



President: Mr. J. B. P. MARAMIS (Indonesia).

AGENDA ITEM 7

Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (*continued*) (E/4787)

1. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said that since the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its fourth session (E/4787) presented only a tentative plan of work to be considered by the Committee at its fifth and sixth sessions and contained few final conclusions or recommendations, he would confine his remarks to one specific question, namely, the delineation of competence of bodies concerned with co-ordination of programmes and with administrative and budgetary matters. Paragraph 28 of the report referred to the view expressed by many members of CPC to the effect that, while the Committee was not a budgetary committee, it was fully within its competence to lay emphasis on particular programmes and on the need for providing sufficient resources for those programmes. His delegation was inclined to associate itself with that view, for if the Committee was to function in an appropriate and meaningful way, every aspect of United Nations activities in the economic and social field should be regarded as falling within its competence. However, it should concentrate on formulating recommendations to the Council on major policy programmes, thus sifting matters for subsequent consideration and debate by the Council.

2. With regard to the central task of CPC, which was the review and scrutiny of the work programme, he recalled the statement¹ in the introduction to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session that it seemed inappropriate to try to control growth in programmes through limitations on the level of the budget, and that emphasis should rather be on improving the programme formulations processes, establishing concrete objectives for United Nations action and translating them into long-term and medium-term programmes for which, in turn, budgetary provision could be made. In the view of his delegation, that was a very sound suggestion. In cases where financial moderation with respect to certain programmes was necessary because of priorities given to other programmes, that circumstance should be taken into account at the initial stage of programme formulation. In that connexion, his delegation attached the greatest importance to the agenda item for the fifth session of CPC concerning the annual general review in the context of General Assembly resolution 2370 (XXII) and the report on programming and budgets in the United Nations family of organizations.²

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1A, para. 20.

² Document A/7822, annex.

3. He congratulated the reconstituted CPC on the good start which it had made and observed that, under the leadership of its able Chairman, it appeared to be ready to approach the many questions before it in a realistic way.

4. Mr. NAITO (Japan) expressed the hope that now that CPC had been reconstituted its work would be more effective. With reference to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on documentation, which was the subject of chapter IV of the report of CPC he said that his delegation supported the Committee's recommendation concerning rule 14 (4) of the Council's rules of procedure, since only the prompt distribution of documents allowed sufficient time to study them adequately or to receive Government instructions. However, delay was due more to the extremely crowded calendar of conferences and meetings than to lack of effort by the Secretariat in complying with that rule. In that connexion, his delegation particularly welcomed the reference in paragraph 15 (1)(a) of the report to the Committee's intention to study the possibility of arranging a better integrated schedule, taking into account measures to spread out meetings over a biennial instead of an annual cycle.

5. With regard to the agenda for the joint meeting with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for which CPC had suggested as a possible topic the preparations for the Second United Nations Development Decade, his delegation agreed with the suggestion in paragraph 21 of the report that the Committee should try to limit the discussion to selected aspects of the problems relating to the Development Decade.

6. Turning to chapter VII of the report, which dealt with the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, he said that his delegation shared the Committee's concern that little progress had been made so far in establishing the proposed units for public administration, trade and statistics, and hoped steps would be taken for the early establishment of a statistical unit.

7. Finally, on the subject of Secretariat support for CPC, as recommended by the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, his delegation welcomed the appointment of Mr. Kittani to the new post of Deputy to the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and the establishment of five more professional posts, two of which would be assigned primarily to CPC and the Council. His delegation hoped they would be filled soon.

8. Mr. PRAGUE (France) said that the apprehension with which his delegation had at first viewed the reconstitution of CPC had been dispelled sufficiently to enable it to consider the future work of the Committee with a feeling of optimism. In spite of the difficulties caused by the lack of documentation, CPC had succeeded in preparing a work

programme for the rest of the year, and agreeing on a number of fairly precise recommendations. It should, however, interpret its broad terms of reference as guidelines rather than as indicating obligatory fields of investigation. Instead of dispersing its energies, it should select at the most two problems for examination in depth. In that connexion, he observed that the programme for its sixth session appeared reasonable. However, the programme for the fifth session which included a large number of items, seemed too ambitious. The examination of so many topics could be no more than superficial and the Committee would be unable to make clear and unanimous recommendations. The Council should give CPC more precise indications as to which particular items should be considered. In the view of his delegation, the two items for discussion at CPC's fifth session should be the problem of natural resources and a first examination of the report on programming and budgets in the United Nations family of organizations,³ which only CPC was competent to consider in depth.

9. Mr. DUBEY (India) said that the report of CPC must be regarded as an interim one since lack of documentation had prevented the Committee from making much progress. His delegation noted with satisfaction the arrangements being made to strengthen Secretariat support for the Committee, and hoped the next two sessions would be more fruitful. It would be recalled that when the question of extending the mandate of CPC had been before the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session there had been a great deal of misunderstanding of the functions of the Committee, and the decision to extend its mandate had been taken on the understanding that the Committee would play a more positive role. His delegation hoped that that would be the case; in addition to its other functions, the Committee should also have a promotional role, trying to identify areas in which major efforts were needed and those which were lagging. His delegation fully endorsed the conclusions in paragraphs 32 and 33 of chapter VI and hoped that they would be duly reflected in any resolution that might be adopted.

10. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council might consider for adoption the following resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Takes note of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its fourth session and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein."

11. Mr. DUBEY (India) suggested that a paragraph might be added to the effect that the Council accepted the recommendation of CPC that it should receive reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions having a bearing on co-ordination review.

12. Mr. PRAGUE (France) said that the reconstitution of CPC gave the Council an opportunity to indicate to the Committee what kind of contribution was expected from it. His delegation would discuss with others the formulation of a more concrete proposal on that matter.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Proposals regarding the agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Council and preparations for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations (E/L.1298)

13. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that if, in addition to the commemorative session of the General Assembly in New York, which shall be the main event in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, it was decided to hold a short commemorative ceremony at Geneva, that ceremony should be synchronized with the opening of the Council's forty-ninth session. It should not, however, be allowed to take much time, for the Council would have a heavy agenda. In that connexion, his delegation agreed with the suggestion in paragraph 3 of the note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1298) that the morning of the opening day of the session should be set aside for the celebration of the anniversary.

14. With regard to recommendation contained in paragraph 42 of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations⁴ to the effect that delegations to the Economic and Social Council should be headed either by the minister for foreign affairs or a minister of cabinet rank, his delegation felt that the suggestion was a little too definite. Although it was, of course, desirable that delegations should be headed by a person of as high a rank as possible, the decision should be left to Governments. Attendance by high-ranking Government representatives, at least during the opening days of the session, would provide a useful opportunity for an exchange of views. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the suggestion in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's note that during a general debate on international economic and social policy attention should be focused on the international development strategy for the 1970s, and thought that, in addition, the question of education might be highlighted. In view of the need to make the best use of the time available, the Secretary-General's suggestions concerning the establishment of a list of speakers in advance and the distribution of his statement to the Council six weeks before the session began were also welcome.

15. Mr. AKWEI (Ghana) said that, as Chairman of the Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, he knew that the Committee did not wish all of the activities commemorating that anniversary to take place in one city. Since the Economic and Social Council was an important organ of the United Nations and Geneva was the site of the headquarters of many specialized agencies, the Committee wished to take advantage of the Council's forty-ninth session at Geneva to dramatize the anniversary in the European area.

16. With regard to the reservation expressed by the Japanese representative concerning the status of heads of delegations, he pointed out that the Committee had merely been expressing a hope; Governments could take account of the suggestion and decide for themselves whether they

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 25, document A/7690.*

wished to comply with it. The Committee had thought, however, that the anniversary would have greater impact if a tentative draft of the development strategy could be considered at that time and it had therefore hoped that Governments would give serious consideration to the appointment of persons of ministerial rank—preferably ministers dealing with trade or economic affairs—to serve as the chairmen of their delegations.

17. The suggestions made by the Secretary-General in his note were in accordance with the decisions taken in the General Assembly and entirely in harmony with the recommendations of the Committee. In his view, the forty-ninth session of the Council, and not just the commemorative session, would be important in advancing peace, justice and progress, the theme of the anniversary. He agreed with the Secretary-General that the main concerns of the session should be the draft strategy for development and he accordingly hoped that the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade would be able, at its forthcoming session, to adopt the full draft text of the strategy. He also agreed that it should be possible for the Council to conclude its debate on the strategy within a few days. The establishment of a list of speakers before the session opened should not prevent additional speakers from making statements during the debate. Education should be one topic to be touched upon during the general debate since 1970 had been designated International Education Year; the Council should therefore consider proposals to maximize its effect. Lastly, he hoped that the report of the Committee for Development Planning referred to in item (d) of paragraph 6 of the note of the Secretary-General would be ready in time for the session.

18. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) observed with regard to the note by the Secretary-General that the Council was not being asked to decide whether a celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary should be held at the European Office at Geneva, since that question had already been settled; the points which the Council had to decide were the time and form of the commemoration, the level of representation, and the relevance of the celebration to the work of the forty-ninth session. His delegation supported the suggestions concerning those three points made in the Secretary-General's note.

19. His delegation felt that delegations should be headed either by the minister for foreign affairs or by a minister of cabinet rank, not only because of the ceremonial nature of the celebration but also because the commemorative session should complete work on the international strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. If it did so, the prestige of the Council within the United Nations development system would be greatly enhanced.

20. With regard to the practice which the Council had adopted in recent years of selecting a topic on which to focus its attention during the general debate on economic and social policy, there could be no doubt that the most important topic of common interest to the developed and developing countries was the draft of the international development strategy for the Second Development Decade. A second topic was education, since 1970 had been designated International Education Year. His delegation

also endorsed the suggestions made in paragraph 4 of the note by the Secretary-General that a list of speakers should be established before the opening of the session and that the Secretary-General should distribute his statement in writing six weeks before the session began.

21. With regard to the agenda of the forty-ninth session (E/L.1297), his delegation felt that items 2 and 3 should be considered as a single item for the purposes of the general debate because the discussion of economic and social policy was an intrinsic part of the appraisal of economic and social progress to be made during the Second Development Decade.

22. In the months to come representatives should try to give their Governments completely objective information with a view to reaching agreement on fundamental issues. They should not allow themselves to be led astray by specious arguments concerning the "voting machine" of the Group of Seventy-Seven developing countries, the proliferation of United Nations organs, "confrontations" or similar catch phrases, for the lack of progress so far was due to deeply-rooted causes and developed and developing countries should co-operate in finding solutions to the resulting problems. His delegation was confident that the Council would adopt realistic and meaningful proposals for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary at the United Nations Office in Geneva.

23. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that his Government would be represented at the commemorative ceremony at Geneva and would inform the Secretary-General in due course who its representative was to be.

24. His delegation supported the suggestions made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 3 of his note concerning the opening of the forty-ninth session of the Council. He agreed that the Council should begin its session with a general debate on major economic and social problems, as was its practice. As the Council had decided at its organizational meetings in January, the general debate should concentrate on the Second Development Decade on the basis of the final document of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade, which it was hoped would be forthcoming by that time, and the report of the Committee for Development Planning. While he had no objection to the Council's seizing the opportunity afforded by International Education Year for a discussion of the problem of education, it should make it quite clear that the problem was chosen purely for that reason and not because it was a major aspect of the Second Development Decade. The strategy for the Development Decade would be the most urgent task for consideration by the Council. The Council should also devote part of the general debate to other economic and social problems, as it had done in the past, and delegations should be left free to state their positions on the issues they considered important.

25. The real problem arose over the question of representation of member States. His delegation agreed that members of the Council should try to appoint their representatives at the highest possible level, and France had appointed as the chairman of its delegation to the forty-ninth session a political leader who was currently a member of the parliament and a former cabinet minister, but it had

not yet decided on its representative to the commemorative ceremony. In his view, the Council should recommend, in terms as moderate as possible, that members should do their best to ensure that they were represented at the forty-ninth session by personalities of sufficient stature to reflect the importance of the twenty-fifth anniversary and of the items to be considered. The subject of the Second Development Decade should preferably be discussed in the Council by persons whose presence would serve to impress public opinion in different countries and lay the basis for later discussion of the subject in the General Assembly.

26. Mr. DUBEY (India) said that his delegation concurred with all but one of the suggestions contained in the note by the Secretary-General. The Council was needlessly pre-occupying itself with the question of level of representation. Whatever the Council decided, it could not take away the freedom of members to send whatever persons they wished to represent them at that session. India was usually represented by a minister of State or one of the economic ministers in its cabinet and it planned to continue that practice, whatever the Council decided. It should be recognized that all members had an interest in being represented at a higher level than usual. The Council should make a recommendation to that effect for the sake of consistency with the decisions of the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary and the General Assembly, but should word it as tactfully as possible.

27. He agreed with the French representative that the strategy for the Second Development Decade must be taken as a whole and a broad and comprehensive discussion should be held on such issues as areas on which agreement had not yet been reached, areas where progress was now possible and the minimum necessary requirements for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second Development Decade. Education as a topic should be taken up separately in the context of International Education Year.

28. There was also general agreement that no contradiction existed between the Council's recent practice of concentrating on a few topics and the inclusion in the agenda of an item relating to trend of economic and social policy, since the latter had a bearing on all other items.

29. Like the representative of Ghana, he hoped that the Council would be able at its forty-ninth session to submit to the General Assembly a complete and agreed draft strategy for development.

30. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) said that his delegation was in general agreement with the suggestions set forth in the note by the Secretary-General. However, there was a danger that, in attempting to deal with a large number of items, the Council might give only superficial attention to each one. He therefore supported the Secretary-General's suggestion that, in the general debate at the forty-ninth session, the Council should focus attention on international development strategy for the 1970s. The other items taken up by the Council should be considered in the light of their relationship to that theme. The Council might also wish to request representatives of the Secretariat or specialized agencies who were introducing reports to highlight the contribution of their department or agency to the Second Development Decade. Discussion of the ques-

tion of education should also be related to the central theme of the strategy for the 1970s, and reports on the subject should be presented with that approach in mind. If action was taken on his suggestions and Governments were informed in good time of the probable order in which items would be discussed, delegations would be able to make appropriate preparations for the session.

31. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that his delegation supported the suggestions offered in the note by the Secretary-General. Greece would be represented at Geneva by a minister of cabinet rank, but his delegation realized that recommendation contained in paragraph 42 of the Preparatory Committee might cause difficulties for some countries. The Council should therefore adopt a flexible approach to the matter. It would be useful if the detailed agenda and time-table of the session were circulated well in advance. Paragraph 6 of the note by the Secretary-General referred to international economic and social policy. He wished to know why the word "policy" had been substituted for the word "situation" which had hitherto been used in that context. It would be possible to complete the general debate by 10 July 1970, as was suggested in paragraph 5 of the note only if delegations refrained from describing the policies of their own countries, unless those policies were directly related to international economic development. Education should be discussed only in so far as it related to that theme and should certainly not be given so much attention that other important elements of international development strategy were not considered.

32. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that his country's delegation to the forty-ninth session would probably be headed by a minister. He hoped that other countries would have similar representation, but the Council should not press the point.

33. In previous discussions of the question of education his delegation had consistently drawn attention to the importance of training as a means of promoting development. The Council might accordingly wish to deal with education and training jointly.

34. Paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's note referred to "the relevant parts of the report of the Committee for Development Planning"; his delegation wished to know which parts were considered relevant.

35. Mr. RAHMAN (Pakistan) agreed that the Council should stress international development strategy in its discussions. The question of education should be taken up only in the context of International Education Year. To consider education in the light of international development strategy would be to give it undue emphasis.

36. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), noting that paragraph 4 of the note by the Secretary-General referred to a list of speakers, wished to know who the Secretary-General had in mind.

37. His delegation had no objection to the agenda for the forty-ninth session as set forth in the draft programme prepared by the Secretary-General (E/L.1293), but had reservations concerning the suggestion that a separate item providing for a general discussion of international economic

and social policy should not be included in the agenda. The Council should adhere to its traditional practice of beginning its discussions with a general debate on international economic and social policy, which in the past had helped to focus attention on accomplishments and problems. If the purpose of omitting the item was to save time, discussion of item 19, which related to tourism, could well be postponed, since the relevant documents would not be available at the forty-ninth session.

38. Governments should be free to decide the level at which their countries would be represented. Any decision by the Council on that subject should involve no more than making recommendations.

39. It appeared that several delegations wished the Council to consider an international strategy for development in the 1970s at the forty-ninth session. However, the strategy for the Second Development Decade was being formulated by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade, in which no socialist country was represented. His delegation therefore strongly opposed consideration of that subject.

40. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations was an opportunity for breathing new life into the Organization. Bearing that in mind, he wished to know whether the Secretary-General intended to invite ministers to attend the celebrations at Geneva. If the Secretary-General acted on that suggestion, ministers would be able to participate in both the forty-ninth session of the Council and the celebrations of the anniversary of the Organization.

41. The Council's primary duty, in considering the Second Development Decade, was to renew its commitment to the underprivileged peoples of the world. Its discussion of the question of education should thus relate only to education in the context of the Second Development Decade. The Council should allow Governments freedom to choose the level at which they wished to be represented at the forty-ninth session, but his delegation hoped that representation would be at a high level.

42. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) said that consideration of the provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session was included as an item in the agenda of the resumed forty-eighth session. The Secretary-General would prepare a paper for that session and representatives might wish to make further suggestions at that time.

43. As members were aware, the Secretary-General had planned to distribute his statement to the Council at its

forty-ninth session six weeks in advance. However, since the Secretary-General had expressed that intention, the Preparatory Committee had decided to meet later than it had originally expected. As the Secretary-General wished to take account of any recommendations that the Preparatory Committee might make, the distribution of his statement might be delayed.

44. The use of the word "policy" in the term "international economic and social policy", which had been mentioned by the representative of Greece, had been customary since the adoption of a resolution on that subject at the Council's forty-first session.

45. The Soviet representative had referred to the suggestion that the Council should dispense with a separate item providing for a general discussion of international economic and social policy. There would be a general debate at the forty-ninth session, but the Council itself would decide the topics to which it wished to pay particular attention. In paragraph 7 of the draft programme (E/L.1293) the Secretary-General had suggested that the Council might wish to consider the question of education merely because 1970 had been designated International Education Year. The Soviet representative had also mentioned the list of speakers referred to in paragraph 4 of the note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1298). Those speakers would be representatives of delegations and specialized agencies, but the list was not sacrosanct. It would, however, be helpful if Governments indicated at what times their representatives wished to speak, so that the Secretary-General could proceed with arrangements for the session.

46. The representative of the United Kingdom had referred to the report of the Committee for Development Planning. The parts of the report which might be of particular relevance to the Council's work would be those which dealt with the international strategy for development.

47. The Preparatory Committee's recommendations concerning the level of representation at the forty-ninth session had already been submitted to the Council and there was no further action that the Secretariat could take at the present time. On the question of invitations to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations, delegations could be guided by paragraph 3 of the note by the Secretary-General and the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee. The Secretariat would give consideration to the suggestion by the representative of Tunisia.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.