

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT ON THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

(18–27 February 1985)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1985

SUPPLEMENT No. 4



UNITED NATIONS

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I*

Ensuring the timely distribution of conference documents

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with regret that the majority of the documents for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development, one of which was the comprehensive 1985 report on the world social situation, 1/ did not reach the Commission until the first meeting of the session,

Conscious of the Commission's responsibility for maintaining the quality of its deliberations and decisions,

Considering that adequate information on the contents of the documents relating to the items of the agenda of the Commission constitutes a prerequisite therefor,

Considering that representatives should be accorded sufficient time to study the documents adequately and to orient themselves further if required,

Recalling the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, 2/ in rule 6, paragraph 1, of which it is stated that the Secretary-General shall, not less than six weeks before the opening of the session, communicate the provisional agenda and transmit the basic documents related to each item appearing therein,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure, as a matter of priority and urgency, that from now on the distribution of the documents concerned will correspond strictly to the rules of procedure;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on the world social situation are distributed no later than twelve weeks before the commencement of the session of the Commission.

* For the discussion, see chap. IX, sect. E.

1/ E/CN.5/1985/2; to be issued as a United Nations publication (ST/ESA/165).

2/ E/5975/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.I.10).

DRAFT RESOLUTION II*

World social situation

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/54 of 3 December 1982,

Having considered the report of the Commission for Social Development on its twenty-ninth session,

1. Endorses the conclusions reached by the Commission for Social Development on the world social situation and on the 1985 report on the world social situation, 3/ annexed to the present resolution;

2. Transmits those conclusions to the General Assembly for its consideration.

Annex

CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

I. World social situation

1. The Commission notes that recent years have seen a worsening of the social situation in many parts of the world, particularly in Africa, as a result of the disruptive consequences of the global economic crisis. Achievements registered in certain regions and countries or in specific areas of social development do not alter the fact that this deterioration affects the developing countries in particular. Long-lasting problems that have an important bearing on the situation remain unsolved. Additionally, new problems have appeared, both in developing and in industrial countries, and much remains to be done to achieve the various objectives adopted by the international community. Some countries appear to remain untouched by the general deterioration.

2. The Commission reaffirms that the ultimate aim of development is the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits therefrom.

3. Four decades after the victory over fascism and nazism and the founding of the United Nations, pressing social problems continue to exist.

4. It is necessary to achieve the rapid and complete elimination of the obstacles to the economic and social progress of peoples. Colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, aggression,

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

3/ E/CN.5/1985/2.

occupation and foreign domination and all other forms of inequality and exploitation of peoples constitute major obstacles to the economic and social progress of developing countries and peoples. It is indeed regrettable that even after the four decades that have elapsed since the founding of the United Nations, progress in the eradication of apartheid in South Africa remains slow and unsatisfactory.

5. The existing inequities and imbalances in international economic relations are widening the gap between developed and developing countries, thereby constituting a major obstacle to the development of the developing countries and adversely affecting international relations and the promotion of world peace and security. The arms race and the aggravation of international tension continue to contribute to the deterioration of the world social situation. Disarmament would release resources that could be used for the development of developing countries and could contribute to the well-being and prosperity of all.

6. It is necessary to have a reduction of social and economic disparities and the adoption of measures to ensure the effective participation of all people in the preparation and execution of national policies for economic and social development, based on equal opportunities for all and a full enjoyment of human rights.

7. The adverse social situation reflects the lack of implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 4/ other relevant United Nations charters and declarations in the social and economic fields, and the objectives and overall development goals adopted and reaffirmed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. 5/

8. Certain social and economic changes have occurred that have had broad and negative repercussions on the elements constituting the social sphere. There is a need to adapt governmental policies to the new and urgent needs that have arisen.

9. Greater attention needs to be accorded to a unified approach to development, as well as to the pursuance of international economic policies in areas of trade, and monetary and fiscal policies consistent with the overall objectives of growth and development. The interdependence that exists between economic development and social development is much more apparent in developing countries facing a crushing debt burden, which at present is having a devastating impact on the social conditions of vulnerable groups. The worsening of the social situation has a serious impact in particular areas and countries, notably on employment and income distribution. Even though additional measures are required for social progress, economic development is an essential prerequisite. It has been stressed that social change and development can exert a positive influence in extricating societies from their economic difficulties. The establishment of the new international economic order has become of great importance for social progress.

4/ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

5/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

10. A more rational use of various available resources should be made by Governments, communities, local authorities and voluntary organizations to deal with the worsening social situation, paying greater attention to the most essential and deserving aspects of social development.

11. The 1985 report on the world social situation and the discussion on the report in the Commission clearly indicate that existing approaches to socio-economic development have not always been able to solve the problems of mass poverty and underdevelopment. Alternative development methods are needed, involving, in particular, more effective participation by the people. Hopeful prospects for future progress towards social amelioration are emerging in developed countries. Technological marvels have appeared on the scene in those countries and been socially assimilated by them at a remarkable rate. The potential exists for applying existing and future technologies to the enhancement of social and productive life in the developing countries.

12. The social situation should be monitored in depth on a regular basis, paying special attention to the manner of implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

II. 1985 report on the world social situation

13. The Commission, conscious of its responsibility for the serious consideration and discussion of the issues before it, expresses its concern at the considerable delay in the circulation of the documents, including the report on the world social situation, 3/ and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that the documents and the report to be considered by the Commission are distributed as prescribed under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

14. The Commission is of the view that the report on the world social situation will serve the purpose of analysis of the world social situation and trends better if it is prepared at four-yearly intervals, as this provides a reasonable time-span for measuring change.

15. For the sessions held in the intervening years, the Commission should have before it a draft framework of the forthcoming report on the world social situation, to allow it to make suggestions in regard to the preparation of the report, and an updated report on the main issues and trends of international concern that have emerged since the last report on the world social situation was prepared.

16. The next report on the world social situation should envisage an overview of trends, within the framework of overall development, and of the impact of continuing imbalances in the world economy and international economic crises that particularly affect developing countries. The report should provide an intersectoral analysis of trends, issues and policies in the national, regional and international contexts. It should cover ways of overcoming obstacles to social progress, the relationship between peace and development, the need for disarmament and major international social and economic concerns, in line with the priorities indicated by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

17. The next report should also include a more thorough analysis of the impact of new and emerging technologies on socio-economic conditions, particularly in developing countries. It should analyse the progress that has been made in the international diffusion of appropriate technology and application of technology in improving social conditions in developing countries.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III*

National experience in promoting the co-operative movement

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2459 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 3273 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, 31/37 of 30 November 1976, 33/47 of 14 December 1978 and 36/18 of 9 November 1981, and Council resolution 1983/15 of 26 May 1983,

Desiring to promote the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 6/

Bearing in mind the importance of the establishment and growth of co-operatives as an instrument for the full economic, social and cultural development of all members of society,

Reaffirming the important role played by co-operatives in the socio-economic development of developing countries,

Recognizing the necessity of training and educational programmes at various levels for the growth, diversification and professionalization of the management of co-operatives,

Convinced that the exchange among countries of national experience relating to the co-operative movement plays an essential role in strengthening co-operatives for the benefit of their members and in overcoming difficulties in the development of various co-operatives,

Convinced of the important role that co-operatives in the various sectors of the economy can play in improving the production, marketing and consumption of food, with particular reference to special population groups,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement; 7/

* For the discussion, see chap. IV, sect. D.

6/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

7/ A/40/78-E/1985/10.

2. Invites the regional commissions and specialized agencies concerned to make further efforts to promote the co-operative movement as an effective instrument for the improvement of the well-being of all people, and special population groups in particular;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to include pertinent information and data on the co-operative movement in developing and developed countries in relevant periodic United Nations publications;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, with particular attention to developing countries, in consultation with Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, and drawing on the work already under way elsewhere in the United Nations system, a comprehensive report on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement, paying special attention, inter alia, to the following aspects of the question:

(a) The role of co-operatives in overall social and economic development, particularly in rural areas;

(b) The role of agricultural, savings, handicraft and other types of co-operative organizations in the production, marketing and consumption of food and related goods and services;

(c) The role of co-operative and co-operative-type organizations in promoting development in urban areas;

(d) The participation of all people, including women, youth, disabled persons and the aging, in co-operatives;

(e) The participation of peasants, including landless peasants, in co-operatives;

(f) The role and extent of government support in promoting co-operatives;

(g) Training and educational programmes to promote the effectiveness of co-operatives and make them more responsive to the needs of their members;

(h) Difficulties faced by countries in the establishment and development of co-operatives and their experience in overcoming them;

(i) Progress made in strengthening "movement-to-movement" activities;

(j) Progress made in promoting membership in and the growth of co-operatives;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit that report, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-second session for consideration under the item entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress".

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV*

Youth in the contemporary world

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with great interest the importance attached by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies to the concerns of youth,

Recalling its resolutions 1979/16 of 9 May 1979, 1981/16 of 6 May 1981 and 1983/14 of 26 May 1983 on youth in the contemporary world, and General Assembly resolution 39/22 of 23 November 1984 on the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace,

Noting with satisfaction that the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, 8/ continues to provide a useful basis and incentive for further action in the field of youth, at the national, regional and international levels,

Convinced that the preservation and strengthening of international peace and security are prerequisites for a secure and happy future for the youth of all countries,

Recognizing the importance of integrating young people into the overall life of society and of taking fully into account their special needs when formulating national plans and programmes,

Reaffirming the necessity of intensifying and consolidating the efforts of the United Nations so as to give effect to a co-ordinated and practical approach to the youth programmes of all the United Nations agencies involved, as well as strengthening co-operation with non-governmental youth organizations or organizations dealing directly with youth,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of youth in the 1980s; 9/
2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure appropriate publicity for that report in the context of the activities undertaken for the observance of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace;
3. Decides that the Commission for Social Development should consider at its thirtieth session ways and means by which it could more effectively deal with youth issues within the appropriate guidelines to be prepared by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year and approved by the

* For the discussion, see chap. V, sect. A.

8/ General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX).

9/ A/40/64-E/1985/5.

General Assembly on the occasion of the observance of the International Youth Year; 10/

4. Decides to include the theme of "Youth in the contemporary world" in the agenda of the thirtieth session of the Commission under the appropriate item and that the Commission should consider a preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the appraisal of the results of the International Youth Year.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V*

Welfare of migrant workers and their families

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1979/12 of 9 May 1979, 1981/21 of 6 May 1981 and 1983/16 of 26 May 1983,

Having taken note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the social situation of migrant workers and their families, 11/

Concerned by the fact that the changing conditions of international migration resulting from current economic trends adversely affect the situation of migrants, whether they remain abroad under increasingly difficult conditions or return to their country of origin,

Aware of the new needs and problems emerging as a result of the changing migration patterns of migrant workers and their families,

Noting with concern the inadequacy or lack of programmes and social services to help migrant workers to adapt themselves to the language, culture and customs of the host country, and to settle down in decent material conditions and send for their families,

Recalling that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State and that, in that context, the families of migrant workers are entitled to the same protection as the migrant workers themselves,

Noting with appreciation the progress made by the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/172 of 17 December 1979,

* For the discussion, see chap. V, sect. D.

10/ See General Assembly resolution 39/22.

11/ E/CN.5/1985/8.

Recognizing the need for further efforts at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels to improve the social situation of migrant workers and their families,

1. Invites Member States to establish and/or expand programmes and services designed to improve the welfare of migrant workers and their families and to meet the new needs and problems emerging as a result of the changing circumstances of the international migration of labour;

2. Emphasizes that such programmes should give major attention to the protection of families of migrant workers and to a substantial improvement in the conditions for genuine integration of members of migrants' families, particularly women, children and youth, into the host society; special care should be paid to the education of children, so that they maintain and develop the knowledge of their maternal language and their cultural heritage;

3. Invites Member States, both countries of origin and host countries, to facilitate the reintegration of migrant workers and their families in the case of their return to their country of origin; the participation of the host country in that process is not to be regarded as a moral obligation only, but rather as a way of assisting those who actively contributed to building up the economy of the host country;

4. Affirms the need for the Governments of the Member States concerned to enact or strictly apply legislation to prevent or punish discriminatory or xenophobic activities against migrants, to enable the migrant workers to enjoy the benefits of association within the law;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations system, to prepare a document incorporating guidelines for establishing social services for migrant workers and their families;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to encourage operational activities within available resources, and consider the implementation of measures based on studies already conducted by the United Nations and the other international organizations concerned to benefit migrant workers and their families;

7. Invites the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue and strengthen their efforts in this field, in co-operation with the United Nations;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission for Social Development, at its thirtieth session, on the progress made in strengthening programmes designed to improve the social situation of migrant workers and their families and in meeting the needs and problems emerging as a result of the changing conditions of international migration.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI*

International Development Strategy for the Third
United Nations Development Decade

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, contained in General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, emphasized the interdependence of economic and social development and the wider process of growth and change, as well as the importance of a strategy of integrated development which takes full account, at all stages, of its social aspects,

Recalling also that the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, called, inter alia, for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, the achievement of full employment by the year 2000, health for all by the year 2000, appropriate population policies, the reduction of the infant mortality rate, the availability of safe water and adequate sanitary facilities by 1990, the attainment of a life expectancy of 60 years as a minimum by the year 2000, universal primary school enrolment by the year 2000, and the securing of the full participation of women in all sectors and at all levels of the development process,

Recalling further its resolution 1983/9 of 26 May 1983,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 39/162 of 17 December 1984, in which the Assembly expressed concern that the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy had not been successfully carried out,

1. Urges the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, while carrying out the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Strategy, to examine fully the progress made towards the achievement of the social goals and objectives of the Strategy;
2. Invites Governments to carry out the adjustment, intensification or reformulation of the policy measures for achieving the social goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy;
3. Requests the Committee for Development Planning, at its twenty-second session, to give due attention to the social dimensions relevant to the formulation of both economic and social policy measures designed to achieve the continuous raising of the material, spiritual and living standards of all members of society, and to make available its input to the Commission for Social Development at its thirtieth session;

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the results of the review and appraisal to the Commission for Social Development at its thirtieth session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII*

Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1983/22 of 26 May 1983, concerning the taking of steps to convene an interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes, within existing budgetary resources,

Recalling also its resolutions 1979/18 of 9 May 1979 and 1981/20 of 6 May 1981 on the strengthening of developmental social welfare policies and programmes,

Noting that government policy affects the well-being of all citizens and thus requires continuous interaction between its social, economic and other elements,

Aware of the serious consequences of the world-wide economic recession for the welfare of peoples and for the funding and delivery of social services which are even more essential now than in periods of economic growth,

Convinced that there is a need to reassess social welfare policy in the light of past experience and present issues, in order to arrive at effective strategies for the future,

Taking note of the efforts made to relate the concerns expressed in Council resolution 1983/22 to the preparations for the Fourth Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, to be held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 26 March 1985, the Third Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, to be held at Bangkok from 9 to 15 October 1985, the Pan-Arab Regional Conference on Social Welfare Policies, to be held in September 1985, and looking forward to similar conferences in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General 12/ concerning steps taken with a view to convening an interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes and the necessity of the active involvement of regional intergovernmental organizations in this effort.

* For the discussion, see chap. IV, sect. C.

12/ E/CN.5/1985/7 and Add.1.

1. Requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the organization of the interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes to be held, within existing budgetary resources, at Vienna, at an appropriate policy-making level, in the autumn of 1987 when regional preparations will be completed, and to which all States would be invited, with the objective of appraising present policies and programmes and developing themes and setting goals in the social field for the year 2000, taking into account the Declaration on Social Progress and Development; 13/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to assist in the conduct of regional intergovernmental meetings, which would consider, inter alia, issues relating to the interregional consultation;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, on the basis of consultations with Governments, an annotated draft agenda for the interregional consultation, with documentation to the extent possible, to the Commission for Social Development at its thirtieth session for final comments.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII*

Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the rights to life, work and education

The Economic and Social Council,

Drawing attention to the exceptional importance of all forms of assistance in the large-scale integration of young people into the social and economic development of their respective countries on the basis of ensuring the economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights of youth, in particular the rights of youth to life, work, and education, in conditions of peace,

Convinced that it is necessary to ensure full enjoyment by youth of the rights stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 14/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 15/ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 15/ with special regard for the right to life, work and education, in conditions of peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 36/29 of 13 November 1981, 37/49 of 3 December 1982 and 38/23 of 22 November 1983, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/16 of 9 May 1979, 1981/16 of 6 May 1981 and 1983/17 of 26 May 1983, in which, inter alia, the need to adopt appropriate measures

* For the discussion, see chap. V, sect. A.

13/ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

14/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

15/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to life, work and education, is recognized,

Convinced that youth can make a valuable contribution to efforts to create a new international economic order,

Recognizing that in many countries the majority of young people, under the prevailing conditions of social and economic crisis, are facing serious problems in the exercise of their rights, particularly the rights to life, work and education,

Aware of the fact that insufficient education and the unemployment of young people limits their ability to participate in the development process and, in this regard, emphasizing the importance of the secondary and higher education of young people, and their access to appropriate technical, vocational guidance and training programmes,

1. Calls upon all States, all governmental and non-governmental organizations, interested United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to continue to give priority to the formulation and implementation of effective measures for securing the exercise by youth of the rights to life, work and education, in conditions of peace;

2. Notes with concern that there are at present a rapidly growing number of unemployed young people in the world, many of whom have never had work, and that with the growth of unemployment it is becoming increasingly difficult to implement the basic social and economic rights of youth, especially the rights to life, work and education;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the views expressed in the Commission for Social Development concerning ways and means of realizing the rights of youth, in particular the rights to life, work and education, and also the provisions of the present resolution, in the preparation of documentation for the forthcoming session of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace;

4. Requests the Commission for Social Development to consider at its thirtieth session the progress achieved in connection with the participation of young people in the development of their respective countries and in the realization and exercise of their rights to life, work and education, in conditions of peace.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX*

First review and appraisal of the implementation of the
International Plan of Action on Aging

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, in which the Assembly endorsed the International Plan of Action on Aging adopted by the World Assembly on Aging, 16/ and requested the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission for Social Development, to review the implementation of the Plan of Action every four years, beginning in 1985,

Mindful of the International Plan of Action on Aging, which inter alia, points out that various problems of older people can find their real solution under conditions of peace,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 39/25 of 23 November 1984, in which the Assembly recognized the increasing awareness of issues related to aging in many countries and of the need to provide national authorities, at their request, with technical and financial assistance in their efforts to implement policies and programmes,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the principles and recommendations contained in the International Plan of Action on Aging and described in the report of the Secretary-General on the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action, 17/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/228 of 18 December 1984, in which the Assembly endorsed the report of the International Conference on Population, containing the recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, 18/ in recommendation 58 of which Governments were urged to reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging,

Recalling also the reaffirmation in General Assembly resolution 39/228 of the need to pay attention to specific problems of population structures,

* For the discussion, see chap. V., sect. B.

16/ Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July to 6 August 1982
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

17/ E/1985/6.

18/ Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City,
6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda,
chap. I, sect. B.

Reaffirming further General Assembly resolution 39/25, in which the Secretary-General was urged to include advisory services to developing countries that requested them in technical co-operation programmes,

Recalling further that the General Assembly, in resolution 437/51, requested the Secretary-General to continue to use the Trust Fund for Aging to meet the rapidly increasing needs of the aging in the developing countries, in particular in the least developed ones,

Convinced that the Trust Fund has a unique contribution to make and a catalytic role to play in the technical co-operation field to implement the goals and recommendations of the International Plan of Action on Aging and to promote innovative and experimental activities in the field of aging,

Stressing the need for close and continuous working relationships between the Trust Fund and those bodies, organs and organizations of the United Nations system concerned with the question of aging, and the need for the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to continue its role as the focal point for promoting the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments and non-governmental organizations which, through their contributions, have upheld the vital role of the Trust Fund,

Noting with concern the disparity between the current resources of the Trust Fund and the large number of requests for assistance, and the fact that the Trust Fund has not been able to consider all the deserving requests for technical assistance received owing to the minimal contributions received during the last two years,

Noting with appreciation the continuing support of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities for population assistance in the field of aging,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging; 17/
2. Urges Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to strengthen their efforts to implement the principles and objectives of the International Plan of Action on Aging;
3. Invites Governments to strengthen or establish mechanisms, when necessary, to facilitate the co-ordinated planning and implementation of activities in the field of aging and, where appropriate, to establish a focal point for aging within the national office responsible for population activities;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure a well-co-ordinated system-wide response for the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national, regional and international levels;

5. Urges Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the specialized agencies, to exchange information and experience concernin the adoption of measures to meet the needs of the elderly, including those who contributed to the victory which ended the Second World War;

6. Affirms the role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat as a focal point for the exchange of such experience between the organizations of the United Nations system;

7. Reaffirms the importance of the provisions of the International Plan of Action on Aging regarding the necessity of halting the arms race and rechannelling the resources spent for military purposes to the needs of economic and social development, particularly for the improvement of the social status of the elderly;

8. Urges the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure that advisory and other services to developing countries that request them are provided to the extent feasible in technical co-operation programmes and/or through the resources of the Trust Fund for Aging;

9. Urges the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, as a leading organization in international population assistance, to sustain its financial support for technical co-operation activities in respect of aging, particularly in view of the importance given to that issue by the International Conference on Population in its recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to take concrete measures on an urgent basis to promote the financial viability and effectiveness of the Trust Fund;

11. Urges Governments and non-governmental organizations to continue and, where possible, to increase their contributions to the Trust Fund, and calls upon Governments and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to consider contributing to the Trust Fund;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, in order to facilitate contributions by Governments, to include the Trust Fund, on an annual basis, among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

13. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the measures and steps he has taken to further develop the Trust Fund.

DRAFT RESOLUTION X*

The family

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1983/23 of 26 May 1983 on the role of the family in the development process,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of development on the institution of the family, 19/ and of its conclusions,

Emphasizing the need for the greatest importance to be given to the family as basic unit of society and natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members,

Affirming the importance of national policies which meet the needs of families and enable them to perform their essential role.

Recognizing that consideration of the needs of families is made more necessary by the special constraints which families are experiencing in social situations that are often difficult, and has also become more complex as a result of the growing diversity that can be observed in the forms of the institution of the family,

1. Renews its invitation to Member States to expand their efforts at the national and community levels to consider, examine, identify and evaluate the needs of families and the ways in which those needs may be more effectively met;

2. Appeals to future United Nations meetings on developmental social welfare policies and programmes to include in their deliberations the question of development and families, paying particular attention to the support of the family unit as a framework in which and through which social welfare policies and programmes can provide more effective support to family members;

3. Invites the various regional meetings at ministerial level scheduled to take place in 1985 and 1986 to consider also the question of development and families, so that each region's concerns may be fully represented;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to obtain information, to be supplied by countries and relevant international organizations, on policies and programmes concerning families, and to promote the improvement of the scope, availability and comparability of statistics and indicators relating to families;

* For the discussion, see chap. IV, sect. B.

19/ E/1985/9 and Corr.1.

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure consistency between the policies and concepts contained in United Nations programmes and plans of action having a bearing on the family, in co-ordination with the Commission on the Status of Women, the Population Commission and other relevant bodies;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to study the data available in the reports and action plans developed in the course of recent United Nations activities such as the World Assembly on Aging, the International Year of Disabled Persons, the International Year of the Child and the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, taking into account the need to strengthen policies for the welfare of the entire society;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to study further the impact of development on the family as an institution and to submit a progress report to the Council at its first regular session of 1987, through the Commission for Social Development at its thirtieth session, on developments concerning national family policies and programmes;

8. Invites the General Assembly to consider the possibility of including in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session an item entitled "Families in the development process", with a view to considering a possible request to the Secretary-General to initiate a process of development of global awareness of the issues involved, directed towards Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and public opinion.

B. Decisions calling for action by the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission call for action by the Economic and Social Council.

DECISION I

Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations
Research Institute for Social Development

1. At its 17th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission decided to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

(a) For a four-year term beginning on 1 July 1985:

Ismail Sabri Abdhalla (Egypt);

Louis Emerij (Netherlands);

Sally Weaver (Canada);

(b) For an additional term of two years, beginning on 1 July 1985:

Gustavo Esteva (Mexico).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to refer to the Economic and Social Council the nomination and confirmation of one member from Asian States and one member from Eastern European States for a term of four years, beginning on 1 July 1985.

DECISION II*

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission for Social Development

At its 18th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission, pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, decided to submit to the Council for its review the provisional agenda and requested documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission set out below.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. World social situation, with special focus on Africa, including the elimination of all major social obstacles.

Under this item the topics of interest to the Commission include overall issues of development and social progress such as the implementation and the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade; the realization of the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development; the social aspects and consequences of fundamental changes in the world economy, related in particular to the establishment of the new international economic order: the process of social development and structural socio-economic transformation, including that related to the equitable distribution of income; the social aspects and consequences of issues such as unemployment, inflation, the role of transnational corporations, armament and disarmament, including the adverse effects of the arms race on social progress, and main emerging social issues of international concern.

Documentation

Subject to rule 5, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the following documentation:

Report of the Secretary-General on the main social issues and trends of international concern that have emerged since the preparation of the last report on the world social situation (see draft resolution II above)

* For the discussion, see chap. VII.

4. Trends and strategies for social integration through popular participation and policies for the advancement of specific social groups.

Under this item issues of interest to the Commission include action to enhance popular participation for social integration, promotion of co-operatives and other local organizations, progress achieved in the preparation of the interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes and on strategies adopted at the national level in favour of the family. The Commission will make an assessment of the implementation of the International Youth Year in considering the theme of youth in the contemporary world. The question of aging will be considered in the context of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging. With respect to disabled persons, national experience in implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons will be analysed. The improvement of the situation of migrant workers and their families will be examined.

Documentation

Subject to rule 5, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the following documentation:

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of popular participation in the formulation and implementation of strategies and policies for social integration and comparison of regional and national experiences, particularly in developing countries (Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/13)

Report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (see draft resolution III above)

Report of the Secretary-General containing an annotated draft agenda for the interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes (see draft resolution VII above)

Report of the Secretary-General on developments concerning national family policies and programmes (see draft resolution X above)

Preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the appraisal of the results of the International Youth Year (see draft resolution IV above)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the monitoring and evolution of the implementation of the world programme of action concerning disabled persons

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in strengthening programmes designed to improve the social situation of migrant workers and their families and in meeting the needs and problems emerging as a result of the changing conditions of international migration (see draft resolution V above)

5. Other matters before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work for the biennium 1985-1986

Note by the Secretary-General on the social welfare and social development activities of the regional commissions for the biennium 1985-1986 (Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/20)

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the activities of the Institute during the period 1 November 1984 to 31 December 1986

6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirtieth session.

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

DECISION III

Report of the Board of the Institute of the United Nations
Research Institute for Social Development

At its 17th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission took note of the report of the Board of the Institute of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the activities of the Institute during 1983 and 1984 (E/CN.5/1985/10 and Corr.1).

DECISION IV

Co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized
agencies in the collection of social statistics and the
preparation of reports on social issues

At its 18th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the collection of social statistics and the preparation of reports on social issues (E/CN.5/1985/3).

DECISION V

Results of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the
International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations
Development Decade

At its 18th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the results of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (E/CN.5/1985/4).

DECISION VI

Social aspects of rural development

At its 18th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the social aspects of rural development (E/1985/8).

DECISION VII

Income distribution and development

At its 18th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on income distribution and development (E/CN.5/1985/5).

DECISION VIII

Recent trends in strategies and policies for the social
integration of less advantaged groups

At its 18th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on recent trends in strategies and policies for the social integration of less advantaged groups (E/CN.5/1985/6).

DECISION IX

Report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control
on its eighth session

At its 18th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission took note of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its eighth session. 20/

20/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement
No. 6 (E/1984/16).

D. Draft proposals on which no action was taken

4. The Commission had before it, under items 3, 6 and 7 (a) of its agenda, draft proposals E/CN.5/1985/L.5, 6, 8, 15 and 19. At its 18th meeting, on 27 February 1985, the Commission agreed that those draft proposals, on which no action had been taken, should be annexed to its report (see annex III).

Chapter II

SURVEY OF RECENT AND PROSPECTIVE TRENDS AND FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE FIELD OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 7th, 13th to 15th and 18th meetings, from 18 to 21 and on 26 and 27 February 1985. The Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress (A/40/65-E/1985/7), the 1985 report on the world social situation (E/CN.5/1985/2), a report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the collection of social statistics and the preparation of reports on social issues (E/CN.5/1985/3), and a note by the Secretary-General on the results of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (E/CN.5/1985/4).

6. The representative of the Office for Development Research and Policy Analysis of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, in introducing the item, noted that the recent state of the world economy and its probable future course had been central concerns. No longer was it possible for all the major groups of developed countries to consider that increasing living standards were inevitable, the main international challenge being to create the conditions in which all other countries could move more rapidly towards their development goals. Social gains achieved through hard work were no longer regarded as being irreversible. In developing countries the price of economic set-back and crisis was more poverty and hunger, shrinking job opportunities, retrenchment in inadequate social programmes and a lowering of sights for the future. Those concerns and realities were reflected in the documents submitted to the Commission, which also tried to distinguish between the social implications of underdevelopment and mass poverty and the effects on societies of economic recession in countries that were vulnerable in different ways.

7. Other basic social forces were also at work, which, in the short run at least, were only slightly affected by the health of the economy. Rapid urbanization, the explosion in knowledge and education, the information and communication revolution, the structural transformation of employment and the pervasiveness of new technologies were forcing new values on societies and new relations among groups and countries. The rapid pace of change in many societies had created new problems and brought new challenges. The emergence of new social groups, the impact of new thinking, including some resurgence of a desire for greater discipline and morality in an overall context of greater participation in decisions affecting peoples' lives, were challenging existing arrangements and institutions. Reference was made to the renewed debate on the appropriate role of Governments in promoting development and social progress. Those aspects of contemporary reality were reflected in the documents before the Commission.

8. The 1985 report on the world social situation was the eleventh since 1952 to have provided the legislative bodies of the United Nations and the general public with a panorama of the social situation and living conditions in the world. Its other major functions were to help intergovernmental bodies to identify and analyse international issues and to provide elements for a global synthesis of socio-economic trends, a context in which more specific problems, such as the situation of particular population groups, might be viewed in perspective.

9. The format of the 1985 report on the world social situation, and also the organization of topics and their treatment, had been adjusted to adhere to the latest guidelines provided by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Secretariat was not claiming that the difficult task of achieving the ideal selection and arrangement of topics had been achieved, however. In that connection, the representative of the Secretariat pointed out that a supplement to the report, which would be made available to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, was devoted to a review of changes in living conditions in the various social sectors, with particular reference to developing regions.

10. Most representatives emphasized the difficult world social situation, particularly in the context of the economic crisis, and its effects, which were still being felt in many parts of the world, particularly in developing countries. Some representatives noted that there was a glimmer of hope on the economic horizon.

11. Other representatives pointed out that many developing countries continued to be seriously affected by the continuing economic crisis, particularly by the adverse movement in the terms of international trade, the huge international debt, the high interest rates that had been prevailing for a number of years, the outflow of badly needed capital, the volatile foreign exchange markets, and protectionist policies, which limited countries' possibilities of engaging in mutually beneficial trade. Austerity or adjustment measures were being adopted in many countries. Some representatives pointed to the sacrifices that their economies and societies were making to put themselves in a better position to withstand an unfavourable international economic environment.

12. Several representatives deplored the apparent decline in international solidarity and the preference of some major countries for bilateral solutions to problems instead of multilateral approaches. The connection between multilateralism and a peaceful resolution of world economic and social problems was stressed.

13. A number of representatives emphasized that in their countries, which were founded on socialist principles and a centrally planned economy, progress in improving living standards for the mass of the population had been maintained despite the crisis in the world economy. Some representatives referred to the experiences of their countries in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes. They suggested that the exchange of those experiences could be useful in demonstrating how some critical problems currently being encountered by many developing countries had been tackled and overcome by other countries which had only recently found themselves in very similar circumstances. Representatives of a number of States noted that their countries were seeking, and had found a way to combine, a high level of material well-being, through increased efficiency and productivity, with a socialist spiritual civilization.

14. One representative emphasized the importance of free enterprise, private initiative and due regard for the proper functioning of markets, which accounted for the extraordinary achievement of some societies in the economic and social spheres; less developed societies that had a similar approach were also said to be achieving significant progress.

15. Some representatives pointed out that in their countries conditions dictated neither the adoption of complete central planning and State ownership of productive resources nor the reliance on the free play of market forces and private

initiative. The State was the main agent for mobilizing resources and set the agenda for economic development and social progress. Most representatives underlined the fact that, whatever the socio-economic system, the State had to lay down the broad direction and objectives of social change. It was society as a whole that had the task of promoting the goal of overall social well-being, and the role of securing the position of the vulnerable and underprivileged groups in society, as an expression of collective concern and solidarity.

16. The link between peace on the one hand and social progress and development on the other was emphasized by several representatives. Several representatives stressed that the twenty-ninth session of the Commission coincided with the period of preparation for the fortieth anniversary of the victory in the Second World War over fascism and nazism, the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It was also pointed out that the acceleration of the arms race was both an important obstacle to social progress and an unproductive use of the resources of the world while millions of people were destitute and without adequate shelter, schooling or opportunities. If spending on arms could be reduced, the money thus saved could be devoted to the development and social progress of all countries, particularly the developing countries, which were encountering the most serious problems.

17. Another set of major obstacles to social progress, in the view of many representatives, included continued economic exploitation, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racial discrimination, racism, apartheid, and the denial of human dignity. Several representatives regretted that, 40 years after the founding of the United Nations, the denial of human dignity was particularly prevalent in racist South Africa and dominated Namibia.

18. Some representatives considered the lack of employment and the high level of unemployment persisting in many societies to be among the most urgent problems. In many Western European countries, unemployment, especially of women, young people and older workers, was a major concern. In most developing countries the problem of finding productive and remunerative work for a growing labour force was a major challenge. In many countries the deep recession and its aftermath had halted and even reversed a long-standing trend towards the increased absorption of labour into the organized sectors. In the opinion of some representatives, changes in technology might have had an adverse effect on employment in many developing countries, even discounting the effects of the economic recession. One representative stated that existing new and emerging technologies could be modified to solve the socio-economic problems of marginal social groups in the developing countries.

19. Representatives commented favourably on the breadth of the new information and analysis provided in the 1985 report on the world social situation. Many representatives also stated that they were not in a position to comment in depth on such a major report because of the delay in distributing documents to the Commission.

20. There was widespread expression of appreciation of the difficulties faced by the authors in preparing a report that had had to deal with the large and complex set of questions that constituted the world social situation.

21. Several representatives welcomed the inclusion of new chapters, in particular chapter II, on conflicts and militarism, which gave in-depth coverage of certain topics that had only been touched on in previous issues, such as the interrelationship between international peace, security and disarmament on the one hand and social progress and development on the other, and technology and communications. One representative expressed the opinion, however, that the chapter on conflicts and militarism was properly in the domain of other United Nations bodies and that it moreover lacked a certain balance.
22. Some representatives expressed the view that not all sectors and topics of relevance to the full assessment of the world social situation had been highlighted or presented prominently enough in the report before the Commission. They hoped that a discussion of core social questions would always be found in future reports.
23. Several representatives mentioned the importance of discussing the ethical, moral, spiritual and cultural dimensions of social change. While the 1985 report had rightly analysed some of those questions, the treatment could have been presented in a broader context than that of education. In the report the role of the schools in the teaching of moral and spiritual values had been mentioned; it had been emphasized, however, that the role of the schools in that field should be supported by the efforts of all social institutions, such as the family and others.
24. Some representatives said they wished that more specific recommendations on social policy could have been included in the report, as suggested at previous sessions of the Commission, but they welcomed the inclusion of detailed national and local examples of efforts to improve the management of social services and publicly-owned enterprises.
25. The report was thought-provoking, stimulating and challenging. Various comments were made on the overall approach. The decision to focus on obstacles to social progress and on the forces of social change was interesting and useful. One representative noted that a fully comprehensive synthesis, which would give a precise idea of the direction in which the social situation was moving and what its essential current features were, had still eluded the authors, but it was recognized that such a requirement was extremely difficult to meet.
26. The list of long-lasting problems that were not being overcome suggested that the overall social situation was deteriorating and that the grip of the recession was still seriously hindering development and social progress, particularly in the developing countries.
27. One representative expressed the view that the world had experienced a profound shock and that many more developed countries were having to live with the consequences of their past actions. Several representatives were of the opinion that social policy in the European countries with developed market economies had to soften the adjustment to more difficult economic conditions. A new aim of social policy was to make it possible for people to cope with a complex and changing society and adjust to rapidly changing technological and employment conditions. In many countries the institution of the family was undergoing change and new burdens were being placed on it. It required support. Social policy could focus in an integrated way on many separate issues through coherent support of the family.
28. Shortcomings in the execution of the report were mentioned. Several representatives looked for more practical suggestions on how to overcome the

various obstacles that had been analysed, or suggestions that would be directly useful to social planners. The specific examples of policy measures in different areas that had been cited in the report were generally welcome.

29. Some representatives considered that the achievements of the socialist countries during a period of world economic crisis had been underestimated. Insufficient emphasis had been placed in the report on the importance given in those countries to education for all, and on the constant efforts to improve the professional orientation and vocational training of young people. The report had viewed reform in education in those countries in too narrow a context and the purposes of the reform had been incorrectly interpreted. Many problems encountered by developed countries with market economies were not relevant to socialist countries.

30. Representatives found the analysis of underdevelopment and the difficulties of international economic co-operation pertinent and informative. One representative noted that the long-term adverse implications of cut-backs in social programmes and social investments not only for social well-being but also for the economy were still not properly appreciated. Several representatives stressed the need to mobilize the necessary will so that basic problems of hunger and malnutrition, poverty, ill-health, illiteracy, inadequate opportunity and social disparities could be overcome. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the failure thus far to implement the social objectives set out in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex).

31. Representatives also made suggestions on the possible orientation and coverage of topics in future reports on the world social situation. Several representatives considered that the discussion of education in the report was interesting and relevant to the social circumstances, but that the report had not given enough attention to various concerns of many developing countries, and it was suggested that future analyses should deal more fully with those concerns. The analysis of technology and the mass media had provided valuable information. It would be useful if in future the possible harmful consequences for the developing countries could be explored and their particular concerns in those areas highlighted.

32. The 1985 report had not given an adequate presentation of the extent of institutionalized deprivation, the extent of hunger and malnutrition, and the measures needed to deal with those serious problems, particularly the crisis in Africa. They should be given adequate analysis in future reports.

33. Problems of employment and unemployment were mentioned as likely to be of major significance in many developed and developing countries; it was stated that it would be useful to analyse the various proposals to enhance the ability of economic systems to provide employment for all. In more developed countries, the various possibilities of reducing the amount of time spent at work and of sharing work, while releasing peoples' energies for creative and socially useful voluntary work, could be explored. Social protection for those who were out of work or in other ways deprived were a major concern of Governments and communities. The inclusion of analyses of social security and other measures of social protection, as well as of the close interrelationship between the maintenance of international peace and disarmament on the one hand and the promotion of social progress and development on the other would be highly desirable in future reports. Some representatives wished to see the problems of the family reflected more fully.

Various other issues for possible inclusion in future reports were mentioned, such as the ethical, moral and cultural aspects of societies, and problems of crime and anti-social behaviour. The search for a more efficient delivery of social services and improvement in the use of scarce resources was likely to continue and to need review.

34. Many issues had been touched on in the 1985 report but had been discussed too briefly; others had not been discussed. Several representatives felt that it would be important for future reports to discuss a core of issues. The major sectors or topics of interest to social planners and social policy-makers should find a place in future reports, and the various elements, such as demographic trends, health, shelter, nutrition, education and social security, should be treated in an interlinked and integrated manner. The report on the world social situation should be conceived of as an instrument for identifying and solving problems. The question of the periodicity of the report was also raised.

35. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific presented an assessment of major social trends in the region. She pointed out that the precepts of economic growth had become established in Asia. There was concern with the conflicts among growth, equity and participation, in the context of traditional ethical systems often undergoing severe strains from the modernization process. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization outlined the approach to development which, in the modalities that would be applied, should be endogenous in nature and in the long term should be centred on man and for the benefit of the human being. The concept had evolved over many years and had led to an integrated view, in which social development was the ultimate objective.

Action taken by the Commission

1. World social situation

36. At the 13th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of India, as chairman of the informal open-ended working group established by the Commission at its 4th meeting, reported on the conclusions of the working group and introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.14) entitled "World social situation".

37. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The Commission for Social Development,

"Having considered the 1985 report on the world social situation, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/54 of 3 December 1982 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/8 and 1983/18 of 26 May 1983,

"1. Draws the attention of the Economic and Social Council to its conclusions on the world social situation and on the 1985 report on the world social situation;

"2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:"

[For the text of the draft resolution, see chap. I, sect. A,
draft resolution II.]

2. International Development Strategy for the Third
United Nations Development Decade

38. At the 13th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of Zimbabwe, on behalf also of Mongolia, Togo and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, 21/ introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.9) entitled "International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade". Subsequently, Ghana and Mali joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of which read as follows:

"3. Requests the Committee for Development Planning at its twenty-second session to give special attention to both economic and social policy measures designed to achieve the continuous raising of the material and spiritual standards of living of all members of society;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the results of the review and appraisal to the Commission for Social Development at its thirtieth session".

39. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed the following amendments:

(a) The deletion of operative paragraph 3;

(b) The replacement of the words "report on" by the word "submit" in operative paragraph 4.

40. At the 14th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of Zimbabwe, on behalf of the sponsors, accepted the amendment to operative paragraph 4 proposed by the representative of the United States and orally revised operative paragraph 3 so that it read:

"3. Requests the Committee for Development Planning, at its twenty-second session, to give due attention to the social dimensions relevant to the formulation of both economic and social policy measures designed to achieve the continuous raising of the material, spiritual and living standards of all members of society, and to make available its input to the Commission for Social Development at its thirtieth session".

41. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally amended and revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VI.)

21/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

3. Documents submitted under agenda item 3

42. At its 18th meeting, on 27 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the collection of social statistics and the preparation of reports on social issues (E/CN.5/1985/3). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision IV.)

43. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the results of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (E/CN.5/1985/4). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision V.)

Chapter III

SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICIES RELATED TO ISSUES CONCERNING THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL INCOME AND THE PROCESS OF INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

44. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 18 to 21 February 1985. The Commission had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the social aspects of rural development (E/1985/8) and on income distribution and development (E/CN.5/1985/5).

45. The representative of the Office for Development Research and Policy Analysis introduced item 4 together with item 3. Referring to the report on the social aspects of rural development, he noted that it dealt with a few selected issues that had come to prominence recently, namely, reforms affecting various producer and consumer subsidies and producer prices. One conclusion was that price incentives alone were insufficient to make a major contribution to increased growth and equity where it was most needed. The report on income distribution and development contained a highly distilled presentation of the findings of a project which was concerned with the longer-term relationship between growth, structural change, distribution of income and relevant policies. Significant changes in distribution emerged only over the long run as important structural and institutional changes took time, but many were subject to policy influence. The task of policy analysis was to seek out also the areas where the needs of equity and efficiency coincided.

46. One representative, in referring to the refreshing and concise report on the social aspects of rural development, noted that it contained only a brief mention of social aspects and vaguely worded conclusions on agrarian reform. Attention to the circumstances of various groups remained a pre-condition for development and welfare in rural areas, requiring co-operation between national and local institutions and interdisciplinary co-operation within project activities. Another representative referred to the connection between the possibility of raising producer prices for domestic food and the depressed revenues of Governments and food buyers owing to falling prices for primary products in world markets.

47. The adverse effects on poverty and income distribution of the global economic crisis in different countries and the experience of countries with different socio-economic systems were discussed. Several representatives outlined the achievements of national policies to obtain a fair distribution of income, to eradicate poverty, and to bring about unity and equity for all population groups. Recent conditions had often hampered those efforts, particularly in view of strained resources. The recession was having a harmful effect on vulnerable groups. The unfavourable terms of trade, the debt burden, protectionism, inflation and the austerity measures, including cut-backs in social programmes, were having serious consequences on the social situation in many developing countries.

48. Some representatives emphasized that the burden of the global economic crisis had been shifted on to the developing countries. Transnational corporation also channelled resources away from developing countries and in addition they withdrew capital from those countries. In socialist countries it had been possible to provide for a continued increase in the well-being of the population and to allocate greater resources to the social sectors. The socialist State aimed at

satisfying the constantly growing material and spiritual aspirations of the entire population. Social services and education had been made available to all, and the old disparities between urban and rural areas were disappearing.

49. One representative emphasized that the market was not an unplanned system but, rather, a system that reflected the plans of all individuals, based on the simple and just principle that those who produced were entitled to the fruits of their labour. The working class in developed market societies enjoyed a high standard of living.

50. Several representatives agreed with the broad conclusions of the report on income distribution and development. One representative doubted the usefulness of including specific national examples in a very brief presentation, as the lack of context could lead to misinterpretation. Another representative referred to the lack of emphasis placed on human capital development as a central policy contribution to equitable social progress. Attention was drawn by one representative to the observation in the report that income disparities were narrower in socialist countries. Another representative referred to the difficulty of achieving lasting improvements in income distribution with policies that had a strongly adverse impact on allocative efficiency and growth, and to the problems that could arise when equity was promoted without the necessary means and resources. The final report should take those comments into consideration.

Action taken by the Commission

51. At its 18th meeting, on 27 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the social aspects of rural development (E/1985/8). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision VI.)

52. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on income distribution and development (E/CN.5/1985/5). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision VII).

Chapter IV

POLICIES FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION, POPULAR PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

53. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 1st, 5th, 7th to 10th and 13th to 17th meetings, from 18 to 22 and on 26 and 27 February 1985. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its eighth session, 22/ and the reports of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (A/40/78-E/1985/10), the impact of development on the institution of the family (E/1985/9 and Corr.1), recent trends in strategies and policies for the social integration of less advantaged groups (E/CN.5/1985/6) and the interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes (E/CN.5/1985/7 and Add.1).

54. In introducing the item, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs stressed the fact that, in contrast to the situation of many of the industrialized States, whose rates of economic growth had been rising, most developing countries were still suffering from the worst effects of the global recession. Their economies remained stagnant and the gross national product showed no real gains; high rates of inflation plagued many of those countries, thereby undermining people's incentive to save. As the capacity to save was weakened, the sources of investment capital were in flight, or in hiding, or simply drying up. The result was a decline in real income for both urban and rural people, growing unemployment and underemployment. The opportunities that many of those people had had in the past to migrate to developed or oil-producing States, which had served as an economic and social safety-valve, were fast disappearing with the growing curbs on immigration and the increasing pressure on migrant workers to return to their countries of origin.

55. The deteriorating economic conditions had obliged many Governments to reduce or eliminate important social programmes. The poor and marginalized elements of the population, in which women, youth, the aging and disabled persons predominated, had been most severely affected by cut-backs in social services. Family planning, education, health and other social service programmes, which over the past two or three decades had been built up with painstaking care in many developing countries, were facing a difficult challenge. In many instances, the deteriorating conditions were having a corrosive effect on the fabric of society. Many of the poor and unemployed had taken to the streets to give vent to their frustrations: many more passively submitted to their lot.

56. There was an urgent need to raise the level of living of such disadvantaged people so that they might be brought into the mainstream of society. That goal could not be realized by relying solely on market forces. In most developing countries, the vast majority of the poor were only marginally involved in the market-place and very few derived benefits from its workings. If significant numbers of the poor were to be reached, greater attention had to be given to promoting social development. Hard experience had taught that social development

22/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984,
Supplement No. 6 (E/1984/16).

was not the ineluctable consequence of other policies. Rather, it could be made into an effective instrument only if it was clearly placed within the matrix of development policies. More specifically, it should be inextricably linked to national economic, financial and planning policies, which were the mainsprings of the development process.

57. The recession continued to stand as a massive barrier to renewed economic and social development in most third world countries. The harsh reality that there was a direct link between economic decline and social deprivation and, ultimately, political instability could not be ignored. Developing countries were paying and would continue to pay, in hard political currency, for the effects of the recession on their fragile economies. Sadly, the locomotive effect of the economic upswing in the industrial countries had had little effect on the developing countries. Contrary to expectations, the prices of their raw materials had not risen. Industrial growth, moreover, was not making up for those diminished earnings because a rising tide of protectionism in developed countries was hindering exports.

58. Vastly complicating the already difficult situation was the international debt crisis, which had placed the world's financial safety at risk. Economically troubled developing countries were being forced into the anomalous position of generating large and sustained trading surpluses so that they could service the debt they owed to Governments and foreign commercial banks. What the world was witnessing was the spectacle of poor countries, whose willingness to borrow in the 1970s to finance their development was equally matched by the desire of banks to ply them with loans, becoming net exporters of capital.

59. It was recognized that the developing countries needed to service their debts. Unless that was done, the solvency of some international and national lending institutions could be jeopardized, leading to a dislocation of world trade. Lenders and borrowers were locked in a tight embrace and if one side was seriously hurt, the other would surely feel the pain. Repayment of past debts should only be allowed to progress in ways that did not hinder economic growth and progress in development, however. It was therefore necessary to find a balance between public purpose and private finance, which was at the heart of the post-Second-World-War monetary arrangements that had set the stage for a long period of sustained growth in development and trade. In dealing with the debt problem, there was a need to rise above conventional approaches, otherwise the treatment might lead to a far worse ailment, from which rich and poor countries alike would not be spared.

A. Policies for social integration

60. The discussions on policies for social integration were based on the report of the Secretary-General on recent trends in strategies and policies for the social integration of less advantaged groups (E/CN.5/1985/6), which had been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/13. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General noted that it examined the complex but interrelated set of factors that linked societal structures and processes to the condition of many disadvantaged population groups. A number of obstacles to promoting social integration of those groups were identified. They included economic deprivation and locational disadvantage, which were reinforced by discriminatory practices rooted in socio-cultural characteristics or based on sex and age. A major barrier to resolving the problem was that disadvantaged

population groups were effectively excluded from participating in important decision-making processes at all levels of society. The report mentioned the experience of selected developing countries in promoting social integration through increased popular participation.

61. A number of representatives stressed the importance of the concept of social integration for improving the well-being of all segments of the population. It was also recognized that there was a need to elaborate and implement policies aimed at eliminating or reducing disparities, not only in the economic sphere but also in the political, social and cultural aspects of society. It was noted that the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations at the local and national levels in many countries were not yet being directed to comprehensive and integrated ends. Prevailing "sectoral" policies and "target group" policies had serious shortcomings. While there should be a variety of programmes for less advantaged groups, the massive social problems articulated by those groups could only be solved through an integrated approach to development which addressed itself to basic causal factors.

62. Many representatives attached great importance to people's participation in the formulation and implementation of strategies and policies for social integration. Some of them spoke about the involvement of workers - including working women and youth - in decision-making pertaining to the management of enterprises and offices, and the improvement of working and living conditions through the activities of workers in trade unions, self-management, and production conferences. The important role played by work collectives in the socialist countries in the area of social integration was also underlined.

63. In accordance with the statement by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1983/13) that strategies and policies for social integration might be regarded as methods and instruments of social change which were aimed at eliminating obstacles and creating the necessary conditions for people, including less integrated population groups, to participate fully in development and to benefit therefrom, the issue of social integration should not, it was stressed, be limited by the problems encountered when involving less advantaged groups in development; major obstacles to social progress and participation of the entire population in development should be reviewed, specific attention being paid to developing countries.

64. The need to study national experience in the area of social integration, not only in developing countries but also in developed ones, was underlined, as was the necessity of analysing the main features of social integration strategies and policies in centrally planned and market economies.

65. The importance of identifying less advantaged groups by social status and not just on the basis of age, group or sex was recognized. Less advantaged groups needed special policies and programmes if they were to have equal access to their countries' economic, political, social and cultural institutions and to assume constructive roles in society.

66. Several representatives spoke about the significance of cultural development for the social integration of less advantaged groups. In many developing countries, cultural policy was seen as an attempt to preserve the cultural diversity of various racial, national and ethnic groups while at the same time encouraging the gradual evolution of a national cultural identity.

67. Many representatives emphasized the importance of a comprehensive study and analysis of the main obstacles to social integration in all spheres of societal life. The most serious obstacles to the involvement of all segments of the population in development cited by representatives included poverty and unequal distribution of national income, unemployment, illiteracy, socio-economic and political discrimination and exclusion from an active and equal participation in policy-making and decision-making at all levels in society, as well as a lack of social services, especially in rural and remote areas.

B. Impact of development on the institution of the family

68. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of development on the institution of the family (E/1985/9 and Corr.1), which had been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/23. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General said that it reviewed some of the preliminary findings of recent studies on the interrelationships between families and the process of modernization, industrialization and urbanization. Although the family was the basic unit of society, it was the first to feel the increasing strains brought about by the socio-economic changes. Families were increasingly characterized by smaller size; diminished ties to other, non-nuclear family members; later marriages or common law unions; fewer children; more single-parent families or female-headed households; higher divorce rates; and more remarriages. All those trends reflected changing familial structures and functions; they were also linked with new and emerging roles for women in society.

69. Representatives pointed out that Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/23, which had been adopted on the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-eighth session, was modest in scope. It marked the beginning of the Secretariat's work on the family and, with the Secretary-General's report on the impact of development on the family, the Commission was also in a position to begin work on the issue.

70. A few representatives stated that the Commission's concern regarding the family was very close to its other concerns on behalf of youth, the aging and the disabled and that the family could and should serve as an integrating framework for those issues and others dealt with by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, thus bringing coherence to its work. Some representatives pointed out the importance of the Interregional Seminar on Changing Families: Relevant Social Welfare Strategies, held at Moscow from 1 to 13 October 1984.

71. Many representatives noted that national policies and programmes were often formulated on the underlying assumption that the nuclear family was the predominant, if not the only, form of family. That assumption was, in fact, out of date and ignored the rich variety of forms that the family could take. Whatever their structure, all families must have access to opportunities for their optimal development.

72. Among the most important roles of the family noted by representatives were those of serving as the primary social unit, developing the next generation, forming moral, cultural and spiritual values, giving and sharing strengths with individuals, families and other social units, serving as a natural environment for learning and fostering popular participation.

73. The report of the Secretary-General, some representatives noted, identified many of the effects of modernization, urbanization and industrialization on the family. Those effects included the increased separation of family members, whether temporarily or permanently; higher rates of family dissolution; increased numbers of single-parent families, of which, in one country, 90 per cent were headed by women; the forcing of many such families into poverty because they had only one breadwinner who might or might not be employed; a lack of commitment on the part of absent fathers; the breakdown in moral values; and significant negative effects on the young from insecure and weakened family structures. In addition, there were problems of violence, alcoholism and a lack of care for the aging. In the face of those and other problems, the wonder was that families still succeeded more often than they failed.

74. A few representatives commented on the close relationship between women's issues and family issues. One representative commented that an increase in women's role in the labour force might result in an increased role for men in the home. Representatives noted that in everyday life it did not always follow that expanded opportunities for women outside the household called for a greater role for men inside the household, as suggested in the report (E/1985/9 and Corr.1, para. 60). While that might appear logical and equitable, women were often required to shoulder both loads.

75. As to specific steps to be taken by the Commission, a number of representatives, while recognizing the value of proclaiming international years on a particular theme and indicating that some had reaped lasting positive results, none the less considered that too rapid a succession of such years could result in a loss of credibility and diminished returns. Another view was that the proclamation of an international year of the family could be premature while so much work remained to be done.

76. Other representatives suggested that an international strategy on behalf of the family was possible and that the General Assembly could request the Secretary-General to make an important statement or international declaration on what he believed to be the state of the family and what steps should be taken on its behalf.

C. Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes

77. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on the interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes (E/CN.5/1985/7 and Add.1), which had been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/22. In introducing the report the Assistant Secretary-General said that it reviewed the steps that had been taken for convening the proposed consultation. The response received from all regions of the world and the regional commissions had been overwhelmingly positive. The Fourth Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs to be held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 26 March 1985, the Third Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, to be held at Bangkok from 9 to 15 October 1985 and the forthcoming Pan-Arab Regional Conference on Social Welfare Policies would all contribute to the consultation, thus ensuring that it would be truly interregional in character. Preparatory work was also envisaged by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Europe.

78. With regard to the substantive issues to be raised at the interregional consultation, the compelling need to reassess existing social welfare systems in the light of past experience, current realities and future prospects was emphasized. It was precisely in times of great economic difficulties that improved social welfare policies and programmes were most badly needed, not only to alleviate human distress and allay growing social tensions, but also as an investment in human resources.

79. A large number of delegations strongly supported the convening of the interregional consultation, with a view to reassessing social welfare and related policies in the light of developments since the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, held at United Nations Headquarters in 1968, as well as in the context of contemporary needs and priorities. Such an undertaking was seen as essential in order to set concrete, positive and realistic targets up to and beyond the year 2000. Other representatives expressed strong doubts about the expediency of convening such a consultation as, for the time being, no preparatory activities were being implemented and as it might have additional financial implications.

80. The need to compare different social welfare systems and examine different models of social service delivery, as well as related planning and management aspects, was emphasized by some representatives. Further, the necessity of evolving concrete and pragmatic approaches to social welfare in the context of current economic conditions was underlined.

81. The important role of individuals, families and neighbourhoods in the organization and provision of social services was stressed by some representatives, as was the importance of self-reliance and the lessening of overwhelming dependence on the State.

82. In regard to the basic themes for the interregional consultation, the examination of the roles of different levels of government in regard to different types of social services, as well as the importance of relating social welfare to health, education, employment, social security and environment in a multisectoral framework, were suggested by some representatives. Furthermore, the relevance of social welfare to family integration, as contributing to overall community and social integration, should be given due recognition.

83. Several representatives said that representation at the interregional consultation should be at the ministerial level and that the consultation should be so organized as to allow for small working groups to examine specific issues in depth, and to assist the deliberations in the plenary sessions. All States should be invited to participate in that important consultation.

84. Some representatives suggested that the consultation should be convened in 1987, rather than in 1986, to allow for more adequate preparations and for incorporating the results of the intergovernmental meetings to be held in 1985 and 1986. Governments and the regional commissions in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean should be encouraged to convene regional intergovernmental meetings on social welfare prior to the interregional consultation.

85. Two representatives expressed reservations about the convening of the consultation.

86. The representative of Austria proposed Vienna as an appropriate site for holding the consultation, and gave the full support of his Government to that initiative.

D. National experience in promoting the co-operative movement

87. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (A/40/78-E/1985/10), which had been prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/15. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General said that it reviewed progress made in selected aspects of the activities of co-operatives. Of direct concern to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was the strengthening of the participation of all people, including women, youth, disabled persons and the aging, in co-operatives. The report also focused attention on "movement-to-movement" activities, which was a long-practised methods of strengthening co-operatives by providing assistance across national boundaries, from an established co-operative movement to a sister movement, without the assistance of government or other official intermediaries. The possibilities of strengthening South-South ties around the co-operative movement was particularly important since co-operative movements in a number of developing countries had proved successful and had much to offer to less successful co-operative enterprises in other developing States. Such an approach was also in keeping with an important part of the future work programme of the Centre of promoting social co-operation among developing countries.

88. A number of delegations referred to the important role played by co-operatives in promoting national development. Co-operatives, by their nature, invited participation by a broad range of the population. As one representative observed, open membership was a cardinal tenet of the co-operative movement. Women's participation in co-operatives should be encouraged because of the key role often played by them in many developing countries in the production and marketing of food.

89. Several representatives identified important areas where co-operatives were active, notably agriculture, housing, industry, fishing, insurance and crafts. One representative noted that in her country the Government provided assistance to co-operatives to promote handicraft industries. Without such support, the representative observed, those industries would not have been able to become economically viable. Another representative stressed that co-operatives were, above all, economic organizations and could not create a higher profit than the market did, nor could they make unprofitable commodities profitable.

90. A number of representatives stated that training programmes were important in strengthening the operations of co-operatives. It was pointed out that Governments could do much by providing training facilities, equipment and financial assistance. Several representatives stated that women's participation in the co-operative movement could be enhanced by making available to them training programmes relating to different aspects of co-operative activities.

E. Crime prevention and criminal justice

91. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/25, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its eighth session (E/1984/16).

Action taken by the Commission

1. National experience in promoting the co-operative movement

92. At the 13th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of Finland, on behalf also of Denmark, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.13) entitled "National experience in promoting the co-operative movement". Subsequently, Canada, Ghana and Morocco joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

93. In the course of the discussion, the representative of Finland, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 4, the words "and drawing on the work already under way elsewhere in the United Nations system" were inserted after the words "non-governmental organizations";

(b) The words "particularly in rural areas" were added at the end of operative paragraph 4 (a);

(c) The word "handicraft" was inserted after the word "savings" in operative paragraph 4 (b);

(d) Two new subparagraphs 4 (g) and (h) were added; they read:

"(g) Training and educational programmes to promote the effectiveness of co-operatives and make them more responsive to the needs of their members;

"(h) Difficulties faced by countries in the establishment and development of co-operatives, and their experience in overcoming them".

94. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III.)

2. Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes

95. At the 13th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.18) entitled "Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

... [The first five preambular paragraphs are the same as the first to third, fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs of draft resolution VII in chapter I],

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/1985/7 and Add.1) concerning the steps taken with a view to convening an interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes and the active involvement of regional intergovernmental organizations in this effort,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the organization of the interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes, to be held, within existing budgetary resources, at Vienna, preferably at ministerial level, in the autumn of 1987 when regional preparations will be completed, to which all States would be invited, with the objective of appraising present policies and programmes and developing themes and goals in the social field for the year 2000;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to facilitate meanwhile consultations with and participation in the regional intergovernmental meetings, to be held as preparatory meetings for the interregional consultation;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Commission at its thirtieth session, to be held not later than February 1987, an annotated draft agenda for the interregional consultation, to be finalized by consensus by the Commission at that session."

96. The representative of India proposed a number of amendments to the draft resolution, which were accepted by the sponsor.

97. The Commission considered the draft resolution further at its 14th and 15th meetings, on 26 and 27 February. Argentina, Austria, Chile, Cyprus, Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Spain, 23/ Thailand and Togo joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

98. At its 16th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as amended. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VII.)

99. After the adoption of the draft resolution, one delegation stated that it had agreed to the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote although it had some reservations concerning possible interpretation of the mandate of the interregional consultation, its goals, the beginning of the preparatory work and some other matters.

3. The family

100. At the 13th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of France, on behalf also of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Mali, Togo and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.20) entitled "The family", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 1983/23 of 26 May 1983 on the role of the family in the development process,

"Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of development on the institution of the family (E/1985/9 and Corr.1) and of its conclusions,

23/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

"Emphasizing the need for the greatest importance to be given to the family as 'a basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members', 24/

"Affirming the importance of national policies which meet the needs of families and enable them to perform their essential role,

"Recognizing that consideration of the needs of families is made more necessary by the special constraints which families are experiencing in social situations which are often difficult, and has also become more complex as a result of the growing diversity which can be observed in the forms of the institution of the family,

"1. Renews its invitation to Member States to expand their efforts at the national and community levels to consider, examine, identify and evaluate the needs of families and the ways in which those needs may be more effectively met;

"2. Appeals to future United Nations meetings on developmental social welfare policies and programmes to include in their deliberations the question of development and families, paying particular attention to the maintenance of the family unit as a framework in which and through which social welfare policies and programmes can provide more effective support to family members;

"3. Invites the various regional meetings at ministerial level scheduled to take place in 1985 and 1986 to consider also the question of development and families, so that each region's concerns may be fully represented;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake, within the limits of existing resources, a periodic review every four years, beginning in 1987, of the global social situation of families, on the basis of information supplied by Member States on policies and programmes concerning families, and, in order to provide a reliable basis for these reports, to promote the improvement of the scope, availability and comparability of statistics and indicators relating to families;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure consistency between the policies and concepts contained in United Nations programmes and plans of action having a bearing on the family, in co-ordination with the Commission on the Status of Women, the Population Commission and other relevant bodies;

"6. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission for Social Development, at its thirtieth session, on developments concerning national family policies and programmes;

"7. Urges the General Assembly to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session an item entitled 'Families in the development process' and to invite the Secretary-General to initiate a process of development of global awareness of the issues involved, directed towards Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and public opinion."

24/ See the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, art. 4.

101. The Commission considered the draft resolution at its 15th meeting, on 26 February.

102. At the 17th meeting, on 27 February, the representative of France, taking into account a number of amendments proposed by the representatives of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the observer for the Holy See, orally revised the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors.

103. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution X.)

4. Documents submitted under agenda item 5

104. At its 18th meeting on 27 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on recent trends in strategies and policies for the social integration of less advantaged groups (E/CN.5/1985/6). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision VIII.)

105. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its eighth session (E/1984/16). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision IX.)

Chapter V

POLICIES RELATED TO ISSUES CONCERNING SPECIFIC GROUPS

106. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 1st, 10th to 13th and 15th to 18th meetings, from 18 to 27 February 1985. The Commission had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/39/191 and Corr.1), the situation of youth in the 1980s (A/40/64-E/1985/5), national experiences in implementing the Programme of Action and related activities of the United Nations and other international organizations (E/1985/4), the first review and appraisal of the International Plan of Action on Aging (E/1985/6) and the social situation of migrant workers and their families (E/CN.5/1985/8).

107. In introducing the item, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs referred in particular to the situation of youth in the contemporary world, the preparations for the International Youth Year, the evaluation of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, ^{25/} the analysis of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex) and the social situation of migrant workers and their families.

A. Situation of youth in the 1980s

108. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of youth in the 1980s (A/40/64-E/1985/5), which had been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/14. The Assistant Secretary-General said that the report provided an overview of the global situation of youth near the mid-point of the decade. The report sketched, from a regional and sectoral perspective, broad contours of the major problems confronting young people in regard to development, the family, the world of work, and culture. The situation of youth varied from country to country, and from one region to another, but that should not prevent the consideration of the problems of youth within a global perspective, allowances being made for national and regional differences. It was through such a global prism that many of the problems affecting youth at the national level could be better appreciated and appropriate remedial action taken. The report concluded with a recommendation that Governments should continue their efforts to develop integrated youth policies. Energetic action at the regional and international levels, supportive of programmes at the national level, should not be allowed to slacken off. The cumulative effect of those combined efforts would help to ensure that the momentum generated by the International Youth Year would continue well into the future.

109. Several representatives referred to the serious consequences of the international economic situation for youth, particularly with regard to the problem of youth unemployment, and expressed the view that special efforts should be

^{25/} Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

directed to finding ways of diminishing its harmful effects. Several examples of national youth policies, directed at the problem, were presented. A number of representatives stressed the need to develop job opportunities in rural areas and the necessity of establishing a closer conjunction between education, training and employment. Other problems related particularly to the situation of youth in developing countries were also stressed, such as health and nutritional needs, education and training, environment, and housing. The necessity of formulating national youth policies that were capable of an integrated solution of the problems of youth was also underlined.

110. Several representatives pointed out that in the report of the Secretary-General it was recognized that youth problems reflected the problems of society at large and the active role of youth was referred to as an agent of social change and improvement. The importance of youth participation in global and integrated development was underlined. The themes of the International Youth Year, namely, participation, development and peace, were considered to convey very adequately the potential of youth to contribute to peace as a prerequisite for life and for the building of a more just and equitable new international order. Some representatives felt that more detailed studies were needed on the variety and complexity of the problems of youth, as well as on the different situations of young people in different parts of the world.

111. It was agreed that the International Youth Year provided an opportunity for increasing global awareness of the problems of youth. At the national level, Governments had increasingly recognized the importance of youth and important activities were being carried out within the framework of the Year. Important activities were also being undertaken at the regional and international levels by youth organizations. Some representatives pointed out the significant contribution of the twelfth World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held at Moscow in 1985, to the implementation of the goals of the International Youth Year. A number of important initiatives were mentioned by representatives of Member States and non-governmental organizations, underlining the necessity for closer co-ordination with related United Nations activities. It was stressed that the plenary meetings of the General Assembly that were to be designated as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year at the fortieth session, in 1985 (General Assembly resolution 39/22) could secure an adequate follow-up to the momentum gathered during the observance of the Year, and could provide long-term guidelines for subsequent work in the field of youth.

B. Aging

112. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging (E/1985/6). In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General said that its three-fold objectives were: (a) to examine the policies and activities regarding demographic, developmental and humanitarian aspects of aging which had evolved at the national, regional and international levels since the adoption of the Plan of Action at the World Assembly on Aging in 1982; (b) to assess the progress achieved at each level in implementing the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action; and (c) to identify priority areas for future action in the light of the experience gained thus far. It was to be hoped that the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action would stimulate the exchange of information on the question of aging between States Members of the

United Nations, and thereby help preserve the momentum gained on aging issues that was generated by the World Assembly on Aging.

113. Many representatives noted with appreciation the comprehensiveness of the report of the Secretary-General and took note of its conclusions, the provisions identified as requiring further emphasis, and the new areas for priority action. The effectiveness of the World Assembly on Aging and the International Plan of Action on Aging in promoting world-wide awareness of the issues concerning aging was consistently underlined, as was the need for both Governments and non-governmental and private organizations to implement the recommendations of the Plan of Action within the context of their own cultures, values and traditions.

114. Many representatives stressed the fact that the question of the aging of populations should not be considered separately from the overall socio-economic conditions prevailing in society at large and that steps had been taken to take those conditions into account in national development plans. Several representatives stressed the view that the problems of aging could best find a solution under conditions of peace and security in which the arms race was brought to a halt and the resources spent for military purposes were rechannelled to meet the needs of social and economic development.

115. A number of representatives said that improvement in the provision of health services, income security, housing, education, employment opportunities and social welfare services had been evident in their countries since the World Assembly. There was moreover a trend in a number of countries to seek alternatives to institutional care of the elderly. Policies and programmes to allow the elderly to remain in their own homes for as long as possible were being stressed. They included day-care centres, short-term care facilities, and home health care.

116. Several representatives stressed the need for policies and programmes aimed at benefiting the aging to promote opportunities for the self-expression of the older population in a variety of roles challenging to themselves and contributory to family and community. The introduction of appropriate technology in rural areas was suggested by one representative as an important factor for the promotion of rural development, particularly in areas where the population was aging.

117. At the international level, a number of representatives called for a well-co-ordinated system-wide response to the question of aging which would involve the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned. The catalytic role of the Trust Fund for Aging ^{26/} in implementing the goals and recommendations of the Plan of Action was noted by several representatives. One representative stressed the need for increased contributions while another suggested that the Trust Fund should be included, on an annual basis, among the programmes at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. Another representative suggested that thought should be given to the possibility of merging the Trust Fund into the United Nations Development Programme or the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

^{26/} Previously known as the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging.

C. Disabled persons

118. The Commission considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on national experiences in implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and related activities of the United Nations and other international organizations (E/1985/4), which had been prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/19. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General noted that, at the national level, several countries had adopted long-term plans and programmes for disabled persons as part of their overall economic and social development plans, and had proclaimed national decades of disabled persons. In many countries, either the national committees established during the International Year of Disabled Persons (1981) had been continued or new co-ordinating bodies created. A number of Governments had adopted plans and programmes to ensure legal protection of the rights of disabled persons and had modified their national legislation to be consistent with the 1975 Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX)) and the 1971 Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI)). At the international and regional levels, significant achievements had already been accomplished by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system within their respective fields of competence. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1984/26 on human rights violations and disabled persons, had requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appoint a special rapporteur to undertake a study of the causal connection between serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and disability. The Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had prepared regional plans for disabled persons (see A/39/191 and Corr.1). The purpose of the plans was, inter alia, to set up in the regions inventories of national rehabilitation facilities, which could serve as a resource network for regional co-operation.

119. Several representatives expressed appreciation of the many activities in the field of disability carried out by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in particular its role in monitoring those activities and selecting indicators for that purpose. Appreciation was expressed of the positive results of the inter-agency meetings and it was recommended that they should be continued on a regular basis. Other representatives expressed concern at the lack of imaginative measures for the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, and hoped that the Centre would be able to provide a lead for Member States in that respect. International agencies, it was added, should increase their activities in the field of disability.

120. On the issue of human rights and disabled persons, several representatives expressed their appreciation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/26, and of the collaboration between the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Centre for Human Rights.

121. Several representatives spoke on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons. One representative expressed appreciation of the Fund, which had financed many useful projects, while another recommended that the activities of the Fund should be expanded, and expressed concern at the lack of resources. That representative suggested that the Trust Fund should be included in the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for

Development Activities. Another representative asked whether it would not be possible to merge the Fund with the United Nations Development Programme.

122. A number of representatives spoke of the importance of the prevention of disability, including the prevention of wars, which created large numbers of disabled persons. The situation of disabled war veterans was discussed by several representatives, and the special benefits and privileges accorded to them were described.

123. A number of representatives described the measures taken in their countries to improve the situation of disabled persons, as well as to prevent disability. The need for disabled persons to participate in decision-making was stressed by some representatives. Services for disabled persons had in some cases been upgraded in line with the Programme of Action.

124. The question of employment was raised by a number of representatives who described measures taken in their countries. One representative pointed out that employment for disabled persons was beset with problems in developing countries. The provision of social benefits, such as pensions and social security, and access to education, information and culture for disabled persons were mentioned by several representatives. One representative pointed out the dramatic changes that new technology would make in the lives of disabled persons, while another representative stressed the need to develop technical aids and appliances for disabled persons that could be adapted to the conditions of developing countries.

D. Situation of migrant workers and their families

125. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on the social situation of migrant workers and their families (E/CN.5/1985/8), which had been prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/16. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General said that it had been prepared in co-operation with the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned, particularly the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. There were said to be about 20 million workers employed outside their own countries, with an unknown number of dependants. Many countries considered that form of migration vital to the health of their economies. Remittances from migrant workers to their families had been an important source of investment capital for revitalizing privately-held farms and improving the quality of life of the recipients; those sums were also a major source of foreign exchange. The decline in the flow of migrant workers and the drop in remittances had added yet another burden to developing countries. There was widespread concern that adverse economic conditions were contributing to the global increase in illicit migration and, consequently, making migrants more vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination, which included the neglect of their fundamental human rights. Growing unemployment in many of the receiving countries had generated feelings of anger and hostility among the local population towards migrants, who were seen as competitors in a shrinking job market. No less serious a problem was the difficulties encountered by the second generation of migrant workers in becoming socially and economically integrated in the receiving country. Energetic efforts would be needed at the international level to ensure that the standards of social programmes set up on behalf of migrants were commensurate with their contribution to development. The time had come to work out and implement

international standards for migrant workers and their families. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs stood ready to intensify its efforts in realizing that aim with the international organizations concerned.

126. A number of representatives welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and expressed agreement with the conclusions and recommendations as a whole. Most representatives expressed concern about the various social needs and problems of migrant workers and their families, resulting from recent significant developments in the international migration of labour. The attention of the Commission was drawn in particular to the serious social implications of the project-tied migration promoted by the labour-importing countries of the Middle East. It was pointed out that, under the terms of that type of migration, the migrant worker was not given equal opportunity and treatment in terms of working conditions and remuneration. The incidence of work-related deaths and injuries was very high and the workers' compensation system was unsatisfactory, as a result of which, in many cases, foreign workers were being exploited. Workers' contracts were often violated or even broken unilaterally by the employer.

127. Some representatives of receiving countries described recent measures taken to improve the material and social conditions of migrant workers, to encourage the preservation of their national, cultural and religious identity, to prevent discriminatory or xenophobic activities against migrants and to promote better understanding between immigrants and the indigenous population.

128. Several representatives expressed their support for the activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs relating to the welfare of migrant workers and their families. It was suggested that international standards for establishing social services for migrant workers and their families should be worked out and implemented. A proposal was made that the question of the welfare of migrant workers and their families should be included in the agenda of the interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes to be held in 1987 (see paras. 77-86 above).

129. A number of representatives welcomed the progress made by the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/172. It was proposed that the report of the Secretary-General on the social situation of migrant workers and their families should be submitted to the Working Group.

E. Concluding remarks

130. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, responding to a number of questions and comments, referred to some issues raised in the areas of youth, aging, disabled persons and migrant workers.

131. She recognized that the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of youth in the 1980s (A/40/64-E/1985/5) presented a gloomy picture of the situation of youth in many countries. That pessimism was due to the intense crisis that many countries had been plunged into after the Second World War, which in most depressed countries had resulted in widespread youth unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, hunger, and lack of shelter. Unfortunately, that negative situation persisted even as the International Youth Year was being celebrated. Recognition of that fact

should lead to increased efforts to build adequate youth policies in many countries. Fortunately, some countries had introduced far-reaching social changes which had resulted in the improvement of the well-being of youth in their respective countries.

132. In relation to the report of the Secretary-General on the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging (E/1985/6), the Assistant Secretary-General stated that the Trust Fund for Aging had played a catalytic role in the implementation of the principles and objectives of the Plan of Action. Although a modest fund, it had attempted to support innovative projects that might not ordinarily receive funding from conventional sources and could be expected to yield manifold benefits for the aging. In supporting those projects, the Trust Fund also attempted to identify co-sponsors so as to stretch to the maximum the modest resources available.

133. She added that she was not in a position to provide the Commission with a detailed account of the financial status of the Trust Fund, as that could only be done by the Office of Financial Services at United Nations Headquarters. She briefly informed the Commission of the overall resources of the Fund and provided examples of innovative projects it had supported. Unfortunately, contributions had declined in the last two years. In 1984, for example, six countries - Austria, Cyprus, France, Ireland, Pakistan and Togo - and one non-governmental organization had contributed a total of \$42,500 to the Fund. The estimated funds available on 1 January 1985 were \$227,900. Since 1983, 69 projects, involving more than 80 countries, had been financed or earmarked for financing, or were under consideration.

134. In the Latin American region, the Trust Fund had assisted comprehensive needs-assessment surveys of the elderly in 10 countries, namely, Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras and Jamaica. All the countries were using the same survey instrument, so as to ensure comparability of results at the conclusion of the research. The work was being co-ordinated by the Pan American Health Organization and was expected to promote the adoption or revision by Member States of national policies directed at the integrated and ongoing care of the aging.

135. Another regional project supported by the Trust Fund that had recently been successfully concluded was the Pan Africanist Regional Conference on Aging, held at Dakar in December 1984. The Conference, convened at the initiative of the Government of Senegal, had brought together representatives of 27 African countries, as well as some 50 African experts, to examine the applicability of the International Plan of Action on Aging to the African region and to develop specific courses of action to respond to the needs of the elderly in Africa. The Conference had decided, among other things, to establish an African Gerontological Society and to examine the feasibility of having an African regional institute on aging.

136. In the area of training, two innovative proposals had been financed. The first was a project to develop new methods, techniques and practices to give practitioners a better understanding of the issues of aging and to provide improved services to the elderly. Member States participating in and benefiting from the project were the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria and Peru. The second was a skills exchange programme involving seven countries, namely, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, India, Kenya, Lesotho, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

137. As an example of a national project currently under way, the Assistant Secretary-General mentioned a project in Morocco, in which the Government was attempting to assess the urgent needs of the aged in Morocco and the effect of the aging of the population on the country's development. As a result of that assessment, the Government would develop a comprehensive national policy on aging.

138. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/39/191 and Corr.1), the Assistant Secretary-General informed the Commission that an addendum to the report had been prepared incorporating replies received after 15 August 1984 and up to January 1985 from nine Member States (Afghanistan, Argentina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Mongolia, Peru, Sudan, Venezuela and Yugoslavia), to provide as full a picture as possible of the situation of disabled persons in all areas of the world.

139. With reference to the monitoring of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, she reported that proposals for the monitoring exercise had been made by the Secretariat and had been discussed at the first and second inter-agency meetings on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1983 and at Vienna on 3 and 4 September 1984. A revised proposal had been endorsed and was being implemented. Its main features were the concentration of the monitoring exercise in five areas and the reduction of rounds of inquiry to two, the first at the mid-point and the second at the end of the Decade. The monitoring procedure would be a major topic of discussion at the third inter-agency meeting on the Decade, to be held from 11 to 13 March 1985, after which a consolidated monitoring questionnaire would be prepared.

140. With respect to the check-list dealing with the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons (A/39/191 and Corr.1, para. 52), she stated that the draft check-list for use by consultants in their discussions with Governments had been finalized and in February 1985 had been sent to agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and to non-governmental organizations for final comments. The check-list would probably be cleared for printing as a technical publication in 1985.

141. Since 1981, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had given considerable moral and financial support to organizations of disabled persons. Ever since the establishment in Singapore in 1981 of the World Congress of Disabled Peoples' International, whose constituting assembly was financed by the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons (see A/39/191 and Corr.1, annex II, para. 2 (b)), the Trust Fund had financed several leadership training and other courses set up by organizations of disabled persons in various parts of the world. The Trust Fund had allocated a substantial share of its funds for that purpose.

142. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had paid great attention to the human rights of disabled persons. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/26, (see para. 118 above), it would submit its view and recommendations through the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development, to the Council at its first regular session of 1986.

143. The Assistant Secretary-General turned then to priority tasks in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. She said that the General Assembly, in resolution 39/26, had asked the Secretary-General for the second time to strengthen the Centre through a reallocation of existing resources to enable it to continue to serve as the focal point in the field of disability. The strengthening of the Centre in that field would of course influence the tasks that could be carried out. The current priorities of the Centre in the field of disability were (a) the monitoring of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, whereby the monitoring activities carried out through inter-agency collaboration were important tools to co-ordinate the activities of the United Nations in the field of disability; (b) information activities on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons; and (c) the use of the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons, in particular to support the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level and to support organizations of disabled persons.

Action taken by the Commission

1. Youth in the contemporary world

144. At the 13th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of Romania, on behalf also of Argentina, China, 27/ Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, 27/ Malaysia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, 27/ Spain, 27/ Thailand and Togo, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.4) entitled "Youth in the contemporary world". Subsequently, France, Ghana, Kenya, Mali and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"... [The preamble is the same as that of draft resolution IV in chapter I],

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of youth in the 1980s (A/40/64-E/1985/5);

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure wide publicity for that report in the context of the activities undertaken for the observance of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace;

"3. Decides that the Commission for Social Development should consider at its thirtieth session ways and means by which it could more effectively deal with youth issues within an appropriate follow-up to be prepared by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year and adopted by the General Assembly on the occasion of the observance of the International Youth Year;

"4. Decides to include the theme of youth in the contemporary world in the agenda of the thirtieth session of the Commission under the appropriate item and to consider the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the appraisal of the results of the International Youth Year."

27/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

145. At the same meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed a number of amendments to the draft resolution, which were accepted by the sponsors in a modified form.

146. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as amended. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV.)

2. First review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging

147. At the 15th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of Austria, on behalf also of Argentina, Chile, Cyprus, El Salvador, Ghana, Morocco and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.10) entitled "First review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"... [The preamble and operative paragraphs 1 to 4 are the same as the first preambular paragraph, the third to thirteenth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 1 to 4 of draft resolution IX in chapter I];

"5. Urges the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure that advisory services to developing countries that request them are provided to the extent feasible in technical co-operation programmes and/or through the resources of the Trust Fund;

"6. Urges the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, as a leading organization in international population assistance, to sustain its financial support for technical countries activities in respect of aging, particularly in view of the importance given to this issue by the International Conference on Population, 1984, and its recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action;

"7. Further requests the Secretary-General to take concrete measures on an urgent basis to ensure the financial viability and effectiveness of the Trust Fund;

"8. Urges Governments to continue and, where possible, to increase their contributions to the Trust Fund, and calls on Governments that have not yet done so to consider contributing to the Trust Fund;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to include the Trust Fund for Aging, on an annual basis, among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution and in particular on the measures and steps he has taken to further develop the Trust Fund."

148. At the same meeting, the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, on behalf also of Bulgaria, 27/ Mongolia, Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet

Socialist Republic, 27/ introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.17) entitled "Social status of elderly and disabled persons, victims of and fighters against nazism and fascism in the Second World War", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Mindful of the International Plan of Action on Aging which, inter alia, points out that various problems of elderly people can find their real solution under conditions of peace,

"Bearing in mind the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,

"Noting that the contribution of the elderly and disabled to the moral, cultural, social and economic areas is valuable for society and therefore should be recognized and encouraged in the future,

"Aware of General Assembly resolution 39/114, in which the Assembly solemnly declared that 8 and 9 May 1985 would be days to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of victory over nazism and fascism in the Second World War,

"Highly commending the important contribution of the present generation of the elderly and disabled in many countries to the victory over fascism and nazism in the Second World War,

"1. Urges Governments to take into account the social problems of the elderly and disabled, who made their contribution to victory in the Secnd World War, as well as those of victims of fascism and nazism, in their social and economic development plans and programmes;

"2. Expresses its satisfaction with the measures taken by Governments to improve the social status of the elderly and disabled, victims of and fighters against facism and nazism in the Second World War;

"3. Urges Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the specialized agencies, to exchange information and experience concerning the adoption of measures to meet the needs of those groups of persons;

"4. Affirms the role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International, Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat as a focal point for the exchange of such experience between the organizations of the United Nations system;

"5. Reaffirms the importance of the provisions of the International Plan of Action on Aging and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons regarding the necessity of halting the arms race and rechanneling the resources spent for military purposes to the needs of economic and social development, particularly for the improvement of the social status of the elderly and disabled;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing reports on the social status of the elderly and disabled, to pay special attention to the social

status of the aging victims of and fighters against fascism and nazism in the Second World War;

"7. Requests the Commission for Social Development in considering issues of the social status of the elderly and disabled to pay special attention to the social status of the aging and disabled, victims of and fighters against fascism and nazism in the Second World War."

149. After an exchange of views at the 16th and 17th meetings, on 27 February, the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.5/1985/L.10 agreed to revise it by including it in a number of paragraphs of draft resolution E/CN.5/1985/L.17, with certain modifications. Draft resolution E/CN.5/1985/L.17 was subsequently withdrawn.

150. At its 17th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/1985/L.101 as revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IX.)

3. Welfare of migrant workers and their families

151. At the 13th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of Thailand, on behalf also of Cyprus, Denmark, Malaysia, Togo and Yugoslavia, 27/ introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.12) entitled "Welfare of migrant workers and their families".

152. At the same meeting, the representative of Zimbabwe proposed the following amendments:

(a) The addition of the words "within the law" at the end of operative paragraph 4;

(b) The replacement of the word "standards" by the word "guidelines" in operative paragraph 5;

(c) The addition of the words "within available resources" after the words "operational activities" in operative paragraph 6.

153. At the same meeting the representative of Thailand, on behalf of the sponsors, accepted the amendments.

154. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as amended. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V.)

4. Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the rights to life, work and education

155. At the 15th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, on behalf also of the German Democratic Republic, 27/ Mongolia, Nicaragua, 27/ Poland and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.16) entitled "Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the rights to life, work and education".

156. After an exchange of views at the 16th and 17th meetings, on 27 February, the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, on behalf of the sponsors, revised the draft resolution by deleting the fourth preambular paragraph, which read as follows:

"Considering that the fortieth anniversary of the victory over nazism and fascism in the Second World War occurs in 1985 and should serve to mobilize efforts and measures for the implementation and enjoyment by youth of the rights to life, work and education".

157. At its 17th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as revised. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VIII.)

Chapter VI

OTHER MATTERS

158. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 11th, 13th and 15th to 18th meetings, from 25 to 27 February 1985.

A. Progress of work for the biennium 1983-1984 and proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987

159. For its consideration of item 7 (a), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work for the biennium 1983-1984 (E/CN.5/1985/11) and a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in the field of social development for the biennium 1986-1987 (E/CN.5/1985/12). The Commission also had before it a conference room paper containing the draft proposed programme of work in the field of social development for the biennium 1986-1987 (E/CN.5/1985/CRP.1).

160. One representative pointed out that although the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was not the only focus for social development activities within the United Nations system, it was the major focal point for such activities and most closely mirrored the concerns of the Commission. Consequently, it was essential that a very close understanding should be established and maintained between the Commission and the Centre. The task of the Commission at its current session was to determine how to make known to the Centre the areas to which it attached importance.

161. The primary role of the Commission was to advise the Economic and Social Council and, through it, the General Assembly on the theoretical aspects of social policy and development, and on the operational aspects of social policy, giving particular attention to the question of the integration of such groups as the aged, the disabled, the young, the family and the economically disadvantaged. While recognizing that the responsibilities of the Centre with respect to the status of women lay outside the immediate purview of the Commission, which would not for that reason presume to comment on that aspect of the Centre's activities, it was timely to note that there appeared to be a need to increase co-ordination with the Commission on the Status of Women.

162. The representative consequently proposed that, prior to the thirtieth session of the Commission, particular attention should be given to relating the mandate of the Commission as adviser to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly, and the priorities established within that mandate, to the planning and budgeting cycle of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in a more direct and efficient manner. In order to identify the most effective means of relating the Commission's concerns to the Centre's activities in such a manner as to ensure that the advice of the Commission might be heard in a timely fashion by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly, informal discussions had been held with other representatives of States members of the Commission and with the Secretariat, as a consequence of which a draft resolution had been submitted. 28/ The representative emphasized the fact that the draft resolution

28/ See annex III, sect. C.

did not call for fresh resources but confined itself to purely practical and feasible steps whereby the Commission's fundamental mandate might be effectively exercised and the work of the Secretariat rendered both efficient and appropriate.

163. One representative made general comments on the programme budget regarding the activities of the Secretariat. He stressed the importance of a more effective utilization of human resources and suggested that the redeployment of staff might be advisable. He recommended that activities of secondary importance should be abandoned and that adequate priority should be given to the work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. He said that, since the maintenance of peace was a basic objective of the United Nations, appropriate activities in that area should be included in the programme budget.

164. From his point of view, the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987 did not reflect that objective. He drew the attention of the Secretariat to the need to give adequate priority to activities conducive to the maintenance of peace. He added that the work programme of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs should take account of the link between the arms race and social programmes. He observed that, in the view of his delegation, the issue of the maintenance of peace was not adequately reflected in the documents submitted to the Commission at the present session. He said that no specific measures were recommended for strengthening peace.

165. Furthermore, he stressed the need to focus the programme on global social issues in identifying the obstacles to the achievement of social progress. Turning to the analysis of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987, he suggested that the subprogrammes and programme elements were too numerous, and recommended that the reduction of their number, in accordance with more global areas of work, could lead to the reallocation of staff, a better identification of priorities and the deletion of secondary activities. He added that the subprogrammes on youth, aging and disabled persons should be called subprogrammes of the social situation of youth, the social situation of the aging, and the social situation of disabled persons respectively. He stressed the need to consolidate some subprogrammes, particularly in the area of crime prevention, and suggested that the subprogramme on women's issues should address itself to the issues of equality, development and peace. Finally, he said that a better programme structure, reflecting the above comments, could lead to a more effective utilization of resources in the Secretariat and reflect more clearly the priorities of issues that emerged from the Charter of the United Nations and other important declarations and resolutions.

B. Social welfare and social development activities of the regional commissions for the biennium 1983-1984

166. For its consideration of item 7 (b), the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the social welfare and social development activities of the regional commissions for the biennium 1983-1984 (E/CN.5/1985/9).

167. At its 14th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

168. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa drew the attention of the Commission to the alarming social situation in Africa. The region was facing an economic and social crisis of unprecedented proportions, which had existed since the early 1970s and rapidly escalated since the early 1980s, dealing a very serious blow to African economies and thereby to social development programmes. Consequently, the region found itself in the grip of human tragedy and social and economic difficulties that had caused serious setbacks to any hopes for progress in the social situation. The main issue at stake in many African countries was no longer one of economic and social development but one of sheer survival. A recently published preliminary perspective study on Africa's development from 1983 to 2008 had shown that if current trends were to continue they would lead to conditions of total economic collapse, extreme poverty, human misery, food shortages, political instability, increased crime and a degradation of human dignity.

169. Policy formulation had been sensitive in many countries to new challenges and increasing demands. Noticeable gains had been achieved in the development of programmes concerned with women, youth and disabled persons. The International Youth Year was considered a very important event, given that the vitality, creativity, receptivity and idealism of the region's youth - which was growing at a faster rate than that of any other region - must be harnessed to the socio-economic development of the region and the solution of its problems. ECA had undertaken a study of the situation of African youth in the 1980s and would soon complete a study of the role of youth in national development. During 1986 and 1987 ECA would assist member States through research, studies and technical advice. A clearing-house for the collection and dissemination of information on youth would be established, an important function of which would be the effective monitoring of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action. Continued co-operation and support from the United Nations system, notably the secretariat of the International Youth Year, and from Governments would be necessary to ensure the effectiveness of work in that area.

170. ECA had recently carried out a study of social trends and major social development problems and a second study on strategies and action programmes for implementing the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (A/S-11/14, annex I) with special reference to and emphasis on the current crisis in the region. Those studies would constitute the main working papers for the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs to be held at Addis Ababa in March 1985.

171. The representative of the Economic Commission for Western Asia noted that monitoring had continued of the situation of youth and disabled persons in western Asia. A regional meeting, held in December 1983, had considered the provisional agenda for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held at Milan from 26 August to 6 September 1985. A resolution on the establishment of an Arab Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had been adopted at that meeting.

172. With respect to social welfare policies, the League of Arab States had sponsored regional meetings at the ministerial level, focusing on the evolution of social conditions and policy requirements in the context of global developments to the year 2000. ECWA had collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the holding of an expert group meeting and an interregional consultation on rural development, a subject of great regional importance.

173. A regional meeting had been held to review the progress achieved and the obstacles remaining with respect to the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, 29/ as part of preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace to be held at Nairobi, from 15 to 26 July 1985. During the biennium 1983-1984 support had been received from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women for a number of activities, including seminars, case studies and training. The relationship between women and the mass media, national planning, community development and leadership skills within women's non-governmental organizations were among the topics included in those activities.

174. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific drew the attention of the Commission to the concerns felt by Member States in the region that, despite some economic gains, the region was still beset by massive social problems. It was clear that the benefits derived from economic progress had failed to reach the sections of the population that were most in need.

175. The region's social goals remained the same: the achievement of an equitable distribution of resources, income and other benefits of development; the broad-based participation of people in development efforts and in national and local decision-making; and the full integration into the mainstream of development of those groups hitherto excluded, such as the poor, women, youth, the aged and the disabled. However, in order to meet current conditions more effectively, ESCAP had introduced a number of changes into its strategic programme framework for the social sector. That framework now encompassed the development of policies and strategies for distributive justice, popular participation, human resource development, and the social integration of disadvantaged population groups. Within that framework, greater priority had been given to the development of a regional social development data base; the expansion of research on special issues, particularly intersectoral social policy and programme planning, the health status of the population in its intersectoral aspects, the impact of economic trends on vulnerable sections of the population, and integrative strategies for disadvantaged groups; and the expansion of training and technical and advisory services. During the biennium, ESCAP had initiated co-operation with the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders towards incorporating a new programme on crime prevention and criminal justice into the framework. Two entirely new areas, for which the Social Development Division had been designated as the focal point, were questions of human rights and consumer protection. Although the regional situation was being monitored in respect of those questions, substantive work had not yet begun. An intersectoral social development training programme was being designed with the aim of incorporating the special policy needs of women, youth, the aged and disabled within an integrated social development policy that would complement economic development policy.

176. ESCAP had undertaken a number of activities in regard to the holding of regional meetings in preparation for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, and for the

29/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

International Youth Year; it had also held an intergovernmental meeting on health and development, and had attempted to fulfil its regional and interregional mandates concerning the aged and the disabled.

177. Particular emphasis was attached to securing further commitment and support from Governments, and to promoting further co-operation with all elements of the United Nations system. Close support and collaboration had been received from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in particular and it was hoped that further co-operation would be a feature of future work in the area of social development in the region.

C. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

178. For its consideration of item 7 (c), the Commission had before it the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1985/10 and Corr.1) and a note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the Institute (E/CN.5/1985/14).

179. In introducing the report of the Board, the Director of the Institute emphasized that the Institute's research work, which was financed by voluntary contributions, was concentrated on four main areas. The major project, carried out with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, was focused on food problems; it followed a systems approach to food security and was being implemented in nine countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, where the problems of food and nutrition were acute. The second area of research was that devoted to social development monitoring techniques; it was also carried out in the field in order to ensure the validity and applicability of the techniques being developed. Research into the question of participation by groups and individuals in the development process and social change was placed in a longer-term context. A fourth area of research was that dealing with the social problems of refugees, which was conducted in close co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Director emphasized that the current challenge was to complete programmes that covered complex research projects and involved many Governments, countries and research organizations, so that the findings could be applied to the problems to which the research was addressed.

180. Some representatives expressed their appreciation of the work of the Institute and emphasized their support. The Institute's activities were focused on important and timely issues. One representative mentioned, in particular, the timeliness, in view of the famine in Africa, of the food research programme based on the systems approach. The preliminary findings pointed to various solutions to be applied as part of carefully developed local, national and international food strategies. It was hoped that the work could be completed as planned and lead to concrete recommendations. One representative expressed interest in the work on indicators, particularly work relating to the monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Nutrition Support Programme of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund; the results could have widespread application in field projects.

Action taken by the Commission

181. At its 17th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission decided to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

(a) For a four-year term beginning on 1 July 1985:

Ismail Sabri Abdhalla (Egypt);

Louis Emerij (Netherland);

Sally Weaver (Canada);

(b) For an additional term of two years beginning on 1 July 1985:

Mr. Gustavo Esteva (Mexico).

182. The Commission also decided that one member of the Board from Asian States and one member from Eastern European States were to be nominated by the Economic and Social Council. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision I.)

183. At the same meeting, the Commission, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided to take note of the report of the Board of the Institute for the years 1983 and 1984 (E/CN.5/1985/10 and Corr.1). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision III).

Chapter VII

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

184. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 18th meeting, on 27 February 1985. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirtieth session together with a list of requested documentation (E/CN.5/1985/L.2).

185. The representative of the Office for Development Research and Policy Analysis and the representative of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs informed the Commission of the changes envisaged in the documents to be prepared for the thirtieth session in the light of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at the current session.

186. Several representatives expressed their preference for allocating a specific agenda item to issues they viewed as important. One representative proposed the addition of items dealing specifically with the relationship between social progress and the arms race, and national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes. Another representative proposed that the social situation of young people should be discussed under a separate item. Some representatives proposed that the issues of social integration, popular participation, developmental social welfare and co-operatives, on the one hand, and the advancement of specific social groups, on the other, should be dealt with under two separate items instead of being combined into one.

187. Several representatives suggested that there might be a rotation of some issues over several sessions in order to help focus discussion.

188. Several representatives proposed that under item 3 (Survey of recent and prospective trends and fundamental changes in the field of socio-economic development) the Commission should give special focus to the problems in Africa. It was also suggested that the documents requested under each item should focus on the issues for discussion. It was noted that the Commission had to consider all questions that it was specifically requested to do so by the Economic and Social Council. Several proposals were made to reword item 3. After an exchange of views, item 3 was reworded to read "World social situation, with special focus on Africa, including the elimination of all major social obstacles". Following a proposal by one representative on item 4 (Trends and strategies for social integration and policies for the advancement of specific social groups), the words "through popular participation" were added after the words "social integration".

189. With regard to documentation, some representatives expressed the view that documents specifically requested in 1983 - and approved by the Economic and Social Council - should be included together with those requested by the Commission at the current session.

190. Another delegation stressed the agreement reached on the inclusion of the theme "Youth in the contemporary world".

191. At its 18th meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its thirtieth session, as orally amended, together with the requested documentation, for submission to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with paragraph 2 (e) of Council resolution 1979/41. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision II.)

Chapter VIII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

192. At its 17th and 18th meetings, on 27 February 1985, the Commission adopted the report on its twenty-ninth session (E/CN.5/1985/L.3 and Add.1-10), as amended during the discussion.

Chapter IX

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

193. The Commission for Social Development held its twenty-ninth session at the Vienna International Centre from 18 to 27 February 1985. The Commission held 18 meetings (1st-18th). The session was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

194. The Assistant Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, speaking on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, noted that in the 40 years of the United Nations there had been profound changes, but that major obstacles to social progress remained.

195. Hunger and starvation continued despite the widespread conviction that their elimination was feasible. The extent of starvation in parts of Africa had reached colossal and tragic proportions at a time when food supplies in the world were ample. Chronic malnutrition was still the permanent condition of one tenth of the world's population.

196. Poor shelter, lack of safe water and sanitation, chronic poor health, inadequate schooling, lack of opportunity and a sense of powerlessness were other manifestations of widespread poverty. Mass poverty persisted despite the undeniable progress which had been made in many parts of the world.

197. The world community was divided along lines of wealth as well as by armed conflict and violence. The arms race further diminished the prospects of securing a greater share of resources for development and for social ends.

198. Racism, discrimination and scant regard for human dignity presented continuing challenges to societies and their Governments, and to the international community.

199. The world economy had proved in the recent past to be fragile and volatile. Years of crisis and recession had seriously worsened social conditions, and weakened the ability of Governments to deal with outstanding social problems and provide for future improvements. The immediate outlook for the world economy remained highly uncertain in spite of some encouraging signs. One of the victims of the poor performance of the world economy in the early part of the decade had been the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex).

200. Apart from economic conditions, the social development of societies continued to be influenced by other forces of change. Demographic trends, urbanization, education, rapid developments in information and communications, and advances in science and technology in the area of agriculture, industry, health and fertility regulation, had the simultaneous effect of creating new values and restructuring old values. Profound changes in the composition, role, power and attitudes of organized social groups could be observed. New institutional arrangements and new types of relations were being sought.

201. At the local level, the elimination of social disparities through participatory structures was important. At the national level, it was necessary to reinforce a self-reliant development based upon an integrated approach to social and economic problems.

202. The broad attack on the problems of poverty cut across all social issues and had fundamental implications for an integrative approach to social and economic questions. Complex social problems were not easy to tackle within the traditional single-sector approach. A healthy economy was a prerequisite for social progress, but economic gains per se did not automatically guarantee the solution of social problems.

203. Societies differed, as did their priorities and preoccupations. The major responsibility for social progress lay with individual countries. But the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV)) and other international instruments embodied universal goals and delineated actions by the international community in support of national efforts.

B. Attendance

204. The session was attended by 28 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, and representatives of specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

205. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 18 and 19 February, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Luvsandanzangyn Ider (Mongolia)

Vice-Chairmen: Pekka Harttila (Finland)
Maria Teresa Infante Barros (Chile)
A. V. Lioutsko (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

Rapporteur: Folly Glidjito Akakpo (Togo)

D. Agenda

206. At its 1st meeting, on 18 February, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.5/1985/1 and Corr.1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Survey of recent and prospective trends and fundamental changes in the field of socio-economic development.

4. Socio-economic policies related to issues concerning the equitable distribution of national income and the process of institutional development.
5. Policies for social integration, popular participation and social welfare.
6. Policies related to issues concerning specific groups.
7. Other matters:
 - (a) Progress of work for the biennium 1983-1984 and proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987;
 - (b) Social welfare and social development activities of the regional commissions for the biennium 1983-1984;
 - (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
8. Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission.
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session.

207. At its 1st to 3rd meetings, the Commission considered the organization of the work of the session and approved the programme of work proposed by the Chairman on the basis of consultations (see E/CN.5/1985/L.1). At its 4th meeting, on 19 February, the Commission decided to establish an informal open-ended working group for the consideration of proposals under item 3 of the agenda.

E. Documentation

208. The list of documents before the Commission at its twenty-ninth session is contained in annex II to the present report.

209. In considering the provisional agenda, representatives expressed regret at the considerable delay experienced in the distribution of documents.

Action taken by the Commission

210. At the 13th meeting, on 26 February, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf also of Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Thailand and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1985/L.11) entitled "Ensuring the timely distribution of conference documents". Subsequently, Argentina, Austria, Ecuador and India joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

211. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

212. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/1975/Rev.1), observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements under item 5 of the agenda:

Category I: International Co-operative Alliance

Category II: International Association of Schools of Social Work
International Catholic Child Bureau
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

213. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations are listed in annex II to the present report.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members*

Argentina: Juan Carlos Beltramino, Luis Alcon Palus

Austria: Johann Unger, Walther R. Backes, Hermann Widhalm

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic: A. V. Lioutsko, V. M. Borovikov,
V. Korolev

Canada: Norbert Préfontaine, Chris Greenshields, Pierre Dionne

Chile: Maria Teresa Infante Barros, Mauricio Ugaldó Bilbao

Cyprus: Kleanthis Vakis

Denmark: Otto Wandall-Holm

Ecuador: Luis Ortiz, Carlos Abad

El Salvador: Mauricio Rosales-Rivera

Finland: Pekka Harttila, Martti Lähteinen, Ulla Terho

France: Antoine Lion, E. Nowak

Ghana: Kwame Adusei-Poku

India: S. K. Singh, Anil Baran Bose, D. K. Jain, H. A. Rao, R. P. Khosla

Italy: Anna Maria Cavallone, Paola Sara Cuneo

Kenya: Eliakim Milton Masale

Liberia: Francis B. S. Dunbar

Malaysia: Dato Yahya bin Abdul Wahab, Rahama Abu Kassim, Seeyen Lee,
M. Yunus Shahizan

Mali: Sekou Alamy Koreissi

Mongolia: L. Ider

Morocco: Aïcha Kabbaj, Abdelhadi Boucetta

Netherlands: Rudolf Deibel, Adhish Haldar, P. J. M. Verbeek

* The Central African Republic, Haiti and Panama were not represented at the session.

Poland: Michal Dobroczyński, Włodzimierz Kalinowski, Ireneusz Matela

Romania: Gheorghe Chirila, Nitza Constantin

Thailand: Prakorb Juangbhanich

Togo: Folly Glidjito Akakpo

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Alexandra Pavlovna Birioukova, V. I. Khamanev,
A. N. Samoilov, I. V. Kitaev, A. Kurmanin

United States of America: Ellen F. Paul, Peter F. Frost, David E. Hohman,
Daniel Vernon, Stanley N. Bendet

Zimbabwe: Nicholas D. Kitikiti

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See, Switzerland

United Nations Secretariat

Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Specialized agencies

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

Council of Europe, European Economic Community

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Co-operative Alliance, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Social Security Association, World Federation of United Nations Associations

Category II: Friends World Committee for Consultation, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, International Federation of University Women, International Social Service, Rehabilitation International, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Association of Former United Nations Internes and Fellows, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation of Methodist Women, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Young Women's Christian Association

Roster: European Union of Women

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
A/39/191 and Corr.1	6	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General
E/1984/16 a/	5	Report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its eighth session (21-30 March 1984)
A/40/64-E/1985/5	6	Situation of youth in the 1980s: report of the Secretary-General
A/40/65-E/1985/7	3	National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress: report of the Secretary-General
A/40/78-E/1985/10	5	National experience in promoting the co-operative movement: report of the Secretary-General
E/1985/4	6	National experiences in implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and related activities of the United Nations and other international organizations: progress report of the Secretary-General
E/1985/6	6	First review and appraisal of the International Plan of Action on Aging: report of the Secretary-General
E/1985/8	4	Social aspects of rural development: report of the Secretary-General
E/1985/9 and Corr.1	5	Impact of development on the institution of the family: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/1 and Corr.1	2	Annotated provisional agenda

a/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement No. 6.

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.5/1985/2 b/	3	1985 report on the world social situation
E/CN.5/1985/3	3	Co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the collection of social statistics and the preparation of reports on social issues: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/4	3	Results of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/5	4	Income distribution and development: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/6	5	Recent trends in strategies and policies for the social integration of less advantaged groups: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/7 and Add.1	5	Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/8	6	Social situation of migrant workers and their families: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/9	7 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/10 and Corr.1	7 (c)	Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/1985/11	7 (a)	Progress of work for the biennium 1983-1984: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/12	7 (a)	Proposed programme of work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in the field of social development for the biennium 1986-1987: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1985/13	2	Agenda as adopted by the Commission at its 1st meeting, on 18 February 1985
E/CN.5/1985/14	7 (c)	Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: note by the Secretary-General

b/ To be issued as a United Nations publication (ST/ESA/165).

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.5/1985/CRP.1	7 (a)	Draft proposed programme of work in the field of social development for the biennium 1986-1987
E/CN.5/1985/CRP.2	2	Organization of the work of the session: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.5/1985/INF.1	-	Information for participants
E/CN.5/1985/INF.2 and Add.1	-	List of delegations
E/CN.5/1985/L.1	2	Programme of work approved by the Commission at its 3rd meeting, on 19 February 1985
E/CN.5/1985/L.2	8	Draft provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.5/1985/L.3 and Add.1-10	9	Draft report of the Commission
E/CN.5/1985/L.4	6	Argentina, China, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Romania, Spain, Thailand, Togo and Zimbabwe: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.5	3	Argentina, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Zimbabwe: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.6	3	German Democratic Republic, Mali, Mongolia, Poland, Togo and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.7	3	Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.8	3	Mongolia, Nicaragua, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Zimbabwe: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.9	3	Ghana, Mali, Mongolia, Togo, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.5/1985/L.10	6	Argentina, Austria, Chile, Cyprus, El Salvador, Ghana, Morocco and Thailand: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.11	2	Argentina, Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, India, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Thailand and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.12	6	Cyprus, Denmark, Malaysia, Thailand, Togo and Yugoslavia: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.13	5	Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ghana and Morocco: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.14	3	Informal open-ended working group of the Commission: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.15	7 (a)	Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Malaysia, Togo and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.16	6	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Poland and Zimbabwe: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.17	6	Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Mongolia, Poland and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.18	5	Argentina, Austria, Chile, Cyprus, Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Netherlands, Spain, Thailand and Togo: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.19	6	Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Italy, Morocco, Oman and Zimbabwe: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1985/L.20	5	Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Mali, Togo and United States of America: draft resolution

Document
number

Agenda
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Title or description

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6

Statement concerning aging submitted by the International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, the International Council of Women, the International Council on Social Welfare, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Organization of Consumers Unions, the League of Red Cross Societies, Soroptimist International and the United Towns Organization, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category I; Associated Country Women of the World, the Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Federation for Home Economics, the International Federation of University Women, the World Association of Former United Nations Internes and Fellows, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category II; and Medical Women's International Association, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

Annex III

DRAFT PROPOSALS ON WHICH NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

A. Draft proposals submitted under agenda item 3

1. Draft resolution E/CN.5/1985/L.5 a/

(Sponsored by Argentina, Bulgaria b/ the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic b/ and Zimbabwe)

Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress
and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development c/ based on the Charter of the United Nations and solemnly proclaimed on 11 December 1969,

"Recalling also its resolutions 2543 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 and 34/59 of 29 November 1979 on the implementation of the Declaration,

"Recalling further its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1984, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 35/56 of 5 December 1980 containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 33/48 of 14 December 1978 on world social development, and 34/152 of 17 December 1979 and 37/54 of 3 December 1982 on the world social situation,

"Reaffirming the existence of a close link between development in all its aspects and peace and the urgent need to halt the arms race, thereby releasing human and material resources for economic and social development which could contribute to the well-being and prosperity for all,

a/ Introduced by the representative of Poland at the 14th meeting, on 26 February 1985. At the 18th meeting, on 27 February, the representative of Poland stated that, in view of the importance of the problems dealt with in the draft resolution, his delegation regretted that the Commission had not reached a consensus on it.

b/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

c/ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

"Bearing in mind the fact that the ultimate aim of development is the constant improvement of the social situation of entire populations and the ensuring of their full participation in the process of development and the fair distribution of the benefits therefrom,

"Aware of the fact that fifteen years after the adoption and proclamation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, its main objectives, embodied also in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, which are, inter alia, the elimination of unemployment, hunger, malnutrition and poverty, the eradication of illiteracy, the assurance of the right to universal access to culture, the provision of health protection to the entire population, and the provision of free, universal education at the primary level, have not yet been universally realized,

"Recalling that the United Nations emerged from the struggle against nazism, fascism, aggression and foreign occupation, and that the peoples of the United Nations expressed their resolve in the Charter of the United Nations to save future generations from the scourge of war and to promote economic and social advancement of all peoples,

"Bearing in mind the suffering, destruction and death of millions of victims of aggression, foreign occupation, nazism and fascism,

"Considering that the fortieth anniversary of the victory of nazism and fascism in the Second World War is being celebrated in 1985 and should serve to mobilize the efforts of the world community in its struggle against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist and all other totalitarian ideologies and practices, based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror, and to stimulate international co-operation in resolving international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion,

"Fully conscious of the urgent need to intensify the efforts of the international community and relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to achieve the objectives set forth in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

"1. Reaffirms the lasting validity and paramount importance of the principles and objectives proclaimed in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development;

"2. Emphasizes the relationship between the victory over nazism and fascism in the Second World War and the social progress and development that has taken place in the world in the post-war period;

"3. Urges all States, relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to apply the Declaration resolutely and in their policies, plans, programmes and the implementation machinery to take increasingly into consideration the principles, objectives, means and methods of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development;

"4. Recommends further that Member States, international organizations and other bodies, in drafting international instruments, in particular in the field of social and economic development and human rights, should take into consideration the provisions of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development as a momentous United Nations document in the area of social progress and development;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a substantive report on possible ways and means of increasing the contribution of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to achieving the full realization of the principles and objectives contained in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and to submit that report, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

"6. Further requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with Member States, to continue to record, analyse and disseminate as widely as possible significant national and international progress made towards realizing the commendable objectives contained in the declaration and to provide the General Assembly, on a regular basis, in conjunction with the reports on the world social situation, with detailed information on the measures adopted by Member States, and relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for the realization of the Declaration and for the implementation of the present resolution."

2. Draft resolution E/CN.5/1985/L.6 d/

(Sponsored by the German Democratic Republic, b/ Mali, Mongolia, Poland, Togo and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic b/)

Social aspects of the right to development

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of the resolve enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and for those ends to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, e/

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, f/

Recalling also the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of New International Economic Order g/ and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, h/

Aware that the attainment of the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade i/ calls for a concerted effort to promote genuine social development,

Convinced that men and women can achieve complete fulfilment of their aspirations only within a just social order and that it is consequently of cardinal importance to accelerate social and economic progress everywhere, thus contributing to international peace and security,

Persuaded that social development can be promoted by friendly relations and co-operation among States with different social, economic or political systems, as well as effective arms reduction and disarmament measures,

d/ Introduced by the representative of Poland at the 14th meeting, on 26 February 1985. At the 18th meeting, on 27 February, the representative of Poland stated that, in view of the importance of the problems dealt with in the draft resolution, his delegation regretted that the Commission had not reached a consensus on it.

e/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

f/ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

g/ General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3203 (S-VI).

h/ General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

i/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

Conscious of the fact that further social development contributes to peaceful coexistence, détente and the strengthening of international peace and security,

Mindful of General Assembly resolutions in which the Assembly has declared that the right to development is an inalienable human right, j/

Recognizing that social aspects form an important part of the right to development,

Aware that mounting economic problems in various parts of the world, unprecedented in the history of the United Nations, negatively affect and diminish the status of social development policies,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of developing countries over their natural resources and the right of each country to choose freely its political, economic and social system,

1. Recognizes the significance of social aspects of the right to development and the constant need to elaborate their national and international dimensions;

2. Also recognizes that the developing countries continue to be confronted by an adverse external environment, characterized by declining commodity prices, sharp fluctuations in exchange rates, a deterioration in the terms of trade, increased protectionism, very high real interest rates, crushing debt burdens, the reverse transfer of financial resources, a decline in official development assistance in real terms, and the resource crisis experienced by the multilateral development financing institutions;

3. Notes the urgent necessity of taking steps and actions to end without delay colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, interference in internal affairs, apartheid, racism, all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, hegemony, expansionism and exploitation, which constitute major obstacles to the economic emancipation of developing countries;

4. Notes the efforts of the Commission on Human Rights to draft a comprehensive declaration on the human right to development;

5. Calls upon all Governments, all institutions, both national and international, to intensify their organizational, intellectual and financial efforts with a view to promoting the social aspects of the right to development;

6. Decides to include the question of the social aspects of the right to development in the agenda of the thirtieth session of the Commission for Social Development.

j/ General Assembly resolutions 34/46, 35/174, 36/133 and 39/145.

3. Draft resolution E/CN.5/1985/L.8 k/

(Sponsored by Mongolia, Nicaragua, b/ Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic b/ and Zimbabwe)

National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the desire to promote a higher standard of life, full employment and conditions for economic and social progress and development,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, l/

Mindful of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, m/ as well as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, n/

Noting Economic and Social Council resolutions 1581 (L) A of 21 May 1971, 1667 (LII) of 1 June 1972 and 1746 (LIV) of 16 May 1973 concerning the importance of fundamental structural socio-economic changes for the strengthening of national independence and the achievement of the ultimate goals of social progress,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3273 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, 31/38 of 30 November 1976, 36/19 of 9 November 1981 and 38/25 of 22 November 1983, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance for every State to exercise its inalienable right to carry out fundamental social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress and the necessity of studying national experience in this field,

Desirous of securing a speedy and complete removal of all obstacles to the economic and social progress of peoples,

Convinced that peaceful coexistence and co-operation among States as well as effective measures in the field of disarmament create favourable international conditions for the socio-economic development of all countries, in particular developing countries,

Considering that the exchange of national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress would contribute to

k/ Introduced by the representative of Poland at the 14th meeting, on 26 February 1985.

l/ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

m/ General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

n/ General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, o/

Reaffirming the sovereign and inalienable right of every State to choose its economic and social system in accordance with the will of its people, without outside interference in whatever form it might take,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress; p/

2. Calls upon all States to give special attention in their national development plans and programmes to the social aspects of development with a view to increasing the well-being of the population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits therefrom;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to make arrangements for holding the interregional seminar called for in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 38/25 within the resources already requested for sectoral and regional advisory services;

4. Invites all States to submit to the Secretary-General national reports on their experience in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with all States, a further report on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 36/19 and 38/25, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its forty-second session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session of the Commission for Social Development and of the first regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council the item entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress" and to consider under that item the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General.

o/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

p/ A/40/65-E/1985/7.

B. Draft proposal submitted under agenda item 6

Draft resolution E/CN.5/1985/L.19 q/

(Sponsored by Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Italy,
Morocco, Oman b/ and Zimbabwe) r/

United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, s/ and 37/53 of 3 December 1982 on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

Also taking into consideration Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/19 of 26 May 1983, in which the Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to monitor and support the implementation of the World Programme of Action by enlisting extrabudgetary resources,

Further taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 39/26 of 23 November 1984, in which the Assembly reiterated the need for an effective implementation of the World Programme of Action,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on national experiences in implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and related activities of the United Nations and other international organizations t/ and on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, u/

Noting that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has been designated, in paragraph 156 of the World Programme of Action, as the focal point within the United Nations system for co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of the World Programme of Action, including its review and appraisal,

g/ Introduced by the representative of Italy at the 15th meeting, on 26 February 1985. At the 18th meeting, on 27 February, the representative of Denmark stated that, in view of the importance of the problem dealt with in the draft resolution, his delegation regretted that the Commission had not reached a consensus on it.

r/ Oman subsequently withdrew as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

s/ A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

t/ E/1985/4.

u/ A/39/191 and Corr.1

Recalling that in paragraph 195 of the World Programme of Action it is stated that the United Nations system should carry out a critical periodic evaluation of progress made in implementing the Programme of Action and to that end should select appropriate indicators for evaluation in consultation with Member States, and that the Commission for Social Development should play an important role in that respect,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for its intention to carry out, in consultation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, a study on the causal connections between serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and disability and to submit its views and recommendations, through the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development, to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1986; v/
2. Expresses its concern about the lack of publicity given to the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, which was proclaimed by the General Assembly as a long-term plan of action for the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons on the understanding that no additional resources from the United Nations system would be needed for that purpose;
3. Appeals to Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to help make the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons more widely known as a time frame for the implementation of the World Programme of Action and to continue to take action to implement the objectives of the Programme of Action;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to support, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the World Programme of Action, including its periodical revisions, as a major activity of the disability programme of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and to continue to organize on a regular basis, at least once a year, the inter-agency meetings on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons for co-operation and harmonization of action by the United Nations system in this field;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to enlist and utilize the resources of the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons to meet growing requests for assistance, advisory services and technical co-operation programmes submitted by developing countries and organizations of disabled persons for the implementation of the World Programme of Action;
6. Requests the Secretary-General, in order to facilitate contributions by Governments, to include the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons, on an annual basis, among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to keep the Commission for Social Development informed of progress made in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the World Programme of Action.

v/ See Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/26.

C. Draft proposal submitted under agenda item 7 (a)

Draft resolution E/CN.5/1985/L.15 w/

(Sponsored by Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Malaysia,
Togo and the United States of America)

Progress of work for the biennium 1983-84 and proposed
programme budget for the biennium 1986-87

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Commission for Social Development set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 10 (II) of 21 June 1946,

Recalling the changes in the terms of reference of the Commission for Social Development, as amended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 830 J (XXXII) of 2 August 1961 and 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966,

Reaffirming the central role of the Commission for Social Development within the United Nations in considering matters relating to social development,

Recognizing the importance for the Commission for Social Development of exchanges of information on activities with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council with mandates in the social development sector, in particular the Commission on the Status of Women and the Population Commission,

Reaffirming that within the United Nations system the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is the focal point for co-ordination, consultation, promotion and advice on matters relevant to social development,

Concerned that the Commission should have available to it sufficient information on social development activities within the United Nations system to enable it to make an appropriate contribution towards the fulfilment of overall development objectives, and to provide appropriate direction to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs with respect to its work in the field of social development,

Recalling the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 36/228 A and B of 18 December 1981, in which guidelines were laid down by which agencies in the United Nations system were to create mechanisms for the evaluation of their work, and in which the Secretary-General was requested to strengthen the United Nations evaluation system through a series of five separate actions, including self-evaluation,

w/ Introduced by the representative of Canada, at the 13th meeting, on 26 February 1985.

Recognizing that programmes in the field of social development are formulated within the framework of the medium-term plan, and of the biennial budgets established in accordance with that plan,

I

1. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission at future sessions details of the programme budget for the forthcoming biennium, in accordance with rule 104.7 (c) of the rules governing programme planning;
2. Also requests the Secretary-General to present those details in the form of a document that would include the whole of the sections on social development of the proposed programme budget for the forthcoming biennium, a comparison of that proposed budget with the programme budget for the current biennium, financial estimates for the current biennium, and financial estimates for the forthcoming biennium, assuming no overall growth in the regular budget;
3. Further requests the Secretary-General to note the comments made by the Commission on the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987, to make appropriate adjustments to that proposed budget, within available resources;

II

4. Requests the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure more effective co-operation and collaboration, without duplication of effort, between the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, the Population Commission and other relevant bodies;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to take all possible measures, within existing resources, to strengthen the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in carrying out its responsibilities, particularly taking into account the fact that the Centre is located at Vienna, and to ensure that the Centre has access to information on activities in the social development field carried out by the specialized agencies, and that the specialized agencies inform the Commission on relevant activities;
6. Recommends that the Centre, in preparing its overview reports for the Commission for Social Development, should draw on information relating to activities in the social development field of the specialized agencies, and such other information as it considers appropriate;

III

7. Requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to evaluate, within the terms of reference of General Assembly resolutions 36/228 A and B, the impact of United Nations social development activities and to submit that evaluation to the Commission for Social Development at its thirtieth session.