the Secretary-General to the Fifth Committee. On 18 December 1973, the General Assembly had adopted a decision, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, taking note of the Secretary-General's report on differential treatment based on sex under the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules, on the understanding that specific proposals for action would be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. In his delegation's view, the decision was parallel to that mentioned in paragraph 4 of draft resolution IX and would be taken into account when the Secretary-General reported to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

Furthermore, he suggested deletion of the words "especially those" from the second preambular paragraph.

Mr. BERLIS (Canada) said that paragraph 2 urged the Secretary-General to adopt a more flexible and positive approach in the recruitment of women. Perhaps the word "positive" could be understood to mean that efforts should be made to recruit more women. The word "flexible" was somewhat vague and he would like some clarification.

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Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that it was possible that the Commission had felt that the word "flexible" was the opposite of "in strict accordance with equitable geographical distribution". For example, there might be qualified women who came from countries whose quotas were already filled. The use of the word "flexible" might also mean that, rather than waiting for applicants, the United Nations should carry out a campaign to request Governments to encourage women to submit applications for employment and propose candidates.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reserved the right to speak at a later stage concerning the remaining draft resolutions. The importance of draft resolution IX should be viewed in the context of Chapter XV of the Charter. The United Kingdom had proposed amendments which his delegation could accept in principle, particularly the amendment to paragraph 3.

The contents of the fourth preambular paragraph did not belong in a resolution of the Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, the last part of the fifth preambular paragraph was unnecessary.

With regard to the operative part of the draft resolution, he stressed the need to recall Article 101 of the Charter. There existed clear provisions governing the recruitment of personnel, including that Article of the Charter and the Staff Regulations. Although the United Kingdom amendment to paragraph 1 was acceptable, it would be preferable to formulate it affirmatively. The expression "in strict accordance with equitable geographical distribution" could be replaced by the words "in strict accordance with the Charter of the United Nations". In the same paragraph, the reference to international, regional and national levels in the United Nations was unclear. United Nations bodies were not at all national in character. The last four words of the paragraph contributed nothing and could be deleted.

With regard to paragraph 2, the Secretary-General was always guided by the provisions of the Charter. The words "in accordance with their constituent acts and the Staff Regulations" could be inserted after the words "United Nations system".

With regard to paragraph 3, he endorsed the remarks of the representative of the United Kingdom concerning the proliferation of committees. Moreover, it was unclear what type of advisory committee would be established. Bodies already

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

existed which dealt specifically with personnel matters. He doubted whether it was necessary for the Economic and Social Council to request the Secretary-General to establish a new body. Accordingly, paragraph 3 could be deleted.

Lastly, far from objecting to the recruitment of qualified women, his delegation favoured such a policy. However, the provisions of the Staff Regulations and the United Nations Charter must not be forgotten.

Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago), introducing her delegation's amendment to paragraph 1 of draft resolution IX (E/AC.7/L.657), said that her delegation had deemed it appropriate to table the amendment because it considered that the expression "in strict accordance with equitable geographical distribution" posed an obstacle to the recruitment of male and female personnel from the developing countries.

Her delegation could accept the version proposed by the USSR delegation, minus the word "strict".

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil), referring to the amendment submitted by Trinidad and Tobago, said that the deletion of the reference to the principle of geographical distribution would give priority to the principle of the balance between the sexes in the recruitment of personnel. However, geographical distribution was equally important, particularly for the developing countries. He could accept the deletion of the adjective "strict", but not the deletion of the reference to the principle of geographical distribution.

Paragraph 2 gave the impression that the Secretary-General was being asked to apply more flexible - in other words - more partial criteria in the recruitment of women. The adjective "qualified" was used only in connexion with the assignments given to women; accordingly, the word "qualified" should also be inserted after the words "recruitment of".

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that, after hearing the remarks concerning the amendment proposed by his delegation (E/AC.7/L.654), he wished to propose the following amendment to the paragraph in question, which would read as follows: "1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system to take all necessary measures in order to ensure, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution, ...". The rest of the paragraph would remain unchanged.

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Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) objected to the existing version of the second preambular paragraph. The final clause, "especially those relevant to the status of women", should be deleted; moreover, the expression "this has resulted in" in the third line seemed excessive and could be replaced by the phrase "this has promoted".

Mr. KACIMAIWAI (Fiji) said that the phrase "this has resulted in a more effective implementation of the aims and programmes of the United Nations", in the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, was an exaggeration and was insulting to men; it should be replaced by the words "this has not diminished ...".

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil), reverting to the second preambular paragraph, said that perhaps it should be deleted. With regard to paragraph 1, he emphasized what he had stated concerning the importance of geographical distribution for the developing countries and added that his delegation could accept the United Kingdom proposal.

Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) endorsed the Brazilian representative's position concerning paragraph 1 and said that it was national Governments which, in proposing candidates for Secretariat posts, should be concerned with maintaining a balance between the sexes.

Mrs. SHUEH Jen-wu (China) said that the spirit displayed at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women should be maintained in connexion with the recruitment of women in the Secretariat.

Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that her delegation accepted the suggestion of Brazil to delete the second preambular paragraph entirely. With regard to paragraph 1, her delegation could accept the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

Mr. OSMAN (Egypt) endorsed the Brazilian proposal to delete the second preambular paragraph, which expressed a highly objectionable value judgement.

With regard to paragraph 1, his delegation supported the text just proposed by the United Kingdom.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) endorsed the United Kingdom amendment to paragraph 1 (E/AC.7/L.654).

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(Mr. von Kyaw, Federal Republic of Germany)

With regard to the second preambular paragraph, he suggested that the third line should be replaced by the following: "this has contributed to the effective implementation ...". He also suggested that the last phrase in the paragraph should be deleted.

Mr. KACIMAIWAI (Fiji) supported the text proposed by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, for it was true that women had performed satisfactory work in the United Nations and that fact should be acknowledged in the draft resolution.

With regard to paragraph 2, he proposed that the word "flexible" in the third line should be replaced by the word "equitable".

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil) said that, since the Committee did not appear to agree concerning the second preambular paragraph, he wished to propose that it should read as follows: "Noting with appreciation that the appointment of women to positions of responsibility in the United Nations system of organizations has contributed to the effective implementation of the aims and programmes of the United Nations,".

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation supported the text proposed by the Brazilian delegation.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that his delegation also endorsed the text proposed by the Brazilian delegation.

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that she had to approach the debate from a personal point of view, since she had recently been appointed to a high post in the United Nations system. From that standpoint, she hesitated to accept the proposed texts and believed that the best solution would be to conform strictly to the United Nations Charter.

Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that her delegation was disappointed that the Brazilian delegation had preferred to submit an amendment to the second preambular paragraph rather than delete it. If that paragraph was not deleted, her delegation would prefer to retain the original language.

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil), supported by Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany), said that in the light of the discussion it would seem most appropriate to delete the paragraph.

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The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, she would take it that the Committee decided to delete the second preambular paragraph of draft resolution IX.

It was so decided.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that the words "international, regional and national" at the end of paragraph 1 should be deleted.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, she would take it that the Committee decided to delete the words "international, regional and national" at the end of paragraph 1.

It was so decided.

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil), referring to operative paragraph 2, said that he had proposed the insertion of the word "qualified" after the words "recruitment of".

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled his suggestion that, in order to take account of the Staff Regulations, the words "in accordance with the Staff Regulations" should be inserted after the word "adopt" in operative paragraph 2.

Mr. OSMAN (Egypt) suggested, in view of the ambiguity of the expression "a more flexible and positive approach", the following revised text: "Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system, in order to attain this objective, to give greater attention to the recruitment and promotion of women, as well as to the assignments given to them".

The Soviet representative's proposal for a reference to the Staff Regulations was acceptable, as was the insertion of the word "qualified". However, the Secretary-General was always guided by the Staff Regulations, and persons who were recruited were always "qualified".

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the amendment suggested by the representative of Egypt.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the new revised text of operative paragraph 2.

It was so decided.

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Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) formally proposed, in reply to a question by the Chairman, that operative paragraph 3 should be deleted.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, when operative paragraph 3 had been under consideration in the Commission on the Status of Women, the reference to financial implications had been added to make it clear that the establishment of an advisory committee was being requested within the limits of existing resources. The need for such a body had also been stressed. The intention had not been to establish one committee common to all organizations; rather, each organization should establish an advisory committee with the resources available.

Mr. BERLIS (Canada) said that the English text was not at all clear on that point, although the French text was. Either it should be specified that the advisory committee would be established within each organization or the term "advisory committee" should be put in the plural.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) said that the organizations already had their own staff committees, and he wondered whether the establishment of an advisory committee of the kind proposed would not involve duplication.

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said it might be best to place on record the fact that what was wanted was an advisory committee within the secretariat of each organization.

Although some proposal was needed on how to achieve a better balance in the United Nations system, the existing staff committee had not yet considered the question. An informal group had been set up to try to determine what could be done to promote the advancement of women in the Organization.

In view of certain pressures, the Secretary-General had considered the desirability of establishing a committee to advise him on that point. It was quite proper to recommend that the possibility of appointing a few persons to advise the Secretary-General on the subject should be considered.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed surprise at the reference to pressures on the Secretary-General. There were already various groups responsible for personnel questions, and there was no need to establish an advisory committee which would serve no useful purpose. His delegation was not

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

opposed to there being more women in the United Nations system; it merely had doubts as to the desirability of establishing a new advisory committee.

The organizations had their own regulations, and the Economic and Social Council could not decide what they should do. The Secretary-General and the secretariats of the organizations would have to consider that question as a whole.

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, in speaking of "pressures", she had been referring to a recent series of articles in the press on the appointment of women to positions of responsibility in the United Nations. As to the phrase under discussion, the problem could perhaps be solved by replacing the words "establish an advisory committee" by "consider the desirability of establishing an advisory committee".

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) wondered whether the question had not already been discussed in ACC. In view of the wording of paragraph 2, which had just been adopted, it was doubtful whether paragraph 3 was really necessary.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) agreed that paragraph 3 should be deleted.

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), replying to the comments made by the representative of the Netherlands, said that ACC had not so far considered the question, but would do so at the summer session of the Economic and Social Council.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the proposal for the deletion of paragraph 3. The proposal was adopted by 19 votes to none, with 22 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, she would take it that draft resolution IX, as amended, was adopted.

It was so decided.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the reference to paragraph 3 in operative paragraph 4 of the resolution was inappropriate, since in the final version paragraph 3 had been deleted.

#### Draft resolution VI

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil) introduced the amendments to draft resolution VI (E/AC.7/L.658) on behalf of his delegation and the other sponsors.

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(Mr. Thompson Flores, Brazil)

The first amendment would insert a new paragraph similar to one already included in Economic and Social Council resolution 1763 (LIV).

The second amendment would replace the fourth preambular paragraph - which, if the first amendment was adopted, would become the fifth paragraph - by a more balanced text stating that the advancement of women was a result of development, rather than the other way round.

Where operative paragraph 3 was concerned, the amendment to the introductory part was based on the principle that every country was entitled to choose its own guidelines for the formulation of its population policies and therefore it was inappropriate that using the report of the Special Rapporteur as a guideline should be made obligatory. The rest of the sentence would become subparagraph (a), and the other subparagraphs would be relettered accordingly. In addition, it was proposed that the words "when appropriate" should be inserted after the word "promotion" in the present subparagraph (b), which would become subparagraph (c).

With regard to paragraph 4, the sponsors of the amendment considered that distribution of the report of the Special Rapporteur to Member States was acceptable but that the remainder of the paragraph was not.

The deletion of paragraph 7 (a) was proposed because to adopt such a provision would mean giving a blank cheque to the Secretary-General, who would be able to undertake all kinds of studies the financial implications of which could not be foreseen.

With respect to the last preambular paragraph of resolution VI, he proposed that the word "basic" before the word "principles" should be deleted, together with the phrase "and defines basic concepts which are highly relevant".

Mr. SCHWARTZ GIRON (Spain) said he agreed with the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.658, since in his opinion they improved the text of draft resolution VI.

With regard to operative paragraph 3, his delegation had some doubts about using the report of the Special Rapporteur, not because the report was unimportant but because it considered that each country should be free to formulate its own population policies. Moreover, the way in which the paragraph was worded seemed to imply that Member States should use the report without waiting for the conclusions that might be reached at the World Population Conference in Bucharest.

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Miss JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina) reiterated that her delegation was opposed to draft resolution VI because, as had been stated during the debates in the Commission on the Status of Women, it objected to the philosophy underlying the draft resolution in so far as the status of women was closely linked to family planning.

Her delegation appreciated that that short-coming was not directly attributable to the Special Rapporteur but was due to the way in which she had been requested to carry out the study; nevertheless it regretted that other factors which influenced the status of women, such as education, the creation of greater opportunities for employment and the enactment of laws that would consider women harmoniously in their triple role as individuals, mothers and workers, had not been duly assessed.

Nor could her delegation accept the assertion that reducing population growth was a prerequisite for development; that theory could only apply in specific conditions of extreme shortage of natural resources and, even so, it should be accompanied by a change in the productive and socio-economic structure in which the role of women would be given consideration so that they could become effectively involved in all spheres of activity in a country.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

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729th meeting

Friday, 26 April 1974,  
at 11 a.m.Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/5451; E/AC.7/L.652, paras. 22-24, E/AC.7/L.653, L.655, L.656, L.658-663) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to continue its consideration of the draft resolutions contained in chapter I of the Commission's report (E/5451) and the amendments thereto.

Draft resolution XII

Draft resolution XII was adopted.

Draft resolution XIII

Mr. STAHL (Sweden) recalled that, in its general statement (E/AC.7/SR.725), his delegation had made some reservations concerning certain provisions of draft resolution XIII and had concluded by stating that it might be wise to submit the report of the Secretary-General in document E/CN.6/586, as well as draft resolution XIII, to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly to be considered in the Sixth Committee under the item "Respect for human rights in armed conflicts", under which head the report on the first session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflict would be discussed. The Committee should recommend to the Economic and Social Council that, if the Council adopted draft resolution XIII, it should in its report to the General Assembly make a recommendation that the draft resolution be considered in the Sixth Committee.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands), said that the question of the enhancement and development of the principles of international humanitarian law was being dealt with by the Diplomatic Conference at Geneva. The draft declaration submitted by the Commission on the Status of Women could not be separated from that work. His delegation believed that the draft declaration should be regarded as a suggestion made by the Commission for the further development of international humanitarian law on a matter which was, indeed,

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(Mr. Speekenbrink, Netherlands)

of great importance. Consequently, the Economic and Social Council should not express itself on the substance of the draft declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict by recommending its adoption to the General Assembly. Without prejudging the substance of the draft, his delegation would for that reason abstain in the vote on draft resolution XIII.

Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said that the Economic and Social Council should be extremely cautious in dealing with the proposed draft declaration set forth in resolution XIII, in the light of current developments in the international community. As the Netherlands representative had pointed out, the question was under consideration by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflict, being held at Geneva, which had not yet completed its work. The Diplomatic Conference had set up a working group on the question of incendiary weapons, and that working group was to meet in April. It would therefore seem advisable to wait until the working group had completed its task. She wondered whether the Swedish representative could agree to a recommendation that consideration of the draft declaration should be postponed until the Diplomatic Conference at Geneva had completed its work, although that would not happen before the commencement of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) recalled that, in his general statement, he had made known his delegation's position concerning the importance of the draft declaration contained in draft resolution XIII. His delegation would not object to the text being discussed by the Sixth Committee after its adoption by the Economic and Social Council. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1687 (LII) had requested the Secretary-General and the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the desirability of drafting a declaration on the subject of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict, and the Commission could not remain blind to the torment being suffered by women and children in various parts of the world. Similarly, it would be a sad omission for the Council to fail to take action on the draft declaration that had been prepared. The Council had full competence to state its position on the matter, and it should recommend adoption of the declaration to the General Assembly.

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

The declaration was general in nature and merely reflected the just concern of the international community on a vital subject. There was no reason why action to protect women and children in emergency and armed conflict should be delayed until the conclusion of the Diplomatic Conference at Geneva. In order to stress the urgent need for action, he cited the atrocities committed in the village of Wirijami, Mozambique, on 16 December 1972, which were described in detail in paragraph 112 of the Secretary-General's report on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence (E/CN.6/586). Similar atrocities against women and children were being committed in other parts of the world such as southern Africa and the Middle East. For all those reasons, the Economic and Social Council should adopt the draft declaration in draft resolution XIII.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stressed that in the Commission no vote had been cast against the draft resolution, whose adoption had been one of the most substantial achievements of the Commission's twenty-fifth session. The question of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence was most important and urgent. Emergency situations posed special threats to women and children, who were extremely vulnerable population groups. The draft declaration was a substantive contribution to the guaranteeing of their protection. His delegation believed that the Economic and Social Council should adopt the resolution containing it at its current session and thereby play a small part in resolving a major issue.

He fully agreed with the Egyptian representative's remarks concerning the importance and timeliness of the issue under discussion. While his delegation did not feel that there was any direct link between the Geneva Diplomatic Conference, which was concerned with the whole range of issues relating to humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict, it nevertheless believed that the adoption of the draft declaration would assist the Geneva Conference in its work. Accordingly, his delegation would support draft resolution XIII and appealed to other delegations to do likewise.

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Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) said that, in the Commission on the Status of Women, his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution XIII, but had stated that the text of the draft declaration as presently worded was incomplete and should be brought into line with the 1949 Geneva Conventions. His delegation had understood at that time that the question would be discussed by the Geneva Conference before the Economic and Social Council met and that the Economic and Social Council would take a decision in the light of the conclusions of the Conference. However, the Conference had not yet completed its work.

He supported the Swedish view that the question should be discussed by the competent organ of the General Assembly. However, as an indication of its support for the concept of ensuring protection for women and children in emergency and armed conflict, his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution XIII, on the understanding that the text of the draft declaration would be finalized by the General Assembly.

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia) said that, as her delegation had stated in the general debate, draft resolution XIII was extremely important and her delegation would support it. Her delegation could not agree to postponement of the discussion and referral of the text to another body. The Economic and Social Council was fully competent to discuss the question. Draft resolution XIII was based on humanitarian considerations, and it was untrue to say that adoption of the draft declaration would prejudice the work of the Geneva Conference.

Mr. TEMBOURY (Spain) emphasized the necessity of taking urgent steps to ensure the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict. Although the most appropriate forum for discussion of that issue was the Geneva Conference, there would be no conflict of interests if the Economic and Social Council adopted the draft declaration set forth in draft resolution XIII and submitted it to the Geneva Conference as a contribution to its work. Accordingly, his delegation would support draft resolution XIII.

Mr. WILSON (Liberia) supported the views expressed by the representatives of Egypt, Yugoslavia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. While the Geneva Conference was under way, women and children were dying in southern Africa, the Middle East and Viet-Nam. Draft resolution XIII was strictly humanitarian in nature, and his delegation would vote in favour of it.

Mr. CHABALA (Zambia) said that his delegation fully supported the content of draft resolution XIII, which it considered, for the reasons already given by other delegations, to be of the highest importance.

Mrs. ENOKIDANI (Japan) said that, if draft resolution XIII was put to the vote - as she hoped it would be - her delegation would abstain, for the reasons given by the representatives of Italy and the Netherlands.

Mr. ROUX-LOPEZ (Mexico) said that his delegation would abstain in the vote on draft resolution XIII, for the reasons given by the representative of Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland.

Mr. LUBIK (Poland) said that, for the reasons given by the representatives of Egypt, the USSR and Liberia, his delegation would support draft resolution XIII.

Mr. ROUX (Belgium) said that, for the reasons he had stated the previous day and for the reasons stated by the Swedish representative, his delegation would abstain in the vote.

Mrs. BAZARKHAND (Mongolia) said that her delegation believed that the adoption of draft resolution XIII and the draft declaration contained therein would be a major contribution to International Women's Year, and she joined the representatives of Egypt, Yugoslavia, the USSR, Liberia and Poland in supporting that resolution.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should proceed to vote on draft resolution XIII, on the understanding that the statements made would be duly reflected in the Committee's report and in the summary records.

Draft resolution XIII was adopted by 31 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.

Mr. DUMAS (France), speaking in explanation of vote, said that the question of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict was one of constant major concern to his delegation. However, as his delegation believed that the issue was very closely related to the broader question of humanitarian law in general, it was not sure whether it was appropriate for the Committee to take a decision on the subject while the Geneva Conference was still in session. It was solely for that reason that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution XIII.

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Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking in explanation of vote, said that, with regard to resolution XIII, his delegation shared the view that civilian populations, including women and children, required more effective protection in all kinds of armed conflict, including those referred to in resolution XIII. However, his delegation had considered it advisable to abstain in the vote on that resolution. It had given priority to the more general consideration of how best to serve, in the long term, the development and the effective observance of international humanitarian law. The fragmentation of that law by the creation of specific rules for specific groups within the civilian population and for specific kinds of conflicts, whose definition as a "struggle for peace", for example, would depend on the motivations of the belligerents, could not be in the interest of those needing protection.

In order to ensure the harmonization of resolution XIII with the Geneva Conventions and, in particular, with the results of the Geneva Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflict, his delegation supported the proposal made by the Swedish delegation to have resolution XIII examined in that context by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, and he hoped that that would be reflected in the Economic and Social Council report to the General Assembly.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution XIII in the Commission on the Status of Women and had explained on that occasion its serious misgivings. Those misgivings arose from the fact that the resolution was related to ill-defined types of conflicts and because it referred to "States", rather than to parties to conflicts. His delegation felt that the question should be considered in the context of the Geneva Conference and that the draft declaration should be considered by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly in the course of its general consideration of the report of the Geneva Conference.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Swedish delegation had proposed that the Committee should recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the Council, if it adopted resolution XIII, should also recommend to the General Assembly that the resolution should be considered by the Sixth Committee. He asked whether there

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(The Chairman)

were any objections to the inclusion of such a recommendation in the Committee's report.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the report of the Committee could indicate that the resolution might be considered by the Sixth Committee, but that the Economic and Social Council was not competent to recommend that the question should be considered by the Sixth Committee. The General Committee would as usual be responsible for allocating the items to the Committees of the General Assembly, and it could be asked to take into account the views of the Council on the subject.

Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) supported the views expressed by the representative of Finland. The question of human rights in armed conflicts had initially been dealt with by the Third Committee, but at the last session of the General Assembly it had been entrusted to the Sixth Committee. Since the matter of the protection of women and children in armed conflicts was part of the broader question of respect for human rights in armed conflicts, she also supported the Swedish proposal.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Third Committee had indeed previously considered a range of questions concerning international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts and, despite the division of work with the Sixth Committee, continued to cover certain aspects of the problem, such as the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict. A compromise should therefore be reached, reflecting the views expressed by those delegations which had abstained in the voting, and leaving the matter to be decided by the General Committee.

Mr. STAHL (Sweden) said that his delegation's proposal should be interpreted as meaning that the General Assembly would decide whether or not the resolution was referred to the Sixth Committee.

The Swedish proposal was adopted by 17 votes to 8, with 15 abstentions.

Draft resolution XIV

Draft resolution XIV was adopted.

Draft resolution VI

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that population policy was part of each State's socio-economic policy, and that individual /...



(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

decisions on family size were influenced by the prevailing socio-economic conditions. Therefore, without radical socio-economic reform, attempts to regulate the birth rate would meet with little success. Moreover, measures to limit population growth were only one way of resolving the problems of socio-economic development, especially in the developing countries.

His delegation supported the four-Power amendments to draft resolution VI submitted in document E/AC.7/L.658 but would, in addition, like the final clause of the third preambular paragraph to be deleted.

With reference to paragraph 3 of draft resolution VI, he drew the attention of the Committee to paragraph 13 of the Special Rapporteur's report on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning (E/CN.6/575), where it was stated that concrete information was either scarce or non-existent for most countries. In view of that assertion, it was inappropriate to ask Governments to use the report as a guideline in the formulation of their population policies.

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that some delegations seemed to interpret the Special Rapporteur's report as an attempt to influence countries' population policies. The Commission had undertaken the study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning in 1965 without discussing population policy, basing itself solely on the idea of the rights of the individual woman. The question was how far equal rights - in terms of education, employment and social development - were impeded by unplanned pregnancies, and how far family planning could lead to equal status with men in the community and in the development effort.

From the study of those two aspects of the problem - which covered, among other things, women's status under civil law - the question arose of how far women were affected by population trends. Rapid population growth impeded women's educational and job opportunities, and reduced their individual freedom of choice and therefore the exercise of their basic human rights.

In reply to the representative of the Soviet Union, she said that the meaning of paragraph 13 of document E/CN.6/575 was that it had proved very difficult to find information on a subject which had never before been studied. Indeed, more studies on the topic were required.

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(Mrs. Sipila)

In terms of population policy, whatever measures a State might take should not conflict with the human rights of individuals, especially women, who should not have fewer opportunities in society because of maternity. The relevance of family planning to the exercise of individual human rights and to the development of full human potential was made clear in paragraph 28 of the Special Rapporteur's report.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said, with reference to paragraph 5 of draft resolution VI, that the phrase "equal representation for women" was understood by his delegation to mean quality, not numerical quantity, and that representation would depend on the qualifications and experience required for active participation in the World Population Conference. In general, however, his delegation would support draft resolution VI and the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.658.

Mr. THOMPSON-FLORES (Brazil) said that the four sponsors of document E/AC.7/L.658 wished to revise their amendments, following consultations with other members of the Committee. In the existing final preambular paragraph of draft resolution VI, the word "basic", which occurred twice, and the word "highly" should be deleted. In the opening paragraph of paragraph 3, the words "Urges States Members of the United Nations to use" should be replaced by "Suggests that States Members of the United Nations take into consideration when appropriate"; the words "as a guideline" should be deleted; and the words "with a view to promoting" should be replaced by the phrase "in the promotion of".

Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) welcomed the revised amendments introduced by the representative of Brazil but considered that the importance of the Special Rapporteur's report must be brought out more clearly; it had established that family planning was a human right for both men and women and had thus made the principle of family planning acceptable to many developing countries. In the revised amendment to the opening paragraph of paragraph 3, the word "Suggests" should be replaced by the word "Recommends", and the words "when appropriate" should be deleted.

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Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) supported the revised amendments introduced by the representative of Brazil and considered that the mention of the Special Rapporteur's report in paragraph 3 should be maintained. However, in the first amendment in document E/AC.7/L.658, his delegation did not see the usefulness of the phrase "free from any pressures"; the State's right to formulate its own population policy, while respecting the human rights of the individual, was part of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources, a principle which had been repeatedly stressed within the United Nations system. The final phrase of that amendment should be deleted or replaced, for instance, by the following: "as regards its population policy".

He was unhappy about the repetition of the word "many" in the second of the four-Power amendments. With regard to operative paragraph 3 (b), (amendment 3 (d)), the words "when appropriate" should be placed before the phrase "population programmes of action". He said that the right to family planning was a basic human right. It was, therefore, inappropriate to qualify it with such words as "when appropriate".

Mr. BERK (Turkey) supported most of the four-Power amendments and the revisions introduced by the representative of Brazil. However, he could not agree with the fifth amendment, to delete paragraph 7 (a), since the Seminar on the Status of Women and Family Planning held in Turkey had proved most useful and reference should therefore be made to its conclusions and recommendations. If that amendment were put to the vote, his delegation would vote against it.

Mr. DUMAS (France) supported the observations made by the representative of Finland. His own delegation had stressed, on a number of occasions, that individual States must be free to formulate their own population policies according to their economic, social and cultural circumstances. He therefore supported the first amendment in document E/AC.7/L.658, but felt that it would be improved if the words "free from any pressures" were deleted. He also felt that the second amendment was a repetition of what was stated earlier in the preamble.

Paragraph 5 of the draft resolution appeared to suggest that Member States should select equal numbers of men and women for their delegations to the World Population Conference. Since selection merely on the basis of numbers, regardless of qualifications or experience in the population field, would be unjust, he felt that it would be preferable to replace the word "equal" by "equitable".

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Mr. SINARINZI (Burundi) supported the four-Power amendments in document E/AC.7/L.658. However, in the revised amendment to the opening paragraph of paragraph 3, the word "Suggests" should be replaced by "Recommends". He agreed with the representative of France that the replacement of the word "equal" by "equitable" would be an improvement.

Mr. ARTEAGA-ACOSTA (Venezuela) welcomed the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.658. He felt that the insertion of the new preambular paragraph between the existing second and third preambular paragraphs was an improvement, since it should be made quite clear that each State should be free to take the action which it thought appropriate. In addition, he felt that the new preambular paragraph proposed in the second amendment accurately reflected the situations existing in different countries.

However, like the representative of Finland, he was not sure what the sponsors meant by the words "free from any pressures" and felt it would be preferable to delete them.

Mr. DELPREE-CRESPO (Guatemala) stated that in the last instance it was the individual himself who should decide how many children to have. Likewise, due to different demographic conditions, each country should decide which demographic policies to follow, without any external interference. He supported the amendments contained in document E/AC.7/L.658, as revised by the representative of Brazil.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he had read with interest the report of the Special Rapporteur. He agreed that there was an interrelationship between family planning and the exercise of human rights and that high fertility was often not a question of free choice, but constituted both the cause and the effect of under-development. That fact should be brought to the attention of all concerned, without prejudice to the rights of individual States. He felt able to support the four-Power amendments, as revised by the representative of Brazil.

Mrs. SHUEH Jen-wu (China) supported the proposed amendments to draft resolution VI, with the revisions introduced by the representative of Brazil. Her delegation had always maintained that each individual country should be free to

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(Mrs. Shueh Jen-wu, China)

formulate its own population policy and that the United Nations had no right to request Member States to follow a given population policy.

Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand) said that his delegation had no difficulty in supporting the proposed amendments to draft resolution VI. He felt, however, that the proposed new preambular paragraph to be inserted between the existing second and third preambular paragraphs might be improved if the words "free from any pressures" were deleted or replaced. He supported the proposal made by the representative of Jamaica in connexion with paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

Mr. WILSON (Liberia) said that he was opposed to the proposed deletion of paragraph 7 (a), since some reference should be made to the findings and recommendations of the various seminars held. He supported the proposal made by the representative of Jamaica in respect of paragraph 3.

Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that, although he felt that the proposed amendments to the draft resolution in general improved the original text, he did not agree that paragraph 7 (a) should be deleted. It might be improved by the insertion of the words "where necessary" after the word "undertake", and the words "based on" might be replaced by "taking into account".

Mr. LEHTIHET (Algeria) welcomed the observations made by the representative of Finland and other delegations. His delegation and the other co-sponsors of the amendments felt that the words "free from any pressures" in their first amendment were necessary in order to guarantee the sovereignty of the developing countries in formulating their population policies.

Mr. ROUX-LOPEZ (Mexico) said that his delegation supported the amendments contained in document E/AC.7/L.658. In addition, the use of the word "equal" in paragraph 5 of the original text of the draft resolution could be interpreted as meaning numerically equal. Consequently, he suggested that the paragraph should state that women should be adequately represented.

Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) said that the amendments clarified a number of the concepts in the original text. However, there still seemed to be some confusion with regard to the meaning of the term "family planning". In his view, family

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(Mr. Srinivasan, India)

planning simply meant the provision of information to parents to enable them to plan their families; it did not necessarily mean restricting the number of children. Under-populated countries, for example, had an interest in increasing population growth.

He agreed with the observations made by the representative of Pakistan in respect of paragraph 7 (a). He appealed to the sponsors of the amendments to endeavour to find a wording which would permit further studies to be carried out.

Mr. DIAKITE (Mali) said that his delegation had no difficulty in supporting the amendments to draft resolution VI. He felt that the words "free from any pressures" in the proposed new preambular paragraph were necessary in order to ensure that each country was free to formulate its own demographic policy.

Mr. POEDJIOETOMO (Indonesia) said that, while he approved in general of the amendments proposed, he shared the views of the representatives of Pakistan and India with regard to paragraph 7 (a).

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) suggested that, in the second amendment, the insertion of the word "planned" before the word "population" in the fourth line of the paragraph might make that paragraph more acceptable.

Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) thanked the representative of Algeria for his explanation of the first proposed amendment. He wondered, however, why the sponsors wished the words "when appropriate" to be inserted in paragraph 3 (b) of the draft resolution.

Mr. DUMAS (France) said that, in the light of the explanation given by the representative of Algeria, he would withdraw his proposal to delete the words "free from any pressures" from the proposed new preambular paragraph.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

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730th meeting

Friday, 26 April 1974,  
at 3.45 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/5451; E/AC.7/L.652, paras. 22-24, E/AC.7/L.653, L.655, L.656, L.658-L.663) (continued)

Draft resolution VI

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil) said that the sponsors of the amendments to draft resolution VI contained in document E/AC.7/L.658 had held consultations with various delegations, as a result of which it had been agreed that the text of paragraph 7 of the draft resolution would consist of the text in paragraph 5 of document E/AC.7/L.658.

Furthermore, he introduced an oral amendment to insert the following paragraph after the fourth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution:

"Recognizing the importance of interdisciplinary and cross-national studies which take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the seminars on the status of women and family planning held in 1972 and 1973 in Turkey, the Dominican Republic and Indonesia,".

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation had no objections to the first amendment in document E/AC.7/L.658, for it considered that each country should adopt the family planning policies best suited to it. However, the phrase "free from any pressures" should be deleted.

With regard to the second amendment, she proposed the deletion of the words "many other" after the words "on the other hand, for". She also proposed the insertion of the phrase "viewed in some circles as" after the words "population growth is".

With regard to the third amendment, she would prefer paragraph 3 of the draft resolution to remain as it stood. However, she agreed with the Jamaican delegation that the paragraph should begin with the word "Recommends". She also

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(Mrs. Hutar, United States)

agreed that the words "when appropriate" should not be inserted, for it was always necessary to have family planning services for those families which wished to use them, no matter what policy the country had adopted. To decide on the number of children and their spacing was a fundamental human right which every family must be able to exercise. She referred in that connexion to the results of the Teheran Conference and to part A, paragraph 1 (c), of Economic and Social Council resolution 1672 (LII). At question was a human right which had already been recognized by the United Nations and, accordingly, it was unnecessary to insert the words "when appropriate".

Her delegation could accept only part of the fourth amendment and hoped that the members of the Committee could endorse the recommendation to retain the words "and to issue it, in a popular form".

With regard to the fifth amendment, her delegation endorsed the recommendation of Pakistan, India, Iran, Liberia and Indonesia to retain paragraph 7 (a), since the studies it mentioned were important.

Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) said that paragraph 3 was one of the most important provisions of the draft resolution. Early in the preparation of the report of the Special Rapporteur, Italy had replied at length to the questionnaire. It had also forwarded to the competent authorities at home the report which was currently under consideration. Her delegation supported the suggestion that the paragraph should begin with the word "Recommends" instead of "Urges".

Furthermore, it agreed with the French delegation that the phrase "free from any pressures" in the new preambular paragraph proposed in paragraph 1 of document E/AC.7/L.658 was not necessary. States were free and that principle was unanimously recognized. The second part of the second amendment proposed in that document was out of place, for the report of the Special Rapporteur did not deal with countries with low demographic densities. The United Kingdom amendment was acceptable, although she preferred the original version.

The United States subamendment which would mention "some circles" would create difficulties for her delegation, which preferred the original text. If the amendment was put to the vote, her delegation would abstain.

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(Miss Cao Pinna, Italy)

With regard to the fourth amendment, she inquired whether the report of the Spécial Rapporteur had been transmitted to the most recent session of the Population Commission. If it had been, there was no need to make a special recommendation. If it had not been, the Committee should take a decision in that connexion. Her delegation would vote in favour of the amendment, but she wished to place on record the fact that her Government was still studying the report in question.

Since the publication of the report in a popular form would have financial implications, it would perhaps be more appropriate to give the first and general part of the report itself wider distribution.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that many delegations had understood the importance of the problems posed by draft resolution VI and had emphasized the sovereign right of States to determine their own population policies. That was the correct approach, as was reflected in the World Population Plan of Action.

Bearing in mind the views expressed by delegations, his delegation proposed the insertion of a new paragraph 2 (a), which would read as follows:

"(a) Every nation has the sovereign right to determine its own population policies;".

His delegation agreed with the Italian representative that Governments had not had sufficient time to study the report of the Spécial Rapporteur; accordingly, it did not seem appropriate to issue it in a popular form.

The request in paragraph 7 (a) was unacceptable, for it was unclear how many studies were to be carried out. His delegation could endorse the remainder of the draft resolution and the oral and written amendments which had been introduced.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.

Mrs. MATR (Jamaica) said that, in the light of the views of other delegations, she would withdraw her original proposal to begin paragraph 3 with the word "Recommends". Her delegation reserved its position regarding the other proposed amendments pending a decision by the sponsors.

Mr. DUMAS (France) said that the aim was not to achieve numerical equality between women and men in all organizations and at all levels, but rather to ensure that women enjoyed equality of opportunities as concerned access to all posts when

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(Mr. Dumas, France)

they were qualified to fill them. Accordingly, his delegation proposed that the phrase "equal representation of men and women" proposed in the amendment to paragraph 3 should be replaced by the phrase "equality of opportunities for men and women".

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil), speaking on his own behalf and on behalf of the other sponsors of the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.658, accepted the proposal by France.

Mr. ROUX LOPEZ (Mexico) said that his delegation's proposal to replace the words "equal representation" in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution by the words "equitable representation" had been a formal proposal.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) announced that his delegation would not insist on its amendment to insert the word "planned" before the words "population growth" in the second amendment in document E/AC.7/L.658.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution VI, the amendments thereto contained in document E/AC.7/L.658 and the amendments and subamendments which had been introduced orally.

Amendment in paragraph 1 of document E/AC.7/L.658

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Finnish delegation had submitted an oral subamendment to the effect that in the new preambular paragraph proposed in document E/AC.7/L.658 the words "free from any pressures" should be deleted.

The Finnish subamendment was rejected by 23 votes to 10, with 14 abstentions.

The amendment in paragraph 1 of document E/AC.7/L.658 was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Third preambular paragraph of draft resolution VI

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the delegation of the USSR had submitted an oral amendment to the effect that the words "which has not yet been fully recognized", at the end of that paragraph, should be deleted.

If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt that amendment.

It was so decided.

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Fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution VI

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Brazilian delegation, on behalf of all the sponsors of document E/AC.7/L.658, had submitted an oral amendment for the insertion of a new fifth preambular paragraph.

If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt that amendment.

It was so decided.

Amendment in paragraph 2 of document E/AC.7/L.658

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the United States delegation had submitted two oral subamendments, namely, that the words "many other" in the third line should be deleted, and that the words "viewed in some circles as" should be inserted in the fourth line after the words "population growth is".

The first oral subamendment of the United States was rejected by 19 votes to 8, with 19 abstentions.

The second oral subamendment of the United States was rejected by 31 votes to 2, with 13 abstentions.

The amendment in paragraph 2 of document E/AC.7/L.658 was adopted by 41 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

Final preambular paragraph of draft resolution VI

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Brazilian delegation had made an oral proposal to the effect that the following words in the final preambular paragraph of draft resolution VI should be deleted: the word "basic" before the words "principles" and "concepts" and the word "highly" before the word "relevant".

If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt those oral subamendments.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 2

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the representative of the Soviet Union had submitted an oral amendment to paragraph 2 suggesting that the following text

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(The Chairman)

should be inserted as subparagraph (a) and that the following subparagraphs be relettered accordingly:

"Every nation has the sovereign right to determine its own population policies".

If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the amendment.

The Soviet amendment to the effect that a new subparagraph (a) should be inserted in paragraph 2 was adopted.

Paragraph 3: opening paragraph

The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the oral amendments which had been submitted, the opening paragraph of paragraph 3 would read as follows:

"Suggests that States Members of the United Nations take into consideration when appropriate the report of the Special Rapporteur in the formulation of their population policies and the promotion of full participation of women at all levels and in all sectors of social, economic and political life, including decision-making levels, in order to achieve equal representation of men and women and, to that end:".

The remainder of the paragraph would remain unchanged.

Mr. THOMPSON FLORES (Brazil) proposed that the words "equal representation of" should be replaced by the words "equality of opportunities for".

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the subamendment submitted by the Jamaican delegation to the effect that the words "when appropriate" should be deleted from the text which he had just read out.

The Jamaican subamendment was rejected by 27 votes to 3, with 16 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the new version of the opening paragraph of paragraph 3, as amended by Brazil.

The new version of the opening paragraph of paragraph 3, as amended by Brazil, was adopted unanimously.

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Paragraph 3 (d)

The CHAIRMAN said that in paragraph 3 (d) of document E/AC.7/L.658 it was proposed that the words "when appropriate" should be inserted after the word "promotion". The Finnish delegation had submitted a subamendment suggesting that those words should be inserted immediately before the phrase "population programmes of action".

The Finnish subamendment was rejected by 16 votes to 11, with 18 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the amendment proposed in paragraph 3 (d) of document E/AC.7/L.658.

The amendment in paragraph 3 (d) of document E/AC.7/L.658 was adopted by 28 votes to 3, with 16 abstentions.

Paragraph 4

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the amendment in paragraph 4 of document E/AC.7/L.658.

The amendment in paragraph 4 of document E/AC.7/L.658 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that Mexico had proposed the replacement of the phrase "provide equal representation" in paragraph 5 by "provide equitable representation". If he heard no objection, he would take it that the proposal was adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the amendment to paragraph 7 contained in document E/AC.7/L.658.

The amendment was adopted by 27 votes to 1, with 17 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution VI as a whole, as amended.

Draft resolution VI, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

731st meeting

Monday, 29 April 1974,  
at 11 a.m.Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/5451, E/5487; E/AC.7/L.652, paras. 22-24, E/AC.7/L.653, L.655, L.656, L.659-663) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a note by the Secretary-General (E/5487) containing revised cost estimates and other information concerning the proposed international conference referred to in draft resolution III in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Draft resolution VI

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia), speaking in explanation of the vote cast by the Yugoslav delegation at the preceding meeting, said that her delegation fully supported draft resolution VI and the amendments emphasizing the sovereign right of every country to determine its own population policy. In 1969, the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia had adopted a resolution on family planning introducing social reforms in such matters as contraception and abortion and recognizing the right of parents to decide on the number and spacing of children. That right had subsequently been incorporated into the Constitution. Family planning was seen as both a right and a duty, since it was recognized that women should be free to participate fully in all aspects of life and that every child born should be wanted.

Draft resolution VII

Mr. LUBIK (Poland), introducing his delegation's proposed amendment to draft resolution VII (E/AC.7/L.661), said that the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women should state whether and to what extent women had participated in achieving the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade. Such a report would correspond more closely to the guidelines set out in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) and in the annex to that resolution.

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Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the proposed Soviet amendment to paragraph 2 of draft resolution VII (E/AC.7/L.663) corresponded closely to the United States amendment (E/AC.7/L.662). His delegation had already explained its position with regard to the utilization of the expertise available in the Secretariat, and its views had appeared to enjoy wide support among members of the Committee.

Referring to his delegation's amendment to paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, he said that the request made in that paragraph should be addressed specifically to competent non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council rather than to all non-governmental organizations, many of which might not be directly concerned with the integration of women in development. His delegation also felt that, since the draft resolution already contained a number of requests to the Secretary-General to submit reports on the status of women, it might not be feasible for him to submit the report requested in paragraph 6. Consequently, the last part of that paragraph should be deleted.

He supported the amendment proposed by the representative of Poland concerning paragraphs 8 and 10.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America), referring to her delegation's proposed amendment to the draft resolution (E/AC.7/L.662), said that she agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union that the first part of paragraph 2 should be deleted, but felt that the word "Requests" would be preferable to "Invites". In the third line of the United States amendment to paragraph 8, the word "identify" should read "identifiable".

Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) said that draft resolution VII was one of the most important of those approved by the Commission on the Status of Women, because it established a link between the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women and their integration and development as called for in General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV), on the one hand, and the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, on the other hand. Neither the Strategy nor the first review and appraisal exercise had given any emphasis to the integration of women in development. Consequently, her delegation welcomed the draft resolution.

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(Miss Cao Pinna)

However, she had reservations with regard to some of the proposals contained in the draft resolution. The proposal in paragraph 2 was very similar to a suggestion made by the Italian delegation in the Commission for Social Development when the Strategy was being formulated and subsequently in the General Assembly. That suggestion had not proved feasible at that time; should the current proposal of the Commission on the Status of Women be approved, other functional commissions could ask to participate in the work of the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal. What was needed therefore was improved liaison within the Secretariat and greater co-operation among members of the delegations participating in the work of the different bodies so that the Secretariat, in preparing the material for the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal, could take account of the expertise of the functional commissions, and so that representatives could consult with one another. Consequently, her delegation considered favourably the amendments to paragraph 2 proposed by the United States and the Soviet Union, which were very similar in substance.

The request in paragraph 8 was fully in keeping with the scope of the new budgetary system of the United States. The activities involved would be those of the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch, together with numerous others aimed at promoting the advancement of women but carried out within the context of other programmes and budgets. In the first case data were already available, but in the second case difficulties seemed to have arisen with regard to the possibility of elaborating a real programme-budget. Before reaching a final decision on the original paragraph 8 and on the proposed amendments to it, her delegation would like further information from the Secretariat, and possibly from the representatives of the specialized agencies, with regard to the feasibility of preparing the report requested in that paragraph.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom), referring to paragraph 7, said that, since the Committee on Review and Appraisal was not scheduled to meet in 1974, it was not realistic to ask it to make recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. He also asked if the Secretariat could provide some clarification as to the exact meaning of paragraph 10, together with further information on the last phrase of paragraph 8.

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Mr. LUBIK (Poland) asked if any report had been prepared on the objectives set forth in General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) and its annex.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) replied that a report had been submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV). That report was contained in document E/CN.6/554. As far as the implementation of the objectives proclaimed in the annex to resolution 2716 (XXV) was concerned, no report had been prepared which corresponded precisely to that requested in the Polish amendment. However, a number of reports had been prepared which related to the programme of concerted international action and were therefore closely linked to resolution 2716 (XXV). One such report was contained in document E/CN.6/577, which had been submitted to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and formed the basis of draft resolution VII. If it was intended that the report requested in the Polish amendment should be similar to that requested in resolution 2716 (XXV), its preparation would present no difficulty and, with the assistance of the specialized agencies and UNDP, it would be possible to provide an even more comprehensive report than previously.

Referring to the United States amendment to paragraph 8, she said that she was not sure whether any information was available on the allocation of funds and personnel. However, information provided in previous reports on UNDP-assisted activities might give a general indication of the funds allocated. It was not possible to say what type of personnel might be involved. As far as the future was concerned, she pointed out that technical assistance projects were based on requests from Governments and it was therefore not possible to forecast what form those requests might take.

In response to the point raised by the representative of the United Kingdom, she pointed out that the Assembly session referred to in paragraph 7 should be the thirtieth session and not the twenty-ninth.

Miss CAC PINNA (Italy) asked if the Deputy Director had made a statement to the Commission on the Status of Women indicating that the Secretariat would have difficulty in drawing up the report requested in paragraph 8 of draft resolution VII, and whether the Commission had taken those difficulties into account. The report of the Commission (E/5451) indicated that, because of lack

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(Miss Cao Pinna, Italy)

of time, some draft resolutions had been prepared hastily without due regard for all the factors involved; such an approach had a negative effect on the documentation and the preparations by the Secretariat.

Mr. ALI (International Labour Organisation), replying to the question about the ability of the specialized agencies to provide the information requested in paragraph 8, said that women accounted for one third of the world labour force, and it was therefore natural that ILO activities had an important bearing on questions concerning women workers. A panel of consultants dealt specifically with questions relating to women workers, and there was enforcement machinery to supervise the implementation of various conventions relating to women, such as the Convention on maternity protection, the Convention concerning night work performed by women and the Convention on equal remuneration. An estimate could be made of the funds and personnel allocated for programmes concerning women, but such matters were usually dealt with within the context of general programmes for workers.

He informed the Committee that the FAO representative had requested him to indicate that the situation within FAO was similar to that in the ILO.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), replying to the representative of Italy, said that she had made a statement to the Commission on the Status of Women similar to the one she had just made to the Committee, but she recalled that agreement on draft resolution VII had been reached after prolonged negotiations and private consultation outside the Commission. The Secretariat would find it difficult to provide a clear statement as to the percentage of the total budget to be spent on programmes for women in the future. The concern reflected in paragraph 8 had been stimulated by a report (E/CN.6/554) indicating that little attention had been given to the special needs of women in economic and social development plans, particularly in the developing countries, since it had been assumed that a general improvement in economic and social conditions would lead to an improvement in the status of women, and that there had consequently been little attempt within the United Nations system to meet the special needs of women.

With regard to paragraph 10, she suggested that the sponsors of the draft resolution in the Commission on the Status of Women should clarify its meaning.

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Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), commenting on the United States amendment to paragraph 2 (E/AC.7/L.662), said that it would be acceptable to his delegation if the words "fully" and "various" in the fourth and fifth lines of the amendment were deleted.

He had difficulty with the United States amendment to paragraph 8, in view of the statement made by the ILO representative. If a report was submitted, it might well present a distorted view of the actual situation since it would not reflect the measures taken in the context of general programmes which affected women. There were few programmes dealing specifically with women, but considerable funds and personnel were allocated to programmes which affected both women and men. Accordingly, he felt it would not be advisable to request a report such as that proposed by the United States.

The proposed Polish amendment, contained in document E/AC.7/L.661, to paragraph 8 was in line with General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV). The Secretariat could, without difficulty, prepare a report which would provide a worth-while and complete picture of the situation with regard to programmes for women in the Second Development Decade.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) accepted the Soviet proposal that the words "fully" and "various" should be deleted from the United States amendment to paragraph 2 of draft resolution VII.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) withdrew the Soviet amendment, contained in document E/AC.7/L.663, to paragraph 2.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the United States amendment, contained in document E/AC.7/L.662, to paragraph 2 of draft resolution VII, as orally revised.

It was so decided.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) requested clarification of the word "competent" in the Soviet amendment to paragraph 6.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that "competent non-governmental organizations" referred to organizations that were directly involved in the kind of activity referred to in paragraph 6.

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The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the proposed Soviet amendment, contained in document E/AC.7/L.663, to paragraph 6 of draft resolution VII.

It was so decided.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that, in the light of the statements made by the ILO representative and the Deputy Director, she wished to delete the phrase "and the proposed increase for the next proposed biennium" from the United States amendment, contained in document E/AC.7/L.662, to paragraph 8 of draft resolution VII.

The CHAIRMAN, acting in accordance with rule 65 of the rules of procedure, invited the Committee to take action on the Polish amendment, contained in document E/AC.7/L.661, to paragraph 8 of resolution VII. That amendment was the furthest removed in substance from the original. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the Polish amendment.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to delete paragraph 10, as proposed by Poland in document E/AC.7/L.661.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that draft resolution VII, as amended, was adopted by consensus.

It was so decided.

#### Draft resolution VIII

Miss JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina) introduced the amendment in document E/AC.7/L.660. A similar amendment to another draft resolution had already been adopted, and she hoped that the present amendment would be adopted without objection.

Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) objected strongly to the use of the expression "where appropriate" in the context of family planning, which his delegation regarded as a basic human right.

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Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) associated her delegation with the objection raised by the representative of Finland.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) endorsed the views expressed by the representative of Finland. He proposed that, in order to make the amendment more acceptable, the words "where appropriate" should be replaced by the words "as appropriate".

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the sponsors of the amendment accepted the change proposed by the United Kingdom representative, and that the Committee adopted the amendment, as orally subamended.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that draft resolution VIII, as amended, was adopted by consensus.

It was so decided.

#### Draft resolution X

Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) introduced document E/AC.7/L.659 containing amendments to draft resolution X and drew attention to the following changes: in the fifth line of the first amendment, the words "as well as men" should be inserted after the words "full-time work for women", and, in the sixth line, the words "equally with men" should be inserted after the word "women". In the second amendment, the words "equally with men" should be inserted after the words "the economic activities of women". In addition, the final two words of paragraph 2 of draft resolution X should be replaced by the words "such economic activities".

The amendments were designed to show that there was no question of women entering into economic competition with men, since that was prejudicial to development, but rather it was a matter of their finding equality in complementary economic activities.

Mr. SRINNASAN (India) supported the amendments, as orally revised.

Mr. STAHL (Sweden) pointed out that paragraph 2 was in conflict with the principles of country programming as laid down in the UNDP Consensus, since every Government had the exclusive responsibility for formulating the policy most suited to the labour market and industry in its country.

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Mr. ESSY (Ivory Coast) asked for further elucidation of the amendment to paragraph 1, since the word "including" in the third line seemed to suggest that the industries mentioned were of secondary importance.

Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) said that the force of "including" was, on the contrary, to focus attention on some of the many activities of women where additional technical assistance was needed. The aim of the amendment was to extend to as large a group of women as possible the technical assistance they required in order to promote national development by expanding their economic activities.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.659, as orally revised, were adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that draft resolution X, as amended, was adopted by consensus.

It was so decided.

#### Draft resolution XI

Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) introduced document E/AC.7/L.655, containing amendments to draft resolution XI. The first two amendments were based on his delegation's concept of equal treatment for women workers, which did not mean treating women as a separate category but as part of the economy as a whole. Furthermore, the amendments reflected the ongoing work of ILO; indeed, the wording of the first amendment had been drawn from the agenda of a forthcoming ILO conference. The third amendment had been made in the interests of clarity, since part-time work, although being studied by ILO, did not seem to be concerned with technological and scientific developments; moreover, to relate part-time work to women alone seemed to suggest that women should be employed part-time in order to be free to attend to their family responsibilities. That suggestion was discriminatory, since such responsibilities should be shared by men and women. In the light of comments received from other delegations, he thought that, if the reference to part-time work in paragraph 4 was deleted, the words following that reference should also be deleted.

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(Mr. Valtasaari, Finland)

In addition, he wished to insert the words "revise and" in the fourth line of paragraph 3 after the words "the need to".

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that, while he appreciated the arguments put forward by the representative of Finland concerning the third amendment in document E/AC.7/L.655, he wished to stress the importance that his delegation attached to part-time work and to the studies being carried out by ILO on that topic. There should be no inference, from the deletion of the latter part of paragraph 4, that work on that topic should be in any way curtailed.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that the reference to part-time work should be maintained in paragraph 4, precisely because technological and scientific developments had made part-time work a viable proposition. With that reservation, she could concur with the amendments submitted by the representative of Finland.

The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.655, as orally revised, were adopted, on the understanding that the views of the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States would be reflected in the Committee's report.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that draft resolution XI, as amended, was adopted by consensus.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

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732nd meeting

Monday, 29 April 1974,  
at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

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## SOCIAL QUESTIONS:

- (a) NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS (E/CN.5/478 and Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 and Corr.1, Add.3 and Corr.1 and Add.4)

The CHAIRMAN invited representatives to comment on agenda item 8.

Miss WALTERS (Assistant Director, Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies) said that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1746 (LIV), the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies had undertaken a study of national experience in carrying out fundamental democratic social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress, which it would submit to the Commission for Social Development in January 1975, in conjunction with the 1974 Report on the World Social Situation.

Mrs. PICKER (United States of America) said that according to the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/478), the replies of Governments to the questionnaire appeared to have given priority to the description of various measures intended to promote social progress, to the detriment of information on their impact in bringing about social and economic changes and of the assessment of the effectiveness of specific policies in contributing to the achievement of social goals of development.

The recent extension of the use of social indicators resulted from the need to measure the social change in some parts of the world. Indicators would not solve problems, but they helped to define them and to provide a better understanding of the main features of society.

In developing countries, there was a growing recognition of the close interrelation between social and economic development and of the importance of social change as an integral component of economic development.

The growing use of social indicators had been reflected in an increase in general interest which, in turn, had led various countries and international

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(Mrs. Picker, United States)

organizations to join in the research. In that connexion, she cited various publications which had appeared in France, the United Kingdom and Japan and others which would be published in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Canada; various developing countries had also undertaken research work in that sector. Among the organizations, the work carried out by OECD, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the United Nations Statistical Office, UNESCO, the World Bank, WHO and UNITAR should be mentioned.

The United States, for its part, had just issued its first national publication on the subject, entitled "Social Indicators, 1973".

Her delegation recommended that the Council request the Secretariat to prepare a report on the work being done around the world on social indicators, and to bring together what had been done and was being done in the various organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations, Governments, private institutions, non-governmental organizations and universities. An attempt should be made to develop a set of social indicators in order to obtain a better analysis of social reform programmes, their impact and effectiveness. Her delegation had prepared a draft resolution on the subject but, before submitting it, preferred to wait until other delegations had been able to study it and submit their ideas.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the question had already been debated in other United Nations bodies, such as the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, and at the recent Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers, which had stressed the need to carry out those social changes in order to assist the fight against colonialism.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which had travelled a long road of social transformations until it had become the industrial Power which it now was, appreciated the efforts to introduce social changes that would eliminate the heritage of the past. Each country had the right to determine its own social structure and the changes to be introduced, in accordance with the conditions obtaining in the country. It was important that countries should be able to study and make use of the experience of other countries which had successfully introduced those changes, and the Economic and Social Council had indicated the advantage of

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(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

carrying out such studies in its resolutions 1581 (L) and 1685 (LII). His delegation attached great importance to the study of that question in the Economic and Social Council and in the United Nations General Assembly.

The countries emancipated from the colonial yoke needed to eliminate the relics of colonialism; to that end, they required land reform projects, State control of the production sector and other socio-economic measures which his country had introduced some time previously and thanks to which the Soviet people had achieved their social and economic rights.

Obviously, there were factors common to all far-reaching changes, among which could be mentioned land reform, nationalization and elimination of the differences in income among the various sectors of the population; those factors, in turn, were intimately linked to the development of education and to the rise in standards of living which was in fact the basic goal of all social change. In some countries, especially newly independent ones, the attainment of those social changes encountered difficulties but in the long run the difficulties would be overcome, since those changes were inevitable in the development of all countries.

Finally, he wished to express surprise at the attitude of the Secretariat of the United Nations with respect to the item. Although the Economic and Social Council had decided at its fifty-fifth session that the item on national experience in achieving social and economic changes would be considered at the present session, the Secretariat had not prepared the relevant documentation and, furthermore, although the Council had recommended in its resolution 1746 (LIV) that the item should be considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, the Secretariat had not included it in the preliminary list of agenda items for the Assembly.

The same situation had arisen with respect to the item on unified approach to development analysis and planning; in that connexion, he drew the attention of the Committee to Economic and Social Council resolution 1747 (LIV), which had requested the Secretary-General to continue studies of the question and to include it as a separate item in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. That had not been done.

That situation gave rise to fears that perhaps the item might not be included even in the long-term programme of United Nations bodies, which made it necessary for the Council to reaffirm the earlier resolutions and insist on the need for their implementation.

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(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

To that end, his delegation suggested that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following decision:

"The Economic and Social Council,  
Recalling its resolutions 1746 (LIV) and 1747 (LIV),  
Requests the Secretariat to include the questions 'National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress' and 'Unified approach to development analysis and planning' as separate items in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly."

Mr. WASILEWSKI (Poland) said that the achievement of social and economic objectives and the acceleration of social progress and development were fostered, first of all, by international peace and security, détente and international co-operation but, at the same time, required structural and fundamental changes in the social and economic fields. Without such changes, the problems of under-development such as unemployment and poverty could not be solved.

His delegation believed that studies on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress were of great importance because they created the opportunity for countries to make use of the experience gained by other countries and facilitated the selection of the best measures for social progress. Similarly, structural changes required comprehensive and unified planning in order to promote balanced social and economic development for the whole society and for different regions in a country.

In that connexion, it was appropriate to take into account the experience of the socialist countries. The Polish People's Republic, which in 1974 was celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of its socialist existence, was an interesting example of how a country could emerge from under-development in a few years through structural reforms, a planned economy and far-reaching social and economic concepts aimed at social progress and development. Progress had been possible in Poland primarily due to the nationalization of the large industrial and banking enterprises, land reform and State-controlled trade. The socialist system in Poland guaranteed general public participation in the country's social and economic life, which had resulted in a steady rise in the standard of living of society in all spheres.

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(Mr. Wasilewski, Poland)

At the present time, in the Polish People's Republic, dynamic activity was under way in the field of social progress and economic development, both integrated under the socio-economic plans of the country. The social goals fixed by the State were an integral part of the long-range programme of accelerated all-round socio-economic development of the Polish People's Republic and its current five-year socio-economic plan.

His delegation favoured the idea of intensifying United Nations work in that field and therefore agreed with the delegation of the Soviet Union that it was essential to implement Economic and Social Council resolutions 1746 (LIV) and 1747 (LIV) in so far as the inclusion of the item under consideration in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly was concerned. The views expressed in the General Assembly debate on the subject would have an extremely positive impact on the report currently being prepared on the world social situation.

Lastly, his delegation reserved the right to speak again during the debate on the item.

Mr. Sayar (Iran) took the Chair.

Miss WALTERS (Assistant Director, Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies), replying to the remarks made by the delegations of the USSR and Poland, pointed out that paragraph 5 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1746 (LIV) recommended that the Secretary-General should make a detailed analysis of the question in his reports on the world social situation and include it in the programme of work of the Commission for Social Development. That was being done and it did not seem appropriate to prepare separate documentation for the Committee before the study referred to became available.

With regard to inclusion of the item on the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, she pointed out that agenda item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council) provided for the inclusion of a subitem on far-reaching social and economic changes.

Lastly, at the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council, it had been agreed that, since a report was to be prepared on the unified approach to development analysis and planning, for consideration by the Commission for Social

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(Miss Walters)

Development, only a progress report would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, despite the explanations given by Miss Walters, he still had doubts regarding the inclusion of the item on the agenda of the General Assembly. At the fifty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council, it had been clearly stated that the question of social changes should be included as a separate item on the agenda of the General Assembly. He therefore did not consider that it would be sufficient to consider it as a subitem under the report of the Economic and Social Council.

(b) CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOUTH AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS  
(E/5427)

Mrs. SIPIILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, during the past four years, the item on channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations had become one of the chief concerns of the United Nations in the field of youth. The unifying concept of the work in that field had been and continued to be the need to increase opportunities for young people to participate in national and international development efforts. While the major part of United Nations efforts in that regard continued to centre around the creation of specific opportunities, the reorientation of training and research on youth problems and improvements in administrative capabilities, substantial attention was also being given to strengthening communications between young people and the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels. Such an approach was based on the belief, reflected in recent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, that young people and their organizations had a great deal to contribute to the work of the United Nations and that healthy communication with young people was a critical element in their participation in development programmes.

That had been the thinking behind the approval by the General Assembly in 1972 of the establishment of an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth to advise the Secretary-General on activities that should be undertaken by the United Nations to meet the needs and aspirations of youth. That Group, which had held its first meeting from 20 to 28 August 1973 in New York, had prepared the report before the Committee in

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(Mrs. Sipila)

document ESA/SDHA/AC.4/2. The General Assembly, in resolution 3022 (XXVII), had requested the Secretary-General to transmit the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Group, with his comments, to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session, which was to consider, among other things, the continuation of the Group.

The Advisory Group, consisting mainly of young people, had submitted a report on a wide spectrum of concerns that were common to young people and the United Nations. The report had left some questions and suggestions open for further study. However, the deliberations of the Advisory Group showed that youth was a dynamic element in national and international development. It was also suggested, in the report, that the 700 million young people around the world, most of whom lived in the rural areas of the less developed countries, were in most cases contributing less to development than their energies, capabilities and numbers warranted. The Advisory Group had clearly recognized that one of the reasons why efforts for development at the national and international levels had been disappointing in recent years might be the failure of Governments and international agencies to make adequate provision for youth participation in those efforts.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3022 (XXVII), the Advisory Group had approached its task and made its recommendations along four major lines of action, which were summarized in paragraphs 7 to 12 of document E/5427. That document also contained the recommendations of the Secretary-General, who considered that several recommendations of the Advisory Group were of particular significance to the future work of the United Nations in that field.

First, the Group had recognized that existing arrangements for the financing of youth programmes by the United Nations were inadequate, particularly in terms of involving young people and youth organizations in such programmes. At the same time, the Group had emphasized that youth organizations in all parts of the world were interested in co-operating with the United Nations to solve development problems. Their interest and willingness to co-operate deserved the Organization's full support. One of the methods suggested by the Group to deal with the situation was the establishment of a voluntary youth fund.

Second, the Group had urged that more attention be given to developing co-operative arrangements among research, information and training institutions

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(Mrs. Sipila)

concerned with youth, in order to increase the sharing of experience on youth's needs and aspirations.

Third, the Advisory Group had encouraged more extensive use of regional capabilities, particularly through the regional commissions, for dealing with youth problems.

Fourth, the Group had emphasized the importance of local development and self-help activities as a focal point of United Nations youth programmes.

Lastly, the area of human rights and of youth participation in the promotion and protection of such rights had been singled out as having particular importance for youth and youth organizations around the world.

The Group had recommended that increased emphasis should be given to involving young people in the processes by which the United Nations dealt with human rights issues.

In addition, the Advisory Group had made a number of specific suggestions on strengthening communication, United Nations technical co-operation programmes, exchanges among research and information bodies, the organization of seminars and symposia, and over-all international policy for youth. Those suggestions would be taken into account in the preparation of the Secretary-General's proposals for the medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979 and the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth had been convened as part of a comprehensive effort to strengthen channels of communication between the United Nations and young people. The initial phase of that effort was to last three years, until 1975, at which time the General Assembly would consider long-term action based on the experience gained. Parallel work was continuing during the three-year testing period in terms of co-operative action at the national level and improvements in the exchange of information on matters of mutual concern between the United Nations and young people. The Advisory Group had made recommendations in those areas as well as on the issues she had outlined earlier.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Group had shown itself to be a constructive initiative that had already contributed to the strengthening of communications between the United Nations and young people. The Secretary-General had accordingly recommended the convening of two additional Advisory Group meetings during the remaining two years of the testing period, one in 1974 and one in 1975.

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Mr. POEDJIOETOMO (Indonesia) said that his delegation agreed fully with the Secretary-General's report (A/8743), which stated that the channels of communication between young people and the United Nations should be two-way channels. Despite the efforts of the United Nations and various non-governmental organizations, the communication gap between youth and the United Nations still existed. It was to be hoped that the current efforts of the United Nations would convince future generations of its sincerity in wanting young people to become involved in the political, social and economic affairs of their countries, the world and the affairs of the United Nations.

In his report the Secretary-General stated that activities directed towards promoting such communication seek to increase the support of young people for the United Nations. But the most vital consideration was to gain their attention and their influence to help the United Nations face increasingly complex problems regarding the needs and aspirations not only of youth, but also of humanity as a whole.

Unless communications with young people were improved and their participation in United Nations activities increased, the United Nations could not be a viable vehicle for the development of the international community and might lose the interest and commitment of future generations. The United Nations had maintained a lofty attitude towards communication with young people which had not helped to develop among young people an interest in or better understanding of the problems of the international community. It was not enough to aim communication only at the educated youth of the world. The United Nations should reach out to all young people, even those who were less fortunate and those who received no formal education. As was stated in the Secretary-General's report, for most of the world's young people, the United Nations remained a distant and detached institution, and they seemed not to be aware of its existence.

His delegation believed that in order to improve channels of communication with youth, the United Nations should set up the programmes described in document E/5427. It was important that the United Nations begin immediately to implement those programmes by establishing closer relations between youth and youth organizations with a view to furthering the development of educational programmes, broadening the services of public information centres and adopting measures to encourage young people to enter the service of the United Nations. The programmes



(Mr. Poedjioetomo, Indonesia)

should not be above the heads of young people, but neither should they be ridiculously simple and naive: they should be honest and sophisticated enough to induce young people to become involved in solving the problems facing the world. The purpose of the programmes was to enlighten and inform young people, so that they would have the information and knowledge necessary to help the international community to solve complex and serious world problems.

If the United Nations was to maintain its importance in the future, it would have to develop dynamic communication with young people. Education was the key element in that process. His delegation suggested that, if the proposed programmes were to have a permanent effect, the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Youth and the United Nations Volunteers programme should work in co-operation on the projects in question. Those agencies could select a number of field representatives to inform young people about the activities of the United Nations and the problems it was facing. In that way, each representative could be the liaison officer of the United Nations and could establish communications with all segments of youth at their own level. No new facilities needed to be created for that purpose; bodies already in operation could simply be expanded. The objective of that plan and its strength was that urban and rural, educated and uneducated young people could learn about the affairs of the United Nations and gain the knowledge which would, he hoped, motivate them to become involved in United Nations activities and in their own countries' development.

In order to improve communication with youth, there had developed in Indonesia a spirit of self-help and intelligent co-operation between UNICEF and UNESCO which had helped to improve educational facilities in his country. Indonesian schools had become diversified, in addition to providing the usual instruction. Children between the ages of 12 and 16 were learning to repair radios and motorcycles, to operate a photo laboratory, to cook and to build. Government officials, educators and the people as a whole were interested in solving the country's development problems. By working in harmony and co-operation, they had made progress towards motivating youth to become involved in Indonesian politics, economics and social development and to take an interest in United Nations affairs.

Mr. BERLIS (Canada) said that his delegation was in general agreement with the importance the Secretary-General's report attached to continuing the work of the

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(Mr. Berlis, Canada)

Ad Hoc Advisory Group and would therefore support the recommendation that the Council should approve the convening of two additional meetings, one in each of the years 1974 and 1975.

His Government had established specific channels of communication with youth groups, both domestically and internationally. In keeping with the suggestion made in the Secretary-General's report, his delegation favoured the complete integration of any new programmes for youth in existing United Nations activities. Consequently, it attached lower priority to a second world youth conference, pursuing instead a policy of according the fullest attention to existing multilateral youth bodies.

Mrs. SHUEH Jen-wu (China) said that young people constituted an important component part of the revolutionary struggle against imperialism, colonialism and super-Power hegemony in various parts of the world, such as the Middle East and southern Africa. In those circumstances, the United Nations should seek first to strengthen its ties with the organizations in various countries which were engaged in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and super-Power hegemony, particularly organizations concerned with the African liberation movements. A serious drawback of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group was that it contained no reference to such issues.

Mr. NWALA (International Student Movement for the United Nations), speaking at the Chairman's invitation, said that he was taking the floor on behalf of the following non-governmental organizations: the International Student Movement for the United Nations, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Assembly of Youth, the World Student Christian Federation and the International Co-operative Alliance.

In general terms, the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group was a positive contribution to the efforts of the United Nations to develop a meaningful dialogue with the youth of the modern world; however, to date the United Nations had failed to establish a meaningful dialogue with youth non-governmental organizations and it had, in particular, failed to identify the kinds of infrastructural support which those organizations needed in order to achieve the aims of the United Nations, which the Organization often exhorted them to support. The correctness of that conclusion

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(Mr. Nwala)

was confirmed by a review of the resolutions relating to youth which had been approved by major United Nations bodies, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1086 J (XXXIX), General Assembly resolutions 2037 (XX) and 2447 (XXIII) and resolution II (XXVII) of the Commission on Human Rights.

If one half of the resources spent on such analysis had been made available for the programmes and publications of the youth non-governmental organizations, some tangible progress might have been made.

The organizations he was representing could speak on behalf of a significant section of the world's organized youth, but that did not mean that they were not concerned with the situation of unorganized youth in many parts of the world. The youth non-governmental organizations therefore welcomed the fact that both the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and the Secretary-General had attached great importance to the need for the United Nations system to develop effective liaison machinery with young people at the national and regional levels. To that end, they urged that wherever possible the experience and facilities of such organizations should be enlisted in all efforts to work with unorganized youth. With regard to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group itself, the non-governmental organizations referred to had certain reservations about the unrepresentative nature of the Group and therefore endorsed the Group's hope that it would develop firmer and more representative structures; they welcomed the fact that the Group had drawn upon, and acknowledged the experience of the non-governmental youth organizations.

The organizations for which he spoke supported the Group's basic thesis that the United Nations was far from exhausting its possibilities and that participation, co-operation and two-way communication were the fundamental guidelines for all activities of the United Nations with youth.

The report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group outlined a number of options regarding its own future work, including the suggestion that its continuation might not be necessary if a more official relationship could be established between the United Nations and the group of youth non-governmental organizations. In that connexion, it should be mentioned that the informal meetings of youth non-governmental organizations held periodically in Geneva comprised a wide range of programme orientations and all major political tendencies, thus providing a

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(Mr. Nwala)

useful medium for the exchange of information between the United Nations and the participating organizations on policies and programmes relating to youth.

There had been concerted participation of youth non-governmental organizations in various events organized by the United Nations, including the World Youth Assembly, and studies on the participation of those organizations in United Nations programmes in the development and environment fields had been jointly undertaken, producing useful proposals for future guidelines and further work, as well as several reports on specific issues. It should also be pointed out that the informal meetings in Geneva were organizing the International Youth Population Conference which would take place in Bucharest a week before the World Population Conference.

With reference to the financing of the increased involvement of the United Nations in programmes involving youth, it should be recalled that in the Secretary-General's report (A/8743) the suggestion was made that both youth and youth organizations would be one source of extra-budgetary funds for the implementation of the recommendations. Unfortunately, the international youth non-governmental organizations were not in a position to respond to that suggestion, which betrayed an ignorance of the real situation faced by most of those organizations that symbolized the current state of their relations with the United Nations. It should be added that no channel of communication could function effectively when the financial security of the organizations was continually in doubt. The United Nations should therefore take an early decision to determine in detail what the required level of assistance would be for the following three years.

The youth non-governmental organizations firmly endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group that a voluntary youth fund should be established.

In conclusion he submitted the following recommendations on behalf of the youth non-governmental organizations:

(a) That, as a matter of primary importance, the Economic and Social Council should recommend to the General Assembly the rapid establishment of a voluntary youth fund under United Nations auspices to assist in the support of a substantive United Nations youth programme (para. 8 (b) of the Secretary-General's report (E/5427));

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(Mr. Nwala)

(b) That the Economic and Social Council should recommend to the General Assembly precise measures of implementation of the suggestions regarding regional and national programmes for young people and with young people (paras. 8 (a), 10 (b) and 10 (c) of the Secretary-General's report);

(c) That the Economic and Social Council should approve the convening of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth on a more representative basis to further develop its work during two further meetings, in the closest collaboration with the informal meetings of the international youth non-governmental organizations in Geneva and other appropriate parties (para. 13 of the Secretary-General's report);

(d) That the Economic and Social Council should recommend to the General Assembly the provision of increased financial assistance to enable the Geneva informal meetings of the international youth non-governmental organizations both to continue when current funding was no longer sufficient, and to become even more representative (para. 7 of the Secretary-General's report);

(e) That the Economic and Social Council should refer all substantive questions to its appropriate subsidiary organs or other relevant bodies, as suggested by the Secretary-General (para. 10 of his report), and invite them to seek the views of the international youth non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council and of other interested parties.

Mr. Smid (Czechoslovakia) resumed the Chair.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/5451) (continued)

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands), speaking on a point of order in connexion with the report of the Commission on the Status of Women, drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 4 of the report, in which it was stated that the Commission had decided that future communications relating to the status of women would be considered in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and that that question should be deleted from the Committee's work programme.

In his delegation's view, the procedure laid down in resolution 1503 (XLVIII) referred only to communications relating to situations which indicated a

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(Mr. Speekenbrink, Netherlands)

consistent pattern of continuing violations of human rights, and was therefore not an appropriate substitute for the procedure so far followed by the Commission on the Status of Women.

In those circumstances he requested the Secretariat to explain the implications of such a change of procedure, with special reference to the consideration of communications by the Commission on the Status of Women, and to provide information on the action taken by the Commission on the communications received and on the number and nature of those communications.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that replies to those questions should be given when the Committee resumed its consideration of item 14 (Report of the Commission on the Status of Women).

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

733rd meeting

Tuesday, 30 April 1974,  
at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

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SOCIAL QUESTIONS (continued)

- (a) NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS (E/CN.5/478 and Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 and Corr.1, Add.3 and Corr.1 and Add.4; E/AC.7/L.664) (continued)

Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) said that Romania, as a socialist developing country, attached the greatest importance to international co-operation in the social field. His country had been one of the States which had provided information on their experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress. However, recent developments, in particular the holding of the National Conference of the Communist Party in July 1972, made it necessary to supplement the information contained in its earlier report.

The objectives of the economic and social development programme of Romania were to develop productive forces and the national economy, with a view to ensuring better utilization of national resources and effective participation by Romania in the international division of labour. His Government shared the view that the efforts of the people themselves constituted the determining factor in the campaign for economic and social progress. Consequently, one of the basic objectives of the Romanian Government was to increase popular participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of the country. The Government had taken various measures and implemented legislation to achieve that end. As a result, the population had come to play a large part in the formulation of national economic and social development programmes. Development objectives were established on the basis of a continuous flow of information between those responsible for formulating programmes and making decisions and those called on to put them into practice. In addition, the major problems of economic and social development were publicly debated before any decision was taken by the organ concerned.

At all levels of economic and social life, there was broad and direct participation of specialists, representatives of trade union organizations and

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(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

delegates elected by the workers. For example, in 1969, the president of the Central Council of the General Union of Trade Unions, the president of the National Union of Agricultural Producers' Co-operatives and the leader of the Communist Youth Union had been co-opted into the Government as ministers. They were members of the Government by virtue of their positions in the popular organizations and could be dismissed from the Government only upon being removed from office within their organizations.

The Supreme Council for Economic and Social Development of Romania had been set up. Its responsibilities included the formulation of a unified scientific concept of the country's general development prospects, the provision of guidelines for national planning, and the supervision of the implementation of the main objectives of planned socio-economic development. It organized debates and conducted sample surveys of public opinion concerning the trends of economic growth and other matters. Being largely representative, the Supreme Council constituted a democratic forum which ensured close co-operation between management, workers and specialists.

Various means were used to make available to the public information on the domestic and international economic situation to enable it to participate fully in the elaboration and implementation of development programmes. In addition, State education at all levels, and the provision of various types of training, enabled the citizens of Romania to make full use of the opportunities for active participation in the country's economic and social development.

Another important aspect of Romania's development was the effective utilization of national resources. The balanced distribution of the national income between development and consumption meant that, while the standard of living of the people was rising, approximately 30 per cent of the national income was to be used between 1971 and 1975 for development. The investment programme under the current five-year plan amounted to 540,000 million lei, as compared with 330,000 million lei under the previous five-year plan, and one million jobs were to be created. Priority was given to the development of industry, with the result that, while industry had accounted for 30 per cent of the national income before 1939, in 1970 it had accounted for 60 per cent, and by 1975 it was expected to account for 67 per cent of the national income.

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(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

Legislation concerning development stated that planned economic and social development would be based on socialist industrialization and the establishment of an economically efficient industrial structure by giving priority to the production of means of production, expanding the raw materials base, creating new sources of energy, developing efficient sectors, and increasing the output of consumer goods to meet the growing needs of the population.

The number of persons employed in industry had increased as the number of persons working in agriculture declined. That development, however, had not led to any unfavourable social consequences. Industrial development was being promoted throughout the whole country and was accompanied by the implementation of a comprehensive plan for dealing with problems caused by the urbanization and social development of rural areas.

Social planning in Romania was an integral part of general development planning. Priority was given to the basic objective of the economic and social development policy, namely the systematic rise in standards of living and the education of all citizens. Real income had arisen by 5.1 per cent a year between 1950 and 1970; in 1973, it had been three times higher than in 1938, and between 1971 and 1975 it was expected to rise by 20 per cent. During the current five-year plan approximately 2 million people would be provided with new housing. Priority was given to districts which were backward as a consequence of the pre-war economic and social structures.

The developments he had mentioned would be described in detail in a government note dealing with the world social situation.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) introduced the draft decision submitted by his delegation in document E/AC.7/L.664. It called for the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly of two separate items entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress" and "Unified approach to development analysis and planning".

Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) said that the situation with regard to the item under consideration was somewhat confusing. The Committee seemed to be dealing

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(Miss Cao Pinna, Italy)

with three items which were closely related: the social situation; review and appraisal of the social objectives of the International Development Strategy; and, as the United States representative had mentioned at the previous meeting, social indicators. The Soviet representative had proposed that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1746 (LIV), paragraph 6, and 1747 (LIV), paragraph 5 (e), two separate items should be included in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. However, no report had been prepared on those items, and the representative of the Secretary-General had noted that there was little to be added to what had been stated in the annotated agenda of the Economic and Social Council. Moreover, the Commission for Social Development would not meet until January 1975, and the Social Committee was thus obliged to work without the benefit of its views. Since the report of the Secretary-General would not be available until January 1975, she suggested that no decisions should be taken until the fifty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Council or the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

The suggestion made by the United States representative at the previous meeting concerning social indicators was in line with paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1748 (LIV), which invited the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to undertake further studies on the establishment of social standards and indicators and to submit the results of those studies to the Commission for Social Development. She suggested that a report on the results of those studies should be prepared and submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, so that the Assembly would have before it a report which would be useful in considering the three interrelated items she had mentioned earlier. She hoped that the United States representative would make a formal proposal to that effect.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, although the three items referred to by the representative of Italy were interrelated in that they all dealt with social problems, the Economic and Social Council had taken separate action on each item. The draft decision in document E/AC.7/L.664 recalled two decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council. In connexion with the question of documentation for the General Assembly, he recalled that

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

46 Government replies and the report of the Secretary-General were contained in documents E/CN.5/478 and Add.1-3. Moreover the two items to which he had referred had already been considered by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session. With regard to the question of Economic and Social Council resolution 1748 (LIV), he said that he saw no connexion in either form or substance between that resolution and resolutions 1746 (LIV) and 1747 (LIV).

Mrs. BAZARKHAND (Mongolia) said that the item under consideration was one of the most important items on the agenda, in that it involved many problems related to economic and social progress in developing countries. Mongolia's development proved that far-reaching social and economic changes were important factors in progress, the spiritual renewal of social life and the strengthening of the power of the people. Mongolia had developed from one of the most backward colonial countries in the east to become a modern agro-industrial State as a result of the 1921 revolution and radical changes in the economic and social life of society. One of the most important changes had been the replacement of the government of the exploiting class by workers' deputies. Other changes included the solution of the agrarian problem. The Constitution had affirmed the common ownership of the land and the inalienable sovereignty of the State over the natural resources. Another revolutionary change had been the establishment and strengthening of the State sector in the national economy. That had led to a change from small to large-scale agricultural production.

Mental attitudes had also been transformed through education and culture. High priority had been given to literacy campaigns and to making culture accessible to the masses and thus involving them in the political life of the country. In the decade following the revolution, literacy had increased by 20 per cent. A national education system had now been introduced with free education for children in towns and rural areas. The qualifications of scientific workers in research institutes had also been improved and they were now making a valuable contribution to the development of the country. The ancient art of the Mongolian people had been enriched by innovations of form and content.

The rapid economic and social progress had raised the material and cultural standards of the people. The gross national product and the real per capita income

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(Mrs. Bazarkhand, Mongolia)

were both constantly increasing. Free medical service had improved and in 1969 there had been one doctor for every 584 inhabitants.

The experience of the Mongolian people proved that a people, master of their own fate, could overcome inherited economic and cultural backwardness in a short period of time if they could mobilize all their internal resources. The Mongolian people had, of course, been assisted by the fraternal assistance and support of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other countries in the socialist community. Nevertheless, it was the national effort that was basically responsible for the rapid economic and social progress. Mobilizing national resources involved far-reaching social and economic changes, without which progress was unthinkable.

Her delegation supported the proposal that the item under consideration should be included as a separate item in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, as proposed in the draft decision submitted by the Soviet Union (E/AC.7/L.664).

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom), commenting on the statements made by the representatives of Italy and the Soviet Union, said that there would be little documentation available either on national experience in achieving far-reaching social changes or on a unified approach to development analysis and planning. The report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/478) and the 46 Government replies had already been considered by the Commission for Social Development and by the Economic and Social Council. In resolution 1746 (LIV), the Economic and Social Council had decided to include the question of national experience in achieving far-reaching social changes in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. But the further detailed analysis of the world social situation was to be prepared not for that session but for the Commission for Social Development. Moreover, the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 5 (c) of resolution 1747 (LIV), envisaged the submission of the results of a study to the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development. Those reports had, however, not yet been prepared. Accordingly, he proposed that consideration of the question should be postponed until the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. He suggested

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(Mr. Macrae, United Kingdom)

that the Soviet representative might wish to consider amending the draft decision in document E/AC.7/L.664 to that effect.

(b) CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOUTH AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS  
(E/5427) (continued)

Mr. BROUWERS (Netherlands) said that it was clear from the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth (document ESA/SDHA/AC.4/2) that the Group had made a successful beginning with the establishment of relations with youth at the national and international levels and the strengthening of youth participation in development and international co-operation. His delegation therefore fully agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal, contained in paragraph 13 of document E/5427, that the mandate of the Group should be extended. Moreover, the Group should be a platform of all youth, and his delegation therefore welcomed further consideration of the Group's composition.

His delegation in general supported the views of the Group on the problems in development sectors such as education, employment and population growth and stressed that youth problems, which particularly affected the developing countries, required prompt and concerted action. An increasing number of young people were becoming qualified, through education and training, for jobs which the labour market could not make available to them. Countries therefore required stronger bilateral and multilateral support to further their efforts to solve their youth problems in the context of national development plans. The participation of youth in such plans was becoming imperative, as was their contribution to international conferences such as the World Population Conference. His delegation welcomed the convening of an international youth meeting as a parallel activity of the Bucharest Conference and suggested that the results of that meeting might in some way be taken into account by the Conference.

The Advisory Group's ideas on the rights of young people and youth involvement in the promotion of respect for human rights required further discussion and his delegation therefore agreed that the relevant section of the report should be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its next session.

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(Mr. Brouwers, Netherlands)

His delegation was aware that the recommendations in the Advisory Group's report, particularly in paragraphs 95 and 102, were merely intended to stimulate further study, but it was concerned about several of the suggested separate arrangements for youth activities within the United Nations. They might lead to the isolation of youth affairs, a situation to which the Group itself had expressed opposition. Furthermore, his delegation did not think that an international document on youth would be profitable, and could see little purpose in holding a second World Youth Assembly, unless new arrangements were evolved for the participation of young people in such a meeting.

Mr. WILSON (Liberia) said that his delegation supported the recommendations of the Secretary-General concerning the preparation of systematic programmes and series of projects to increase the involvement of youth in national development and in the promotion of human rights. It also favoured the convening of a second World Youth Assembly.

In his country, in order to meet the needs and aspirations of youth, a Ministry of Youth and Labour had been set up in 1971, which had close contacts with other national and international organizations. The Government, aware that education was an instrument of social change, had announced in 1972, that secondary education would be free and that the cost of higher education would be reduced. It had undertaken at that time to build one elementary school with one junior high school in every town or city with 600 inhabitants. Also in 1972, the President, in an address on the founding of the Republic of Liberia, had devoted one paragraph of his statement to the importance of Liberia's youth in the development of a more dynamic nation.

The most popular magazine in Liberia had been founded by young people. An article in the current issue described some National Volunteer Service activities, which were a practical example of how the youth of Liberia was totally involved in the social development of the country.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that, since every aspect of youth had been extensively discussed by the General Assembly at its last session, the Committee should discuss only those points requiring decisions. Moreover, if any delegations wished to submit draft resolutions, they should do so promptly.

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(Mr. Macrae, United Kingdom)

Otherwise the Committee should take note with appreciation of the report of the Advisory Group and refer it to the Commission for Social Development for detailed study. Document E/5427 contained detailed recommendations deserving further study and should therefore also be referred to the Commission for Social Development.

With regard to the proposed United Nations Voluntary Youth Fund, his Government did not support the establishment of voluntary extrabudgetary funds. Since there were other funds relating to youth work, it would be better to see how they operated before setting up yet another fund.

Mrs. PICKER (United States of America) said that most of the recommendations of the Advisory Group could be used as guidelines for improving communications between youth and the United Nations. The Group had correctly placed great importance on regional and local programmes, where young people could make a direct contribution if their skills were improved. One local participation project carried out in Iran had involved the use of young military recruits to help in literacy campaigns, to teach basic hygiene and health techniques and to share agricultural know-how.

Since the lack of effective communication between the United Nations and youth had in the past stemmed from youth's perception that international organizations were complex and often inefficient bureaucracies, setting up special bureaucratic mechanisms could only be counter-productive. It would be better for young people to be directly incorporated into ongoing development activities. Students and young people were interested in action, not more conferences and symposia on youth. Youth were integrated into the work of the United Nations, for example, through the UNICEF volunteers who worked on field projects. The UNICEF programme might serve as a model for other United Nations agencies wishing to involve young people without creating unwarranted bureaucratic structures and incurring administrative costs.

The Advisory Group had successfully performed its mandate and its recommendations should now be implemented.

Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania) said that his delegation had been among those in 1972 which had welcomed the General Assembly's approval of the convening of an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth and was most gratified that the results, as shown by

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(Mr. Ropotean, Romania)

the comments of the Secretary-General in document E/5427, were so positive. His and other delegations would submit a draft resolution on the item.

Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) said that the Secretary-General had requested the opinions of Member States on three specific points involved in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3140 (XXVIII). Therefore, any further action, with the exception of a decision regarding the proposal in paragraph 13 of document E/5427 to extend the mandate of the Advisory Group, should be deferred until the Secretary-General reviewed those programmes which, in the opinion of Governments, could best stimulate the participation of youth in the development of society. If the Advisory Group's mandate was extended it would have the opportunity of consulting with youth organizations, and its findings would be valuable to the Secretariat and to Governments when considering the second report on the world social situation of youth. Furthermore, with an extended mandate, the Advisory Group could produce definitive recommendations.

Regarding the question of establishing a voluntary extrabudgetary fund, her Government was usually reluctant to consider the establishment of such funds, since they implied the development of structures which ultimately affected the regular budget of the United Nations.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that his Government recognized the important role to be played by youth in promoting and achieving the goals of national social development and in implementing the principles of the United Nations Charter for the attainment of world peace and justice. In Egypt, youth was actively involved in political life through a Ministry of Youth and various other organizations. His delegation felt that, since youth formed an integral part of any society, its problems must be dealt with within the context of that society. Because the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group had only recently been circulated, his Government had not had an opportunity of soliciting the views of Egyptian youth on that report. His delegation had no objection to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group continuing its work, but felt that, before any final decision was reached, national and international youth organizations and the competent authorities should be asked for their views on the questions dealt with in the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and in the report of the Secretary-General. Until such time as those views were obtained, the United Nations should continue its work to enable youth to participate fully in social development and in the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Charter.

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Mr. Sayar (Iran) took the Chair.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government was interested in strengthening the role of youth and youth organizations within the United Nations system. He felt that the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group was a satisfactory and positive document and would vote for the continuation of the Group for two further years.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the report of the Secretary-General (E/5427), said that it was impossible to adopt a unified approach to the problems of youth, since those problems varied widely from one country to another, according to the level of economic and social development, and historical and cultural circumstances. As the responsibility for solving the problems of youth within a given country devolved upon national Governments, the role of the United Nations was primarily to create a favourable climate for the solution of international problems of concern to youth, such as the curtailment of the arms race, unemployment, and the elimination of social inequalities. Measures to enable youth to participate more fully in economic and social development would help in solving those problems. The experience of the Soviet Union over the past 50 years had demonstrated that any social policy, if it was to be successful, must be directed towards the solution of development problems and the implementation of programmes for economic and social change.

Since the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group had only recently been circulated and there was as yet no text in Russian, he had been able to make only a preliminary study of the document. However, his delegation wished to express reservations with regard to some of the specific recommendations contained in the report, which did not appear to have been based on the views of Member States. A case in point was the proposal to convene a second World Youth Assembly. In his report, the Secretary-General had rightly pointed out that the number of replies received from Member States on that question was too small to enable any conclusions to be drawn as to the viewpoint of Member States on that question. Other controversial recommendations were those concerning the establishment of a voluntary youth fund and the matters to be referred to the Commission on Human Rights, many of which were in fact already being considered by that body. His delegation also opposed the proposal that

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

a list of communications be published annually concerning gross violations of human rights classified according to the type of violation and the country in which it had occurred. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1503 (XLVIII), had already established the procedure for dealing with communications of that type.

His main reservation, however, was that the report did not allow for a different approach to the problems of youth in different countries or groups of countries, according to their social and economic systems. The report of the Secretary-General took account of the broad consideration given to the question in the past. However, the matter should be considered by the Commission for Social Development. His delegation had no objection to the report of the Secretary-General and that of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group being transmitted to the Commission for Social Development for its consideration.

Mr. DUMAS (France) agreed that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group should continue its work for a further two years. He supported the recommendation in paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report and recognized the importance of the programmes referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 of that report. However, his delegation was not convinced of the advisability of convening a second World Youth Assembly. In the light of events at the first Assembly, held in July 1970, he feared that a second Assembly could become a political forum and devote much of its time to the consideration of questions not on its agenda. As far as the proposal to create a United Nations research and information centre on youth was concerned, he felt that it would be preferable to establish flexible procedures for communication between regional and national organizations concerned with youth.

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia) found the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group original and appreciated the efforts that the Group had made in considering such a wide spectrum of questions. However, since the Advisory Group did not consider its work finished, its mandate should be extended. She saw no objection to the submission of the report to the Commission for Social Development and to national Governments while the Advisory Group continued its consideration of uncompleted items.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

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Tuesday, 30 April 1974,  
at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. SAYAR (Iran)

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SOCIAL QUESTIONS (continued):

- (a) NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS (E/CN.5/478 and Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 and Corr.1, Add.3 and Corr.1 and Add.4; E/AC.7/L.664) (continued).
- (b) CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOUTH AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (E/5427) (continued)

Mr. WANG Tzu-Chuan (China) said that his delegation was not in agreement with the draft decision submitted by the delegation of the Soviet Union on agenda item 8 (a) (E/AC.7/L.664) for two reasons. Firstly, although it had been recommended in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1746 (LIV) and 1747 (LIV) that both the subitems of item 8 should be included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly as separate items, it had also been recommended that they should first be considered by the Committee for Development Planning, which would not meet until June 1974. Secondly, the agenda of the General Assembly was already overloaded and there would not be sufficient time to consider all the items. Furthermore, it was possible that, following the special session of the General Assembly, a proposal might be made to include in the agenda other items that were of great interest to the majority of the States Members of the United Nations.

Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) drew attention to the relationship between economic development and the social consequences of both development and stagnation.

In its resolution 1746 (LIV), the Economic and Social Council stressed the great importance of fundamental social and economic changes and expressed the belief that its task was to promote the implementation of article 18 (b) of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development. It also recommended that appropriate measures should be taken at all levels to ensure more active participation by the entire population in the production, preparation and execution

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(Mr. Srinivasan, India)

of policies and programmes designed to achieve far-reaching social and economic changes, taking into account the experience of other Governments in that field.

Although that was important, it would be wrong to presume that one successful national experience in that field would be equally successful in another nation. All nations differed according to their level of development, and their potential for changing their economic and social structures was dependent on the social and economic circumstances prevailing at a given time.

All India's development plans laid great emphasis on the involvement of voluntary professional institutions, youth organizations, organizations of farmers, consumers, artisans, industrial workers, academic institutions, etc., in decision-making as well as implementation. His Government hoped that its experiences would benefit other countries and was also certain that it would benefit from the experiments and experiences of other countries in that field.

Mrs. SEKELE-KANINDA (Zaire) said that the fact that the National Executive Council of Zaire had not answered the questionnaire sent by the Secretary-General on the introduction of far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress did not mean that her Government was not deeply interested in the question. It had adopted the following set of objectives, which it considered should be accorded top priority.

Attempts would be made to improve the working conditions of agricultural and rural workers, to increase their individual output by technical innovations, to organize the production and marketing of products at reasonably remunerative prices, to halt the exodus from villages to large cities, and to build roads, water supply facilities, small power plants and cultural centres.

As far as industrial workers were concerned, the trade union organization to which all workers belonged had been requested to take part in planning surveys, so as to ensure balanced production growth and satisfaction of collective and individual needs.

The major social objectives were equitable distribution of national income, increased production and its rationalization in the interests of society as a whole, elimination of mismanagement and unproductive effort, conclusion of

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(Mrs. Sekele-Kaninda, Zaire)

collective agreements and guaranteed salaries and social security. Another priority objective was the establishment of an economic infrastructure and of new industries.

The Government had also made provision for the implementation of a policy of important public works, which included the nationalization of the soil and subsoil of Zaire. In the employment sector, various steps had been taken to combat unemployment. With regard to health, the National Executive Council was making every effort to reduce epidemic and endemic diseases and infant mortality. The Government was also carrying out activities relating to housing.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was evident that the two subitems of item 8 were very interesting, particularly for the developing countries. His delegation had underlined the importance of those subjects both in the Commission for Social Development and in the Economic and Social Council. It should be borne in mind that the outcome of discussions in the Council had been that the large majority of delegations had voted in favour of resolutions 1746 (LIV) and 1747 (LIV). They recommended that the item should continue to be studied at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, which was the most appropriate forum for concluding the consideration of those matters.

Furthermore, in the Council resolutions referred to, the Secretary-General had been requested to submit the results of the study on those subjects to the Economic and Social Council, together with suitable recommendations; that had not been possible because of the special session of the General Assembly. It was therefore to be hoped that the Secretariat could prepare the relevant report for consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.

Finally, his delegation did not feel that it was necessary to take a formal decision on the matter, in view of the fact that the representative of the Secretary-General had assured members at the previous meeting that both subjects would be included in the General Assembly agenda. His delegation would therefore be satisfied if reference was made in the Committee's report to the need to include those items in the agenda of the General Assembly.

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Miss WALTERS (Assistant Director, Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies) pointed out that, at the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council, it had been agreed to postpone consideration of the unified approach to development analysis and planning until 1975, on the understanding that the Council would have before it a report on the subject at its fifty-seventh session.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the members of the Committee should turn to item 8 (b).

Mr. WASILEWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation wished to express its keen interest in the questions concerning youth, its social situation, the way in which its needs and aspirations should be met and the development of adequate channels of communication with young people. His country's interest in the subject was quite obvious, in view of the fact that over half the population of Poland was under 30 years of age.

Young people born in the Polish People's Republic enjoyed all the human rights guaranteed by the Constitution and, in practice, by the socialist system. For example, in 1973, the Polish Parliament had passed a law on State obligations with regard to the education of young people, and the Government had worked out a comprehensive national programme which established goals and provided the means to achieve them through concerted action, particularly by State organizations.

His delegation had studied with interest the Secretary-General's report on that subject (E/5427); despite the interesting observations that it contained, the report had some short-comings to which he wished to draw the Committee's attention. For example, he felt that account had not been taken in the report of actual circumstances such as the existence in the world of developing countries, capitalist countries and socialist countries, and the fact that it was not possible to study the problems of youth separately from the over-all situation in each country. It was also impossible to speak on many aspects of the question of youth without referring to the structural reforms which constituted the main prerequisite for securing the rights of youth.

In view of the importance of the item and of the fact that it would be premature to take a final decision at the current stage, his delegation considered

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(Mr. Wasilewski, Poland)

that it would be best to refer the item together with all available information to the Commission for Social Development for its consideration and for the submission of a report on the matter.

Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand) said that his delegation attached great importance to the promotion of youth involvement in national and international development, with particular reference to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, as well as in areas concerning human rights. The young people in Thailand were considered a progressive social force which had a genuine desire to contribute to and participate constructively in the establishment of social justice. To that end, by means of various measures, his Government had always encouraged youth initiatives and involvement in projects which contributed to national development.

For those reasons, his delegation fully endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth that the United Nations should continue to experiment with co-operative projects with youth organizations at all levels, but with particular stress on the national level, taking into consideration the different approaches which would be appropriate to each national situation. His delegation also endorsed the recommendations that each regional economic commission should appoint a youth liaison officer and that the specialized agencies should enlist the co-operation of youth in their activities at the national level.

With regard to relations between the United Nations and youth, his delegation agreed that, to the vast majority of youth, the United Nations still seemed distant and timid. To improve that situation, it was necessary to bring about youth participation and co-operation as well as two-way communication between the Organization and youth. Both the specialized agencies and the Governments of Member States should help to ensure that young people all over the world familiarized themselves with the United Nations and its activities and collaborated with it.

His delegation considered that it was important to continue the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and to enlarge it to include representatives of other international youth organizations. He also supported the convening of two additional meetings of the Group in 1974 and 1975.

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(Mr. Chavanaviraj, Thailand)

Finally, he expressed his delegation's reservations concerning the proposed establishment of a voluntary youth fund and the proposed second World Youth Assembly. Since the "testing period" would continue until 1975, it might be necessary to wait, taking a decision on those two matters at a later stage, when it was possible to assess the results of work being carried out in that field.

Mr. ROUX (Belgium) said he supported the statement made by the representative of Italy at the previous meeting regarding the draft decision submitted by the Soviet Union (E/AC.7/L.664), which would have the Assembly consider item 8 (a) at its twenty-ninth session. Although that question was of great interest, it would be premature for the General Assembly to consider it at its twenty-ninth session, since the Assembly would by that time not yet have studied the important 1974 Report on the World Social Situation. It would be much wiser to accept the suggestion of the United Kingdom representative that the General Assembly should consider the question at its thirtieth session, by which time delegations would have studied the Report, which apparently would contain a chapter on the question dealt with in item 8 (a).

Mr. WILSON (Liberia) endorsed the views of the representative of Belgium, since the 1974 Report was not yet available. It would be better to wait until the Report was available before consideration of the item was resumed.

He also supported the United Kingdom subamendment to the USSR draft decision.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), replying to a request for clarification by the representative of Brazil, confirmed that his delegation would not press for a decision by the Council on item 8 (a) at the current session and would be satisfied if its recommendation was reflected in the Committee's report.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would of course not insist on the subamendment which it had proposed at the previous meeting and which would be reflected in the record of that meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

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735th meeting

Wednesday, 1 May 1974,  
at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia)

SOCIAL QUESTIONS (continued):

- (a) NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS (E/CN.5/478 and Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 and Corr.1, Add.3 and Corr.1 and Add.4; E/AC.7/L.664 and L.666) (continued)

Mrs. PICKER (United States of America) introduced the draft resolution concerning social indicators for measuring social progress (E/AC.7/L.666). She had consulted informally with other delegations and the text incorporated some suggestions they had made.

Mr. HAENSEL (German Democratic Republic) supported the Soviet draft decision in document E/AC.7/L.664, which was fully in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1746 (LIV) and 1747 (LIV), and also with the position taken at the Algiers Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and with the view expressed during the sixth special session of the General Assembly that the United Nations should take appropriate measures to accelerate economic and social progress in States liberated from colonialism and dependence. The Secretariat should accelerate preparations for consideration of the two items at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

The German Democratic Republic's experience in carrying out sweeping social and economic changes indicated that such changes promoted social progress only if they were of a democratic and progressive nature and were aimed at improving the situation of the working masses and strengthening a democratic State authority. The objectives of the changes should be the elimination of existing economic and social imbalance, improvement in the standard of living of the people and involvement of the working masses and social organizations, particularly the trade unions, in planning and carrying out economic and social changes. Socio-economic changes were conceivable only in the context of the specific conditions of each country. In the German Democratic Republic, changes were directed at ensuring job security, good education for all and equal rights for women, improving health

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(Mr. Haensel, German Democratic Republic)

care, and guaranteeing the basic rights of the younger generation and good human relations. The objective was to raise the standard of living constantly and to satisfy the growing material and cultural needs of the people.

His delegation believed that the maintenance of peace and strengthening of international security were fundamental to social progress. He therefore supported the view that the elimination of all forms of discrimination and exploitation was indispensable for far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress.

Mr. SAYAR (Iran) drew attention to the Government reply from Iran contained on page 41 of document E/CN.5/478/Add.1, which described national arrangements for planning, land reform, education and public health. Since then, two important decrees had been issued which would have a major effect on the economic and social development of Iran. The first provided for free secondary education for all children. There had previously been free primary education for all children and free secondary education for some. In addition, all school children would be given one nutritious hot meal each day. The decree would take effect at the beginning of the next scholastic year. The second decree established a national health service, which would provide free health care for all Iranians. There had previously been some private health insurance schemes, but the new decree covered the whole population, including the large rural population of approximately 30 million. Iran had sufficient resources to implement the vast project in stages. Qualified staff and equipment were needed, although in some areas existing facilities and personnel were adequate.

In connexion with the question of staffing the public health system, he stressed that it was absolutely essential for developing countries to provide training for qualified staff at all levels. His country attached great importance to education and training, particularly for all activities that would affect the social welfare of the people. Each developing country should have, in addition to an economic and social policy, a systematic training policy for all categories of staff, including regular and accelerated training.

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Mr. CURTIN (Australia) said that Australia had long regarded social development as an important component of economic development. Economic development involved concepts and judgements that were constantly being elucidated. The scope of the item under consideration was vast, and the Committee should try to work out as precisely as possible what exactly it was trying to achieve. It should be guided by the debate at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, by the work to be carried out by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1748 (LIV), and by the work to be carried out under draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666, if adopted.

With regard to the draft decision in document E/AC.7/L.664, his delegation had no strong views on how the items on the unified approach and far-reaching changes should be included in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. However, he did wonder whether two separate items were really necessary. The Secretariat needed clear guidance on the matter.

In connexion with the question of social indicators, there was clearly a need for a more comprehensive study of the various factors that affected the welfare of the individual. He requested clarification of the nature of the studies proposed in draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666, as he was not familiar with the work being done by UNRISD. He would, however, fully support any attempt to identify social indicators and refine the concepts of social development. In that connexion, he hoped that the Commission for Social Development would make useful progress. He would not take a position on the draft resolution until further information was available.

His Government was strongly committed to policies aimed at minimizing social inequality and injustice and at improving the social performance of the national economy. The elaboration of social welfare policies was a continuing process. Australia had long maintained a system of free primary and secondary education, but had introduced totally free tertiary education only the previous year. The Australian social welfare programme was evolving to take account of the diversity of the nation's social, economic and cultural patterns by involving those who used

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(Mr. Curtin, Australia)

welfare services in the evaluation of their effectiveness. Social welfare policies could be improved through adjustments in health legislation and in taxation and pension policies. Moreover, there should be continuous improvement in the enjoyment of human rights if individuals were to benefit fully from economic and social opportunities.

There was clearly a need to give a new direction and new impetus to the debate on social progress at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and he would welcome any suggestions for a new approach.

Mr. BERLIS (Canada) supported draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666. It drew attention to the interesting work being done in many countries on identifying social indicators to measure social progress, which could facilitate planning for social progress. The draft resolution advocated the exchange and borrowing of ideas to meet national needs in social development. He suggested that, once the studies had been carried out, the results could be incorporated in the Report on the World Social Situation.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said, with reference to draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666, that his delegation understood the importance of the social component of development, since economic development was sought not for its own sake, but in order to achieve social objectives. His delegation would support the draft resolution, which would deepen knowledge of the complicated social aspects of development. However, in paragraph 3 (a), perhaps the word "Undertake", which might suggest some new studies which were not in fact intended, should be replaced. In the first preambular paragraph, reference should also be made to General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), since that would make it clear that social indicators were to be used within the framework of the International Development Strategy. In paragraph 1, the word "approval" was not appropriate and should be replaced by a word such as "interest" or "appreciation". Furthermore, the draft resolution repeatedly referred to both the developing and the developed countries, which seemed unnecessary if it was intended to apply to all Member States.

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

In considering social indicators and co-ordinating available data, the Secretary-General would take the structure of international society into account, including the imbalances which affected Member States' development efforts. Policies were part of that structure and imbalances were caused by the policies of some developed countries supporting racist and other régimes which were contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter. There was a lack of capital, equipment and assistance for development that affected the capacity of the developing countries to undertake research into social achievements. Development could be attained only if the international community as a whole supported the efforts of the developing countries.

Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) said that, as a member of the Commission for Social Development, her delegation had supported the unified approach to development as being an integral part of national planning. It had stressed the need to identify social indicators which would serve to measure social and economic changes and would be used as criteria in the review and appraisal exercise. The results of the first review and appraisal showed that the developing countries were those which had least benefited, particularly in social terms, from the First Development Decade. Housing, nutrition and employment were critical indices of national social progress that needed to be refined into usable social indicators for countries emerging from colonialism. The inclusion of item 8 (a) and of the unified approach to development analysis and planning as separate items in the agenda of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session would highlight the need for social indicators, and she therefore supported the Soviet draft decision in document E/AC.7/L.664.

She supported the intention underlying the United States draft resolution (E/AC.7/L.666), but shared the view of the representative of Egypt that the word "approval" in paragraph 1 was inappropriate. It should be replaced by the word "interest", which implied no value judgement. Furthermore, the words "developing and developed" before the word "countries" should be deleted.

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Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said, with reference to draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666, that social indicators for the measurement of social progress could not be uniform, because of each country's different situation, and could not be considered in isolation from economic indicators, since social development largely depended on the growth of national income and how it was distributed. The measure of improved well-being among the various sectors of the population provided one major indicator in measuring the development of any country, but social progress could also be measured by the access of youth to all levels of education and the measures taken to counteract unemployment. If only social indicators were considered, as suggested in the draft resolution, a distorted view might be arrived at.

In the developing countries, the question should be considered in terms of the implementation of the goals of the Second Development Decade and the fact that the International Development Strategy stressed the achievement of social progress through economic development. Resources were needed to bring about the necessary radical social and economic changes and resolve the backwardness inherited from the colonial era.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1748 (LIV) had requested the Secretariat to prepare appropriate and specific documentation and to submit it to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session, and had invited UNRISD to undertake further studies on the establishment of social standards and indicators and to submit the results to the Commission for Social Development in time for its twenty-fourth session. He therefore debated the appropriateness of adopting draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666, since no new elements were being introduced and since the matter had been discussed separately by the Council at its fifty-fourth session. Furthermore, the interim report referred to in paragraph 3 (c) of the draft resolution was not necessary, since the matter would not be before the General Assembly as a separate agenda item.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was sceptical about the value of the General Assembly's discussing the subject-matter of Council resolutions 1746 (LIV) and 1747 (LIV) as separate items; if those questions were to be discussed, resolution 1748 (LIV) should also be taken into account. Any

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(Mr. Broad, United Kingdom)

discussion of the first two questions should preferably be deferred until after the Report on the World Social Situation had been prepared, and the two questions should be taken together.

His delegation supported draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666, since it provided for the preparation of documentation as a basis for further discussion. However, the draft resolution might give rise to duplication of effort. Accordingly, although Council resolution 1748 (LIV), referred to in the first preambular paragraph, in fact covered the work of UNRISD, he suggested that a final preambular paragraph should be inserted which might read as follows: "Taking due account of major work in this field now being undertaken by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development,".

Miss CAO PINNA (Italy), responding to the question asked by the representative of Australia, said that additional information on the unified approach could be found in the report on a unified approach to development analysis and planning (E/CN.5/477), which had been considered by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-third session.

Referring to draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666, she shared the reservations expressed by Egypt and other delegations with regard to the wording of paragraph 3 (a). As it stood, that paragraph implied that the United Nations was being requested to undertake new studies on social indicators. Since work was already being done in that field, however, it would be preferable to adopt a step-by-step approach to the question. The United Nations should first make an assessment of the work being done on social indicators at the national, international and regional levels, and only if that work was felt to be insufficient should the Organization consider undertaking new studies in that field. She therefore urged the delegation of the United States to consider modifying the wording of paragraph 3 (a) accordingly. Since the purpose of identifying social indicators for measuring social progress was to enlighten the bodies responsible for development planning and analysis, the assessment to be made by the Secretary-General should determine the extent to which social indicators were identified and used in decision-making and in evaluating progress towards the attainment of social goals and objectives. The decision as to the necessity of undertaking

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(Miss Cao Pinna, Italy)

further work and the direction which such work should take could be made when the interim report of the Secretary-General was considered by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In her view, any future work undertaken by the United Nations should be directed at stimulating the identification of social indicators at the national level. In view of the technical nature of the question, the bodies most competent to deal with it might be the Commission for Social Development and the Commission for Development Planning. Consequently, while the report could be usefully considered by the General Assembly, the decision on the nature of any work to be undertaken should be deferred to the next session of the Commission for Social Development.

Some additional action by the Council was necessary, since UNRISD did not appear to have undertaken further studies on the establishment of social standards and indicators, as it had been invited to do by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1748 (LIV).

She pointed out that the question of social indicators had not been discussed as a separate item at the fifty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council. Paragraph 4 of resolution 1748 (LIV) had been added to the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development.

Miss WALTERS (Assistant Director, Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies) informed the Committee that, at the meeting of the Board of UNRISD held in July 1973, it had been agreed that, while current activities related to social indicators would continue, no new projects should be undertaken in that field. The current activities of UNRISD included a study of the use of statistical data for the measurement of socio-economic development and the identification of its content, and research into the measurement of progress at the local level.

Within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Statistical Office was engaged in a number of relevant statistical studies and a report on international activities in the field of social indicators was being prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission's Working Party on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics meeting in June 1974. Some preliminary work was also under way in the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies to prepare a document on social indicators for submission to the Commission for Social Development in January 1975.

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The CHAIRMAN appealed to the delegations concerned to endeavour to reach agreement on the points raised during the meeting in respect of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666, to enable the Committee to reach a decision on the text at its next meeting.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the earlier observations made by his delegation had been only of a preliminary nature. His delegation was currently engaged in drafting possible amendments to that resolution. However, since the draft resolution had been circulated only recently, he felt that discussion of the text and any amendments to it could be postponed.

(b) CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOUTH AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS  
(E/5427; E/AC.7/L.665) (continued)

Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania), introducing draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665, said that for the past decade one of the major preoccupations of the international community had been the analysis of the problems of the younger generation. The United Nations had devoted considerable energy to creating a climate in which youth could express itself on all questions of international concern. Delegations at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly and in other international bodies had expressed their continued interest in broadening the field of activities relating to youth and in improving communications between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. It was with those considerations in mind that the sponsors had submitted the draft resolution.

Mr. SAYAR (Iran) said that his delegation supported in principle the conclusions in the first report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group established under General Assembly resolution 3022 (XXVII). It was very important to organize seminars for young people within the United Nations framework. Regional programmes, perhaps within the framework of the regional economic commissions, would be of particular benefit to developing countries. He supported the recommendations in paragraph 12 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/5427), particularly the question of the evaluation of racial prejudices in textbooks and publications. He did not, however, feel that the reconciliation of the issue of conscientious objection with the need to defend one's country, referred to in paragraph 12 (a) (iv), was of particular importance for developing countries. He

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(Mr. Sayar, Iran)

supported the further development of the United Nations Volunteers programme, recommended in paragraph 7 of the report. His delegation had sponsored the establishment of the Volunteers programme and supported its incorporation in UNDP. The programme brought together young people from all countries and encouraged mutual understanding and solidarity. The volunteers could contribute to the economic and social development of the most disadvantaged countries and promote understanding and co-operation between young people throughout the world.

The recommendations in section III of the report of the Secretary-General (E/5427) required further elaboration in co-operation with interested United Nations bodies, such as the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights and UNDP. The experience of the specialized agencies such as UNESCO, ILO and FAO could also be useful in elaborating the recommendations.

As one of the sponsors of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665, he hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) said that General Assembly resolution 3022 (XXVII), referred to in draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665, provided a practical basis for improving national and international communications with youth.

The item under consideration was primarily concerned with the exchange of ideas about the policies and programmes of the United Nations and Member States concerning youth, since the establishment of effective communication between youth and the United Nations could serve to improve young people's understanding of planning procedures. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth had begun the process of communication and, with the Council's support, that body could become an effective mechanism to ensure youth's effective participation in United Nations activities. It was clear from section II of the Advisory Group's report (ESA/SDHA/AC.4/2) and from the Secretary-General's comments (E/5427) that youth's participation was valuable because it was realistic, made in awareness of the limitations of international procedures.

Paragraph 13 of the Advisory Group's report called for wider consultations and larger forums for the discussion of certain issues, and draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 supported that request without prejudice to any future decision made by the United Nations or Member States. The sponsors, of which her delegation was

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(Mrs. Mair, Jamaica)

one, recognized that the recommendations of the Advisory Group were not definitive, but their value lay in the dialogue which had been initiated and which should remain unbroken. They were also aware of the financial implications of paragraphs 7 and 8 of their text, but thought that the cost of further meetings of the Advisory Group was minimal in view of the importance of its work.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that his delegation had already made known its views on the subject of youth. He supported draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 and thanked the sponsors for including the idea that the Secretary-General's recommendations on the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group should be transmitted to Member States for their comments.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Mr. WASILEWSKI (Poland), supported by Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), proposed that, to enable delegations to observe the International Day of Solidarity of Working People, the afternoon meeting of the Committee should be cancelled.

Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico) pointed out that a similar procedure adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1973 had not been intended to serve as a precedent. However, his delegation would have no objection to the cancellation of one meeting of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to cancel its afternoon meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

736th meeting

Thursday, 2 May 1974,  
at 11.05 a.m.Chairman: Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica)SOCIAL QUESTIONS (continued)

- (a) NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS (E/CN.5/478 and Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 and Corr.1, Add.3 and Corr.1, and Add.4; E/AC.7/L.664, L.666/Rev.1) (continued)

Mrs. PICKER (United States of America) introduced draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666/Rev.1. The draft had been revised to take account of some of the constructive amendments proposed by other delegations. In paragraph 1, the word "approval" had been replaced by the word "interest" and the words "many developing and developed" by the word "some". In order to stress that the Secretary-General would not be requested to undertake new studies, the first three words of paragraph 3 (a) had been replaced by the word "Summarize". Drafting changes had been made in paragraph 3 (b). She hoped that the revised version of the draft resolution would resolve the doubts expressed by the Soviet representative. She fully agreed with him that social goals could not be divorced from economic goals, and it was in that connexion that her delegation had submitted the draft resolution to seek ways of measuring changes in living standards.

Mr. WASILEWSKI (Poland) said that social indicators should take account of the economic and social conditions of the countries in which they were to be applied. In that connexion, he referred to the report of the Secretary-General on far-reaching social and economic changes (E/CN.5/478), paragraph 29 of which stated that government replies had indicated that social progress required economic development accompanied by far-reaching economic and social changes. Social indicators could not be a substitute for such changes. The very expression "social indicators" was vague and required clarification. In the light of Economic and Social Council resolution 1748 (LIV), he saw little or no point in adopting another resolution on the same subject.

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(Mr. Wasilewski, Poland)

In connexion with the idea of grouping together the three items concerning social questions for consideration by the General Assembly, he recalled that the Economic and Social Council had decided, in resolution 1746 (LIV) and 1747 (LIV), that two separate items on far-reaching social and economic changes and a unified approach to development should be included in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly and, in resolution 1748 (LIV), that research on social indicators should be continued.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that the term "social indicators" was vague; its meaning was not even clear to the Secretariat, which would have difficulty in preparing an interim report. Since the Economic and Social Council had decided in resolution 1748 (LIV) that research on social indicators should be continued and results of studies should be submitted to the Commission for Social Development, he saw no need to adopt another resolution on the same subject.

The United States representative had given due consideration to amendments submitted by various delegations. He hoped that other amendments would also be considered, and he proposed that delegations should proceed with their consultations on the draft resolution before any action was taken.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government recognized the close relationship between economic and social development and the importance of social change in the process of development. Social progress and social justice for all segments of the population had been achieved in the Federal Republic of Germany through an accelerated evolutionary process without undue interference in the functioning of the national economy, which had to create the material conditions necessary for social progress, and in full recognition of and respect for the basic human rights and freedoms of all citizens. All aspects of the item under consideration should be given thorough examination. The reply of his Government to the questionnaire of the Secretary-General was contained in document E/CN.5/478/Add.1.

He supported draft resolution E/AC.7/L.666/Rev.1, since social indicators were one useful element in assessing social progress. Like the Italian delegation, his delegation was primarily interested in identifying indicators, and it would welcome a report from the Secretary-General on available data and studies being carried out within the United Nations system.

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(b) CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOUTH AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS  
(E/5427; E/AC.7/L.665) (continued)

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germanh) said that, since his Government supported the participation and involvement of youth and international youth organizations in the decision-making process of the United Nations system, it supported draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 in general and, in particular, paragraph 7 providing for two additional meetings of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth. He suggested that, in order to strengthen the dialogue with international youth organizations, the scope of paragraph 1 might be broadened by requesting the Secretary-General to transmit his report and that of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group not only to Member States but also to international youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

His delegation was not convinced of the advisability of establishing a voluntary youth fund but, since paragraph 6 simply invited the Secretary-General to consider the feasibility of voluntary contributions, it had no difficulty in accepting that paragraph and would take the recommendations of the Secretary-General into account at the Council's fifty-eighth session.

Referring to paragraph 8, he said that his delegation doubted whether the enlargement of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group at the current stage would strengthen the Group or increase its efficiency. Consequently, it would prefer to see that provision interpreted and applied in a somewhat restricted manner.

Mr. BERLIS (Canada) said that draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 contained reasonable proposals for future action by the Council. Like the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, he found himself in general agreement with those proposals. However, it would be helpful if some clarification could be given as to the intended meaning of the words "regional and national youth meetings" in paragraph 5. If it was the intention of the sponsors that meetings of youth should be organized, the words "and that youth participation at such meetings be assured" were redundant. If, however, it was intended that such meetings should not be composed of representatives of youth but should simply deal with questions of concern to youth, the wording might be changed to reflect that intention more clearly.

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(Mr. Berlis, Canada)

Referring to paragraph 6, he agreed that the question of establishing a new fund for a specific purpose should receive very close scrutiny.

Referring to paragraph 8, he expressed the hope that, when the possibility of expanding the Ad Hoc Advisory Group was being considered, attention would be given to the advantages of continuity and of limiting the size of the Group so that its effectiveness would not be impaired. In considering the question, the Secretary-General might also take account of the financial implications of expanding the Group.

Mr. BROUWERS (Netherlands) congratulated the sponsors of the draft resolution on their successful efforts to reflect the views expressed by the members of the Committee. The draft resolution would enhance contacts with youth and increase the participation of youth in development. However, it contained no reference to the possibility of seeking the views and comments of youth and youth organizations on the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. Consequently, he suggested that the words "and interested international youth non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council" should be inserted after the words "Member States" in paragraph 1. If that suggestion was acceptable to the sponsors, his delegation would be able to support the draft resolution as a whole.

Mrs. PICKER (United States of America) expressed her appreciation of the leadership shown during recent years by the delegation of Romania in connexion with the question of communication with youth. Her delegation had already stated its belief that youth should be integrated in development activities wherever possible and that youth was interested in participating in those activities. She suggested that, in paragraph 5, the words "specific issues" should be replaced by the words "action programmes".

Miss JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina) said that her delegation was prepared to support the draft resolution. However, she felt that some clarification of paragraph 8 was required. She wondered whether the Secretary-General was to examine the possibility of changing the composition of the Advisory Group or simply of enlarging it. There appeared to be a discrepancy between the English and French texts.

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Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was surprised to note that, in the sixth, seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution, assessments were made of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's report. The mandate of that Group, which was composed of individuals serving in a personal capacity and not as representatives of Member States, had been to advise the Secretary-General on activities that should be undertaken by the United Nations to meet the needs and aspirations of youth, and not to report to the Economic and Social Council. Consequently, it was not advisable to include an assessment of the Advisory Group's report in the draft resolution, since that report had not been submitted to the Economic and Social Council, but was for information purposes only. In his report, the Secretary-General suggested that the various recommendations in the Group's report might be referred to the Population Commission, the Commission on Human Rights or the Commission on the Status of Women for their consideration. The Soviet delegation felt that that would be the most appropriate procedure. When the various matters had been considered by the competent bodies, the Economic and Social Council would be in a position to take further action. He therefore appealed to the sponsors of the draft resolution to delete the sixth, seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs, so that attention could be concentrated on the Secretary-General's report.

He also doubted whether it was necessary to include a reference to the report of the Secretary-General in document A/8743, since that report had already been considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

The only recommendation in document E/5427 that was addressed directly to the Economic and Social Council concerned the convening of two additional meetings of the Advisory Group in 1974 and 1975. The Soviet delegation was of the opinion that the Advisory Group had already fulfilled its mandate.

His delegation would express its views on the operative part of the draft resolution later.

Mr. MIKOLAJ (Czechoslovakia) said that, like other representatives, he was not yet in a position to assess the recommendations in the Advisory Group's report, which had been distributed at a rather late date. Consequently, his delegation could not assess or adopt recommendations made on the basis of that



(Mr. Mikolaj, Czechoslovakia)

report. He therefore supported the proposal that the Secretary-General's report should be considered by the competent United Nations bodies and the results of their deliberations submitted for consideration by the Economic and Social Council. The report could then be communicated to Member States and to the subsidiary organs and international agencies concerned for their observations. His delegation therefore found it difficult to accept paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the draft resolution.

Mr. HAENSEL (German Democratic Republic) agreed with the views expressed by other delegations concerning those paragraphs of the draft resolution which referred to the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. He also agreed that the various recommendations in that report should be referred first to the competent United Nations bodies, as suggested in the report of the Secretary-General. Since the Advisory Group could be considered to have fulfilled its mandate, paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution could also be deleted.

Referring to paragraph 14 of the report of the Secretary-General, he said that the competent United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and youth organizations had demonstrated their ability to deal with the matters referred to in that paragraph.

Miss CAO PINNA (Italy), referring to the widely supported proposal that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group should continue in existence, said that its mandate should be clearly defined.

Paragraph 7 of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 called on the Group to study further the problems mentioned in the report of its first meeting. She requested the sponsors of the draft resolution to indicate whether it was their intention that the Group should study the problems listed in paragraph 102 of that report: the advisability of a second World Youth Assembly, United Nations youth commission, declaration of the rights and responsibilities of youth, United Nations international research and information centre on youth, international youth year, international youth day and United Nations international youth organization. If that was to be the agenda, the Group could certainly not cover it in two meetings. Moreover, those were items of an institutional nature. Paragraph 14 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/5427) outlined a more acceptable agenda for the

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(Miss Cao Pinna, Italy)

Group's future meetings. If the Committee accepted that agenda, paragraph 7 of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 should be amended accordingly.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom), referring to paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665, supported the proposal that the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group should be circulated. If the Group was to meet again in 1974, its report should be submitted to the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council.

He suggested that a drafting change should be made in paragraph 5 to make it clear that the United Nations had no intention of intervening in the work of national youth meetings. He endorsed the reservations expressed by the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada with regard to paragraphs 6 and 8. With regard to paragraph 7, it would be better to convene one additional meeting of the Group in 1974, and then consider whether another meeting would be required.

Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania) said that the sponsors of document E/AC.7/L.665 had accepted the following amendments. The last part of the first preambular paragraph, beginning with the words "and the report of", should be deleted. The sixth, seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs should be deleted. In paragraph 1, after the words "Member States", the following should be inserted: "and interested international youth organizations in consultative status with the Council". In paragraph 5, the words "that regional and national youth meetings on specific issues" should be replaced by "that international and regional meetings on specific issues and action programmes related to youth". The sponsors would be ready to delete paragraph 6, if delegations so desired, but perhaps the idea of a preliminary study on the feasibility of voluntary contributions might prove acceptable. In paragraph 7, the words "the report of the first meeting of the Group and" should be deleted. By retaining the reference to further meetings in 1974 and 1975, the continuity of the Advisory Group was ensured. Paragraph 8 should be deleted.

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Mr. MIKOLAJ (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation wished to amend the first three operative paragraphs of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665. Paragraph 1 should read: "Notes the report of the Secretary-General containing his comments and recommendations on channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations." Paragraph 2 should read: "Requests the Secretary-General to communicate his report to the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Population Commission for consideration, taking into account the views expressed in the Economic and Social Council." Paragraph 3 should read: "Requests the Commission for Social Development to consider the report of the Secretary-General when examining the item on youth in connexion with General Assembly resolution 3140 (XXVIII)."

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) thanked the sponsors of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 for the spirit of compromise they had shown in revising their text. It now seemed, however, that the representative of Czechoslovakia was proposing that all references in the draft resolution to the report of the Advisory Group should be deleted. By referring to that report, the Council was not endorsing it, but merely suggesting that it should be submitted for further consideration to interested parties. The text of the draft resolution should therefore be maintained, as revised by the representative of Romania.

Mr. BURDEKIN (Australia) said that his delegation would support draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665, as revised by the sponsors but was disappointed that paragraph 8 had been deleted, since it had appreciated the possibility that the composition of the Advisory Group might be reconsidered. He supported the views expressed by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the sponsors of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 for the understanding they had shown. However, the amendment submitted by the representative of Czechoslovakia to paragraph 1 seemed appropriate. In General Assembly resolution 3022 (XXVII), the Secretary-General had been requested to transmit the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth, with his comments, to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session, which had been done. The actual report of the Advisory Group was not before the Council and it would therefore be inappropriate to transmit it to Member States for their consideration. It was sufficient to submit the

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

Secretary-General's report to the competent bodies of the United Nations for consideration of the recommendations it contained. The conclusions reached by those bodies would be considered by Governments and by either the Council or the General Assembly.

Paragraph 2, which at present mentioned "subsidiary organs", had been clarified by the second Czechoslovak amendment. The Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women should, when considering document E/5427, bear in mind the comments made in the Social Committee. His delegation objected to the reference to two additional meetings of the Advisory Group made in paragraph 7, which he regretted had been retained. However, if the Council agreed to the continuation of the Group, the latter should study the problems listed in General Assembly resolution 3022 (XXVII), since the recommendations for action in the Secretary-General's report went beyond the mandate of the Group as laid down by that resolution. It was not incumbent on the Council or the Secretary-General to review the mandate of the Group. He therefore wished to suggest a new paragraph 7 to read as follows: "Requests Member States to submit to the Secretary-General information on the involvement of youth and youth organizations in the economic and social development of countries, on the education of youth in a spirit of peace, equality of all peoples, mutual understanding and co-operation, as well as on the promotion of youth activities aimed at the implementation of United Nations objectives." Paragraph 8 would then read: "Requests the Secretary-General, on the basis of the information received from Member States, to prepare a report and submit it to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session." His delegation assumed that the information received from Member States would give the Secretary-General a clearer picture of the activities of youth and youth organizations in the various countries.

He supported the sponsors' revision of paragraph 5, in so far as concerned the replacement of the word "National" by "international"; but, bearing in mind usual United Nations practice, the word "seminars" would be more appropriate than the word "meetings", since seminars were always held within the framework of advisory services.

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Mr. DUMAS (France) asked whether the suggestions put forward by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union should be regarded as formal amendments.

Mr. MIKOLAJ (Czechoslovakia) confirmed that his suggestions were formal amendments.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had offered its comments for consideration by the sponsors of the draft resolution. In the light of the sponsors' reaction to them, it would decide on the status of those comments.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

737th meeting

Thursday, 2 May 1974,  
at 3.35 p.m.Chairman: Mr. SAYAR (Iran)

## NARCOTIC DRUGS:

- (a) REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (E/5456);
- (b) REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ON ITS SPECIAL SESSION (E/5458)

Mr. MARTENS (Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control) drew the Committee's attention to the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its third special session (E/5458) and made special reference to what he believed to be some key draft resolutions adopted by the Commission. The first was draft resolution E, concerning the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The previous year, the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolutions 1773 (LIV) and 1774 (LIV) in which it had recommended that Governments that were not yet parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, should ratify or accede to them. In 1974, the Commission was recommending adoption of a resolution on accession to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances. There was no doubt that abuse of and illicit traffic in psychotropic substances had increased. On the other hand, it was a fact that the Governments of the countries most concerned with manufacture, production and trade in psychotropic substances had not yet ratified the Convention or acceded to it. The Commission was recommending that the Economic and Social Council urge all Governments, particularly those in that category, to accede to the Convention.

Draft resolution F, concerning the periodicity of Commission sessions, reflected its concern that its regular sessions were not sufficient to deal with the growing problem of drug abuse. The Commission was recommending recognition of the need for special sessions while the current emergency situation persisted.

A third concern of the Commission was the cultivation of coca in the Andean region and the increase in the quantity of cocaine entering the illicit traffic. The Commission was asking the Council to recommend to the Governments of the

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(Mr. Martens)

Latin American countries concerned that they intensify their efforts to reduce cultivation of the coca bush and eliminate the illicit traffic in cocaine. The Commission considered that improved regional co-operation and greater international involvement would assist those Governments in achieving a solution.

The Commission had also studied problems arising from illicit traffic. Traffickers were taking advantage of customs transit systems to move illicit drugs. The Commission was recommending that the Economic and Social Council request Governments to give urgent attention to that problem and to improve methods for the exchange of information at the bilateral and regional levels and with Interpol. The Commission was also suggesting that Governments should be reminded of their obligation to communicate to the Secretary-General promptly information on illicit traffic.

Similarly, the Commission had noted with satisfaction the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Illicit Traffic in the Far East Region and had endorsed its recommendations and commended them to the Governments concerned. It had also requested the Secretary-General to convene regular meetings of operational heads of the national narcotic law enforcement agencies of the countries of the region.

One important issue which had not been covered in any draft resolution concerned poppy cultivation under properly controlled conditions to meet world requirements of opium for medical and scientific purposes. Some countries had experienced difficulty in obtaining sufficient quantities of codeine to meet their medical needs. The Commission's primary concern was to ensure that there was no possibility of any increase in illicit traffic as a result of any methods adopted to ensure a continuing and adequate supply of codeine for medical and scientific purposes. In that context, the Commission had established several avenues of possible research, notably under the auspices of the United Nations Laboratory. In his capacity as Acting Executive Director of the Fund, he welcomed the announcement by the United States representative that his country would make the sum of \$800,000 available to the Fund for research in that field.

After associating himself with the unanimous expression of thanks and appreciation to Sir Harry Greenfield, who was shortly to resign as President of the International Narcotics Control Board, he drew attention, in his capacity as

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(Mr. Martens)

Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, to the operations financed by the Fund. Sixty-two new projects had been formulated and approved since the establishment of the Fund. Eleven of them had been completed and the rest were at various stages of implementation. The details of those projects were given in the report submitted to the third special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/562).

Priority continued to be given to practical, action-oriented projects capable of producing a relatively fast impact on drug abuse. The aim was to cover all drug abuse control activities, including demand, illegal supply, and illicit traffic. Legal advice continued to be given to a number of countries in the drafting of relevant laws and regulations.

The Fund continued to support the training of a large number of officers from national agencies in drug abuse control techniques. Similarly, it continued to support research and efforts to co-ordinate research on a wide range of problems, including those of a medical, social, chemical and biological nature. In 1973, research on a new variety of poppy, which did not yield morphine but could be used for the production of codeine, had produced interesting results. Progress had also been made in the identification of biological enemies of natural narcotic plants. A good start had been made in co-ordinating research on identification of drugs in body fluids and standards had been recommended for drug identification kits. The Fund continued to provide support for country programmes and national action against drug abuse; such assistance was directed towards countries for which action would be difficult without international or some other support. The country programmes were designed to respond to the particular needs of individual Member States.

The Government of Thailand had been the first to request such assistance, and a country programme had been introduced there at the end of 1972. The results achieved had encouraged several Governments to request similar programmes. To date, the Fund had received requests from other countries in Asia and the Far East. More than a year's experience in Thailand showed that gradual elimination of opium production could be achieved when both the Government and the people concerned wanted it. One gratifying aspect of the programme in Thailand was that it had

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(Mr. Martens)

attracted the attention of bilateral and multilateral donors, who had shown willingness to contribute in cash and in kind. Clearly the international community should be encouraged to participate in that way.

He hoped the Fund would continue to act as a catalyst in determining the needs of individual countries in order to meet them more promptly. Requests for new projects and programmes far exceeded the available resources of the Fund. Additional financial resources would be needed if the previous year's momentum was to be maintained.

The members of the Commission had expressed the wish that the establishment and activities of the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse Control, which had met in 1974, should be co-ordinated with the work of the Commission and the activities of the United Nations family in the field of drug abuse control. That had been taken into account by the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee, which kept under constant review the means by which a concerted United Nations programme of action could be implemented. The organizations concerned had a clear understanding of the joint objectives, and that ensured co-ordinated programming among them and reduced the possibility of duplication of effort. Targets had been set for drug abuse control and a consensus had been reached on the principles of evaluation.

Each of the new country programmes would require from \$3-5 million for five years in order to reach the point at which the Fund, having performed its function as a catalyst to promote greater national and international involvement in drug abuse control, could withdraw. An annual target of \$10 million would be required to meet the needs of the programmes, and that target was still far from being achieved. The Fund was currently faced with serious policy decisions: for example, either the country programmes were guaranteed adequate financing from the outset, or it would be necessary to finance them piece-meal, with the resulting uncertainty as to successful project execution. For many countries, their ability to meet their international obligation to reduce the supply of narcotics continued to depend in large measure on the support they received from the international community. For that reason, he renewed his plea to Governments for generous contributions which would enable the Fund to ensure the continued successful implementation of a programme characterized by its great urgency.

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Mr. DUMAS (France) said that the general impression created by the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5458) was that it was now more essential than ever to intensify preventive and suppressive action and to establish a system of co-operation which would transcend national sensitivities. He drew attention to a series of statistics showing the current situation in France in that respect. At present, drug addicts were divided into two very distinct classes: those addicted to the more toxic substances, and occasional users who, because their problem was psychological, were easier to rehabilitate. The law now in force in France, that of 31 December 1970, was adequate to deal with users in the second category, but not with hardened addicts, who eventually returned to drugs, a fact which made them real centres of infection. Despite the difficulty of treating such addicts, the problem remained a marginal one in France, thanks to the strict application of the 1970 law and the efforts of the police.

He emphasized the vigorous action taken by the special branches of the French police to investigate and eliminate drug traffic and the excellent co-operation between them and the United States and Canadian authorities, which had resulted in a favourable change in the situation. He hoped that action would be strengthened by the establishment of centralized agencies in the Europe of the Nine.

Mrs. GROOP (Finland) recalled that at the Council's fifty-fourth session her delegation had drawn attention to the urgent need for adequate international statistics on the consumption of dependence-producing medicines. It wished to emphasize anew the need to give high priority to the compilation of international statistics on narcotics, and underlined the advisability of including alcohol in those statistics, the compilation of which should be entrusted to a single organization.

Research into ways to control drug abuse had overlooked the sociological aspect of the problem; that was also reflected in the discussion in the United Nations. Accordingly, her delegation proposed that at its next session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should embark on the formulation of a work programme which would place the problem in a wider context.

Another matter to be considered was the structure of the administrative and

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(Mrs. Groop, Finland)

executive machinery for drug control. The primary aspect was the co-ordination of the activities of the Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Fund. Another aspect was the possible co-ordination of projects financed by the Fund with other United Nations development projects, particularly the country programmes of UNDP. A third aspect concerned governmental control of all activities, which would imply a reappraisal of the Commission's role in relation to the other bodies.

In addition to promoting the study of control methods, special attention should be given to methods of treating and rehabilitating drug addicts and alcoholics. That problem demonstrated yet again the need for a medico-sociological approach.

Her delegation did not feel that special preference should be given to any particular sector, so far as the prevention of drug abuse was concerned, but rather that there should be a comprehensive social policy.

Turning to a more specific subject, she recalled that at its previous session the Commission had expressed increasing concern at the abuse of one particular drug, khat, and had decided to include the question in the agenda of its next regular session. Her delegation believed that the situation should be reviewed from a general standpoint before further steps were taken. The information available on khat was mainly pharmacological and was, therefore, inadequate. It was not that khat should not be controlled, but rather that the costs and benefits of control should be carefully weighed before final decisions were taken. Thus, there should be a thorough investigation, which could, for example, be undertaken by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Defence.

With regard to draft resolution F, in chapter XIII of the report, her delegation considered that, if the Commission continued its work within the existing framework, it would not be necessary at present to regularize the special sessions. Moreover, the previous spring the Council had adopted resolution 1768 (LIV), in which it had decided, inter alia, that all its subsidiary bodies, with the exception of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Commission on Human Rights, should as a general rule meet biennially. The recommendations in paragraphs 3 and 4 of draft resolution F should be considered against the background of resolution 1768 (LIV), which had been adopted unanimously.

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Mr. VANCE (United States of America) said that the last six decades had seen the development of an international plan of attack against the menace of drug abuse, a plan which had given rise to a series of international conventions that had gradually extended the jurisdiction of international law over the production, manufacture, distribution and consumption of narcotic drugs. That process had culminated in a series of related institutions which were in a position to develop the capacity necessary for effective international control over drug abuse.

The first of those institutions was the International Narcotics Control Board established by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. It was doing valuable work by assisting Governments to fulfil the responsibilities they had contracted under the relevant treaties on the production, distribution and consumption of narcotics.

Another important institution serving the world community in that field was the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the only agency in the United Nations system concerned exclusively with drug abuse control; the report on its third special session was evidence of its vitality and importance. During its recent session, the Commission had considered not only illicit traffic in and abuse of drugs, but also ways of ensuring adequate supplies of opiates for medical and scientific needs, while maintaining effective controls to prevent their diversion to the illicit market. His delegation supported the draft resolutions which the Commission recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and hoped that the Commission would intensify its efforts to focus world attention on the issues and effects of drug abuse and recommend measures to alleviate them.

A third weapon in the international community's fight against drug abuse was the newly established United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, which had been equipped to assist Governments to deal with all aspects of the problem, namely, illicit supply, traffic and demand. In its three years of existence, the Fund had drawn up a large number of programmes, including pilot projects designed to demonstrate the viability of substitute crops for farmers who had traditionally devoted themselves to cultivation of the opium poppy. The training, treatment and research programmes financed by the Fund were also of great value to individual countries and to the international community as a whole. The United States would

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(Mr. Vance, United States)

continue to contribute to the Fund on a periodic basis, but the amount of its contributions would depend on the extent to which other countries made more equitable contributions, and also on an evaluation of the development and execution of the Fund's programmes.

The international structure would quickly be completed once the required number of Governments had ratified and put into effect the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, a step of the first priority in the international community's fight against drug abuse. In the opinion of his delegation, the international community should concentrate its activities not on the creation of new legal instruments, but on the more effective use of the existing instruments so as to permit the achievement of their established goals. To that end, he hoped that all Governments would increase their support for the International Narcotics Control Board and would make full use of its capacity to give help to those countries which needed it in order to combat drug-related problems. In that respect, he drew the attention of international financial institutions and bilateral donors to the Board's recommendations concerning assistance to enable countries to discharge effectively the obligations they had contracted. His delegation also hoped that the Governments of the world would co-operate more widely with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by providing it with the information it required to advise the Economic and Social Council on the world situation concerning narcotics. Similarly, it hoped that Governments would contribute to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control on a periodic basis and in accordance with their financial capability, so that the Fund would not suffer from budgetary limitations on its efforts to establish and carry out new programmes designed to eliminate drug production, distribution and consumption.

For its part, the United States Government would continue its efforts at the national and multilateral levels to find a solution to the problem of illicit drug traffic and drug abuse; at the international level, it would continue co-operation with other countries of the kind mentioned by the representative of France, and it would support all the draft resolutions submitted to the Council

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(Mr. Vance, United States)

on that subject. In addition, his delegation was to co-sponsor a draft resolution commending the work of the International Narcotics Control Board.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that, in his Government's opinion, international co-operation, particularly within the framework of the United Nations, was one of the most effective ways of solving the serious problems resulting from drug abuse. He was pleased to announce that, as a token of its appreciation of United Nations work in the field and subject to parliamentary approval, the United Kingdom would in 1974 contribute £50,000 to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

For the present, he wished to confine his remarks to the draft resolutions in chapter XIII of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5458). In that respect, his delegation had no difficulty in supporting draft resolutions A, B and D.

He pointed out that in draft resolution C, entitled "Co-operation for drug law enforcement in the Far East region", mention was made in paragraph 3 of the travel expenses of one participant from each country in the region, but no reference was made to the payment of subsistence expenses which should also be borne by the Fund. He suggested, therefore, that the words "and subsistence" should be added after the word "travel" in that paragraph.

Turning to draft resolution E, entitled "1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances: ratifications and accessions", he said that his country would submit to the International Narcotics Control Board statistics showing that all the substances mentioned in the Convention could be obtained in the United Kingdom only on prescription and were subject to controls as strict as those on opiates. Although his delegation was in general sympathy with the aims of the Convention, it could not support it as a whole, and would be obliged to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

Finally, with reference to draft resolution F, concerning the periodicity of Commission sessions, his delegation, as it had already pointed out on other occasions, attached the utmost importance to the question of biennial meetings mentioned in Economic and Social Council resolution 1768 (LIV). Consequently, it

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(Mr. Broad, United Kingdom)

had some doubts about draft resolution F which, in its present form, seemed to depart from the general rule on the subject. Although his delegation recognized that the current situation with regard to narcotic drugs was extremely grave, it felt that the holding of annual meetings in Geneva would consume money and time which could be devoted to the fight against drug abuse. Accordingly, his delegation suggested that the words "for the duration of the current emergency" in paragraph 1 of draft resolution F should be replaced by the words "as necessary".

Secondly, his delegation was not convinced of the need for a decision by the Council at the present time on the convening of a special session in 1976. He suggested therefore that paragraph 2 should be amended to read:

"Further decides that the Commission should consider at its regular session scheduled for 1975 whether to meet in special session for two weeks in 1976".

That change would entail the deletion of paragraph 3.

Following the same reasoning, his delegation proposed the deletion of paragraph 4, concerning the possibility of convening another special session in 1978, since such a decision would be premature at the current stage.

Mr. ARIM (Turkey) associated himself with the tributes paid to Sir Harry Greenfield, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board, and also praised the report of the Board for 1973, particularly for the excellent manner in which it described the current situation in Turkey and focused on the difficult and thankless task confronting the Government of that country, which in 1971 had adopted the sovereign decision to put an end to poppy cultivation from 1972 onwards.

As a result of that sovereign decision, the Government of Turkey had adopted a programme aimed at protecting the interests of the growers, which comprised both short-term and long-term objectives. As a first step, and with a view to compensating the growers for losses suffered as a result of the above-mentioned measure, during 1972 and 1973 they had been paid indemnities calculated on the basis of the quantity of opium they had sold in 1971; 64,254 growers from seven provinces had received 78 million Turkish lire in 1973.

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(Mr. Arim, Turkey)

Nevertheless, the losses suffered by the growers as a result of the prohibition of poppy cultivation could not be measured in cash only, and for that reason the Government had adopted measures to transform the economic structure of the area devoted to such cultivation, with a view, *inter alia*, to increasing the family income of the rural population, promoting substitute crops, developing an agro-industry for the manufacture of products and increasing marketing services and the necessary infrastructure.

In addition to the regional plan, projects designed to increase the income of the rural population groups in the shortest time possible had been put into effect in 1972, in the framework of a short-term programme. In that respect, he cited various projects relating to irrigation, pasture land and so forth.

It should be borne in mind that the poppy had been of vital importance for Turkey, and particularly for the area which had been traditionally devoted to its cultivation. Indeed, opium sales had constituted the principal source of income for that area; moreover, the poppy had been used for various purposes, including industrial and nutritional purposes. In the circumstances, despite the efforts of the Government of Turkey to replace poppy cultivation, no concrete results had thus far been achieved in terms of increasing the income of growers, which had provoked a deep sense of uneasiness and insecurity. Moreover, public opinion was incensed by the fact that certain Governments of industrialized countries, while taking advantage of the consequences of the sacrifice made by the Turkish peasant farmer, were trying to evade measures for the international control of psychotropic substances. In those circumstances, international solidarity should certainly play a fundamental role in the control of drug abuse and was one of the most pressing requirements of international morality. However, that same morality also included other no less vital principles, namely, equality of treatment and the equitable distribution of benefits and sacrifices.

After studying all aspects of the problem, the Turkish Government would quickly find solutions which were in keeping with the country's interests and which, as had been pointed out in the Government's programme, would satisfy humanitarian concerns while at the same time remedying the unfavourable situation in which the poppy growers found themselves. In that connexion, it should be added that, in order to preserve the properties and characteristics of the Turkish poppy seed, crops had been planted on seven State farms over an area of 17 hectares.

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(Mr. Arim, Turkey)

The international community should not lose sight of the current situation in Turkey with regard to drug control; on the contrary, it should try to understand the causes of that sense of injustice which prevailed among the Turkish people.

With regard to the report of the third special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5458), he referred to the question of illicit traffic in 1973. In that connexion, he drew to the Committee's attention the fact that consideration of the illicit traffic in drugs could not be dissociated from consideration of narcotic substances of natural origin and psychotropic substances. The abuse of psychotropic substances was becoming increasingly widespread throughout the world, even in countries of Africa and Asia. In that connexion, the Turkish Government had always maintained that there should be a correlation between measures for the control of narcotic drugs and measures relating to psychotropic substances. His delegation was pleased to note that in various parts of the world, the campaign against illicit traffic was going ahead and that international co-operation had already been initiated in several regions.

The Turkish Government had taken steps to strengthen the police, the gendarmerie and the customs service. The police and the gendarmerie had been organized on a modern, complementary basis and specialized offices had been set up in the three largest towns of the country. Moreover, 420 persons had attended special courses in recent years to prepare them for carrying out those functions. All those activities were co-ordinated by a Central Drug Section in the General Security Division at Ankara.

Although the police could control the towns, the gendarmerie was responsible for much of the country's territory, including the frontier zones and the coasts. For that reason, mobile units of gendarmes had been set up in 30 provinces.

The results of all those efforts had been very satisfactory. Currently, the major preoccupation of the law enforcement agencies was the illegal traffic that was attempted through Turkey. There were indications that Turkey was in danger of becoming a country of transit. In that respect, he referred to the problem of the abuse by drug traffickers of the customs régimes for goods in transit and pointed out that the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe had adopted a draft resolution recommending that greater attention should be paid to that problem.

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(Mr. Arim, Turkey)

In that connexion, regional co-operation, which the member countries of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East were constantly intensifying, was important.

Lastly, his delegation greatly appreciated the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Illicit Traffic in the Far East Region. Doubtless, the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the traffic in opium and opiates in the "frontier zones" would encourage interested countries to intensify their efforts in that field. It also appreciated the information contained in the report on the results of the South American Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, held at Buenos Aires in April 1973. His delegation congratulated the nine States which had adopted the South American agreement on that subject.

With regard to operations financed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, he said that the industrialized countries had not contributed to the Fund to the extent of their capacity. The fact that the success of the Fund had not been limited thereby was due to the efficiency of its staff, who had been able to take advantage of the available resources in the best possible manner. The Fund was a valuable instrument whose usefulness could be increased by the industrialized countries if they made more generous contributions, which would bear witness to their desire to put an end to drug abuse. His delegation reserved the right subsequently to submit draft resolutions on the operations financed by the Fund.

Chapter VIII of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs referred to poppy cultivation under properly controlled conditions so as to meet world requirements of opium for medical and scientific purposes. It was pointed out in the report that the basic question was the scarcity of codeine and that there was a danger that the supply of opium would not be sufficient for the medical and scientific needs of the international community. Certainly there were differences of opinion as to the extent and imminence of the shortage of those substances, although there was agreement that the problem existed. As to the manner of solving it, on which there had been a divergence of views in the Commission, his delegation felt that the provisions of the relevant international treaties should be borne in mind. Turkey was a party to the 1961 Single Convention and its internal legislation was on conformity with that treaty. Obviously, the measures adopted to deal with the problem could not be in violation of the provisions of international law, which

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(Mr. Arim, Turkey)

established both the rights and the obligations of States parties. No provision of that Convention could be invoked as a legal basis for an attempt at de facto monopolization by a single country which would be considered the only one that could guarantee the supply of opium. A State could authorize poppy cultivation in its territory, in which case it would have to satisfy certain conditions laid down in the Convention. As long as it did so, it could not be censured or obliged to desist. The decision to prohibit such cultivation was solely within its own discretion. The relevant provisions of the Single Convention could not be interpreted otherwise.

Therefore, in any attempt to find solutions to the problem of the scarcity of opium it was essential that Governments should make a clear distinction between their own wishes and the legal obligations of States, and that they should realize from the start that any measures they might advocate which went beyond those obligations could have no legal value other than that of a mere recommendation. If those elementary points were ignored, States might find themselves proceeding into an ill-defined area and that could only lead to misunderstandings and friction.

In his Government's opinion, no licit possibilities could be ignored in endeavours to find valid solutions to the problems of the opium shortage under consideration in the competent organs of the United Nations.

Miss JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina) said that her Government had set up a National Commission for Drug Addiction and Narcotics which had broad functions with regard to the planning and programming of the fight against drug addiction. With the assistance of various governmental, scientific and security sectors, that body constituted a multidisciplinary centre for the study and appraisal of the phenomenon of drug addiction and acted in an advisory capacity to the executive power.

Furthermore, a law had been passed in Argentina on psychotropic drugs, only eight months after the signing of the Vienna Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Argentina had already ratified eight international conventions on the subject and was in the process of ratifying the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1972 Protocol Amending the 1961 Single Convention.

As far as international co-operation in that field was concerned, her delegation wished particularly to endorse the conclusions of the South American Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances held at

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(Miss Jaureguiberry, Argentina)

Buenos Aires in 1973. That meeting had been convened to decide upon the measures needed to ensure close co-operation and an exchange of useful information with regard to all aspects of the fight against the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

A further South American conference would meet shortly to take final decisions concerning the financing of the Permanent Narcotics Secretariat and other organizational details.

That effort towards regional co-operation should be taken into account in planning operations financed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Her delegation therefore welcomed the statements made by the Acting Executive Director of the Fund to the effect that priority would be given to the appointment of regional advisers for South America and Africa. Her delegation hoped that the next report would contain a section on financial allocations according to geographical areas.

Her delegation strongly supported each and every one of the draft resolutions prepared by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Her delegation found draft resolution C particularly interesting and would like to state that the promotion of regional activities should not be limited to a specific region but could and should be extended to other parts of the world where there were problems linked with the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. Furthermore, the financial implications of that draft resolution should be favourably considered when other regions were involved, particularly countries which did not have the financial or technical means required to deal successfully with the fight against illicit traffic. Finally, her delegation agreed with the United Kingdom suggestion that the Fund could cover the subsistence of participants in the regular meetings of operational heads of the national narcotic law enforcement agencies in the Far East region.

Mr. LOPEZ (Spain) said that, as a result of its geographical position, Spain was the victim of narcotics traffic, as indicated in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5458). He read out data relating to the fight against the illicit traffic in narcotics in his country and said that his delegation fully agreed that there was a need for international co-operation to combat the grave problem afflicting international society.

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Mr. BURDEKIN (Australia) said that his delegation hoped that it would be possible to adopt the draft resolutions before the Committee quickly. Referring to draft resolution C, he said that his delegation was especially pleased to recommend paragraph 2, in which the Secretary-General was requested to convene regular meetings which would, of course, be fitted in with the general pattern of narcotics meetings of interest to the Far East region. The Ad Hoc Committee had made a very useful contribution to regional co-operation in drug law enforcement and there had been strong support in the region for the proposal to hold regular meetings. The Ad Hoc Committee had not called for the establishment of a narcotics sub-commission, but it had expressed the belief that a continuing formal dialogue was necessary.

His delegation hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution before it and the amendment proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mr. LEHTIHET (Algeria) said that his delegation found the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs satisfactory with regard to both the effective work carried out to protect society and the spectacular results achieved in drug law enforcement and the suppression of drug traffic in the countries which had signed the important 1961 Single Convention.

Algeria had fully endorsed the objectives established in the 1961 Single Convention and was closely following the work of the Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board.

Referring in particular to draft resolution F, he said that in his delegation's view, the problem of drug abuse among young people was not so urgent as to warrant a special session in 1976. It would be preferable to abide by the normal cycle of meetings of the Commission, and in that connexion he recalled that the Commission on Human Rights, which dealt with problems of the greatest importance, had never held a special session. His delegation therefore fully shared the opinion of the Finnish delegation regarding the periodicity of the Commission's sessions.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS (continued):

(b) CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOUTH AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS  
(E/5427) (concluded)

Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania) explained the conclusions reached by the

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(Mr. Ropotean, Romania)

sponsors of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 in their efforts to achieve a compromise formula which would take into account the proposals of the representative of Czechoslovakia. The sponsors of the draft resolution could not accept the Czechoslovak proposal concerning paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, but they could accept those which concerned paragraphs 2 and 3. Consequently, the last part of paragraph 2, from the words "to the subsidiary organs ...", would be deleted and replaced by the words "to the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Population Commission for their consideration, taking into account the discussions at the Council at its fifty-sixth session". In paragraph 3, in accordance with the Czechoslovak proposal, the words "in accordance with operative paragraph 2 above" would be deleted. Lastly, in paragraph 7, the words "in the report of the first meeting of the Group" would be replaced by the words "in resolution 3022 (XXVII)".

He hoped that the Committee would find the text of the draft resolution, as amended, satisfactory.

Mr. NIKOLAJ (Czechoslovakia), replying to a question raised by the Chairman, asked that a new revised text of the draft resolution should be distributed so that the changes made by the sponsors could be considered.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had been confident that if the proposals submitted by the Czechoslovak delegation and his own were taken into account, draft resolution E/AC.7/L.665 would be adopted by consensus. However, the situation had changed and, for example, the representative of Romania had made no reference to the proposed change in paragraph 5.

With regard to paragraph 1, he wished to state first of all that his delegation did not agree that the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group should be transmitted to Member States, because it was an internal Secretariat document prepared exclusively for the Secretary-General's use.

On the other hand, his delegation would have no objection, in principle, to transmitting the report of the Secretary-General (E/5427) to Member States. However, he must point out that in several paragraphs of that report the Secretary-General suggested that the Economic and Social Council should transmit its

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

suggestions and observations to various bodies for their views. It was therefore logical to assume that when he received new reports from the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, and from the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development, among others, the Secretary-General would be in a better position to prepare a fuller report, based on the views of all the competent organs of the United Nations system.

Therefore, his delegation would suggest as a compromise solution that, at the present stage, the report of the Secretary-General should be sent to the competent organs of the Economic and Social Council and, when they had examined it and had submitted their views, the definitive report should be transmitted to Member States.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.