

2075th meeting

Tuesday, 19 July, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. L. ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia)

E/SR.2075

AGENDA ITEM 4

Regional co-operation and development (E/5937 and Corr.1, E/5937/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2, E/5937/Add.2 and 3, E/5937/Add.4 and Corr.1, E/5939 and Corr.1, E/5941 and Add.1, E/5943, E/5944 and Add.1, E/5945 and Add.1, E/5969 and Add.1, E/5997, E/5998, E/6021, E/CEPAL/1027)

1. Mr. BANNA (Observer for Lebanon), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that in view of Lebanon's present situation he could not but emphasize the useful and important role that a country like Lebanon could play at the regional level—as indeed, had been affirmed by the Executive Secretary of ECWA (2071st meeting), who knew the region particularly well. Lebanon had taken the initiative, at the fifty-fifth session of the Council, in proposing the establishment of ECWA. Despite strong political opposition, that proposal had been adopted by the Council in its resolution 1818 (LV), thanks to the support of the Arab countries and other friendly nations. Since its establishment, ECWA had accomplished, within the resources available to it, what had been expected of it. The situation in Lebanon had obliged ECWA to hold its last two sessions at Doha and then at Amman, but it was on the point of completing its reinstatement at the provisional headquarters at Beirut, and that would enable it to carry out its functions more effectively.

2. Reviewing United Nations assistance to Lebanon and referring to the report on the activities of ECWA since 15 May 1976 (E/5969, annex II), he expressed regret that the project mentioned in paragraph 3 of the document on follow-up action on ECWA resolution 24 (III) concerning the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (*ibid.*,

p. 70) had not been carried out, mainly for financial reasons. Moreover, during his visit to Lebanon in June 1977, the Administrator of UNDP had decided that the time was not ripe to increase the indicative planning figure for Lebanon, since the projects drawn up by the Lebanese Reconstruction and Development Council were still under study. He had, however, promised to suggest to the UNDP Governing Council at its next session that it should approve a special allocation for Lebanon from the programme reserve. The Lebanese authorities were relying on that aid. The Special United Nations Fund for Lebanon, set up in 1976, had not received the \$50 million considered necessary to meet the most urgent needs, and the contributions that had been paid, amounting to \$6,394,375, had been rapidly used up. He was grateful to the Secretary-General for his untiring efforts to alleviate the distress of the Lebanese people. He thanked the donor countries and wished to assure those that had not yet contributed that Lebanon understood their difficulties and took account of the point of view of some of those countries. An explanation and a remedy should be found for the reluctance of a great many members of the international community, since many countries waited to act until others did.

3. Because of the extensive destruction caused by the war in Lebanon and the disruption of its economy, it had not been possible to include figures for Lebanon in the statistics given in the document entitled "Review of economic and social conditions in the ECWA region, 1975 and 1976" (E/5979). He therefore wished to comment on a document drafted by foreign experts of world-wide reputation, which his delegation had had circulated to members and which showed that losses had amounted to 1,334 million Lebanese pounds in the public sector and 6,175 million

Lebanese pounds in the private sector, and that the GNP would not reach its 1974 level again before 1979. Altogether the damage amounted to \$12,000 million in losses already suffered and \$5,500 million that would be suffered during the next few years, not counting certain invisible losses.

4. The private sector could not rebuild itself by its own efforts, and the State could not rebuild the public sector, let alone come to the help of the private sector, without external financial and technical assistance. The time factor was vital in rebuilding the infrastructure of the administration, the economy and other essential sectors. Reconstruction had to be carried out within the framework of an over-all plan, comprehensive but flexible, which had already been adopted and whose priority projects had been chosen.

5. The Lebanese Government and people had eagerly embarked on that task and were making ingenious efforts to mobilize the national resources that had been spared, in order to meet the most urgent needs. ECWA had placed the few advisers available at the disposal of the authorities and had adopted resolution 40 (IV) (E/5969, p. 26), inviting the Executive Secretary to initiate consultations with the Lebanese Reconstruction and Development Council, with a view to establishing a technical assistance programme, and to co-ordinate his activities with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Lebanon. Those consultations had already started. From the beginning of the emergency, the Arab countries that were friends of Lebanon had given it direct humanitarian assistance and they were helping it either in matters of security or in studying and financing priority reconstruction projects that had already been drawn up, chiefly for the electricity network, the port and airport of Beirut, the silos and the Beirut trade centre. Lebanon was first and foremost a service country and priority had therefore been given to rebuilding the capital.

6. The Lebanese Government hoped that the Special United Nations Fund for Lebanon would receive generous contributions from the international community so that the United Nations system could grant it the assistance in the form of experts, fellowships and equipment that was needed to complete the study of the projects.

7. It was encouraging to see that all friendly countries were convinced that Lebanon must be rebuilt, in its own interest and in that of the region and of other continents. The Executive Secretary of ECWA had said that the reconstruction of Lebanon was essentially a national responsibility but that the importance of regional and international assistance could not be overestimated. Nevertheless, it was impossible not to wonder whether the war that had destroyed Lebanon had been essentially national or whether it had been the result of a regional, or even international, combination of circumstances. He left it to the conscience of each one to ensure that justice was done to Lebanon.

8. Mr. DABBAGH (Observer for Kuwait), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that following the fourth Regional Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries organized by UNDP in co-operation with ECWA, the Panel of Consultants on the United Nations

Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, meeting in Kuwait, had issued early in June 1977, the Kuwait Declaration on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to be held in Argentina in 1978, would open a new era in that field. Technical assistance considered as a flow of knowledge from the developed to the developing countries could only perpetuate the dependence of the latter on the former; in any case, it had failed, and should be replaced by new methods based on self-reliance and mutual assistance among developing countries. That would not relieve the industrialized countries of their duty to discharge their responsibilities towards the developing countries, but it would reshape the relations existing between countries and eliminate the concept of "donor" and "recipient".

9. Kuwait had played a leading role in technical co-operation among developing countries; more than 15 years earlier, it had been the first developing country to establish a permanent financial institution, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, whose task was to help developing countries to finance their projects. The Fund now had a capital of more than \$3,400 million and its activities had been expanded to cover all countries of the third world.

10. Other oil-exporting countries had followed Kuwait's example. The financial commitments made to other developing countries by the five oil-exporting countries of the region, which needed their income for their own internal development, exceeded the commitments of the industrialized countries, which had often built up their prosperity at the expense of the developing countries. With that in mind, his delegation wished to draw the Council's attention to resolution 50 (IV) of ECWA (E/5969, p. 36), in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to urge the industrially developed countries to meet their obligations as stipulated in the International Development Strategy by allocating 1 per cent of their GNP to the developing countries and by taking the necessary measures to mitigate the adverse effects of inflation upon their economies.

11. In its resolution 36 (IV) (*ibid.*, p. 22), ECWA had granted the Palestine Liberation Organization the status of full membership in the Commission. All parties concerned, directly or indirectly, in the search for a just and peaceful solution to the problem of the Middle East had agreed that the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people was a prerequisite for such a solution. It had been admitted that the Palestinian people formed an entity of their own in the area and that they should be helped to realize their own legitimate political, social and economic aspirations. It was that admission that was relevant at the present stage, irrespective of the question of its significance or whether it fulfilled the aspirations of the Palestinians. The Palestine Liberation Organization was a full member of the League of Arab States and of all the economic organs affiliated to it, with which ECWA co-operated closely, but it had had the status of observer in ECWA. The States members of ECWA had wished to rectify that anomaly.

12. In its resolution 37 (IV) (*ibid.*, p. 23), ECWA had recommended that the Economic and Social Council should approve the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of the Commission. Part of Egyptian territory lay in Western Asia, and Egypt played a leading role in the economic and social affairs of the region. In adopting that resolution, the States members of ECWA had simply recognized those facts.

13. In conclusion, he associated himself whole-heartedly with the statement made by the representative of Lebanon and reminded the international community of its responsibility to help in the reconstruction of Lebanon in order to restore it to its former state of prosperity and its leading role in the social and economic progress of the whole area.

14. Mr. BARCELÓ (Mexico) said that his country hoped that, on the question of regional co-operation, long statements would now give way to specific measures. Having followed the ups and downs of economic integration in the Latin American Free Trade Association and of complete integration in the Latin American Economic System, he knew that it was no easy task. Moreover, although ECLA had first-rate technical personnel, its action was restricted by financial shortages. Thus, in general, co-operation was not keeping up with the accelerated rate at which the problems were appearing.

15. Nevertheless, Mexico still believed in integration and advocated it in all the bodies created for that purpose. At its seventeenth session, held recently in Guatemala, ECLA had adopted a declaration in which the Latin American countries expressed their concern at the serious problems they faced as a result of the international economic situation and reaffirmed their will to establish the machinery and take the joint decisions necessary for the establishment of a new economic order.

16. A number of important measures had been taken in the region to give full meaning to the principle of "collective autonomy"; ECLA had always participated in such measures as far as its means allowed.

17. Much remained to be done, however, and it was therefore encouraging to note that the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions had decided to include regularly, on the agenda of intergovernmental sessions, the question of co-operation among developing countries. That decision, however, would entail considerable extra work for the regional commissions and would require greater financial and technical resources. Decentralization of functions had already begun and would doubtless proceed as part of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. If it was to be successfully completed, the means for regional action would have to be increased.

18. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, said that he was astonished that only one Executive Secretary of a regional commission was present while the Council was considering an agenda item which concerned the work of all the regional commissions. He wondered whether it was a coincidence or whether there was a reason for the absences.

19. Mr. ABE (Japan) observed that economic relations among countries had grown more complex and that regional co-operation, which was perhaps more sensitive to the individual situation of countries in a given region, was highly important for the formulation and execution of a new development strategy. His delegation was convinced that one of the most important responsibilities of the regional commissions was to design a strategy aimed at steady progress in regional development.

20. From that point of view, the decentralization of the UNDP projects to the level of the regional commissions was commendable and would further facilitate the co-ordinating function of those commissions. Japan noted with satisfaction that the regional commissions had recently been placing greater emphasis on the strengthening of co-operation among developing countries, which should guide regional co-operation in the right direction. To be effective, of course, such co-operation should be supported by the developed countries; Japan, for its part, would gladly make the necessary effort.

21. With regard to the work of ESCAP, Japan, as a member of the Commission, fully supported the orientation of its policy, which was aimed at the promotion of social justice rather than rapid economic growth. A good example of that trend was the emphasis on integrated rural development. His delegation stressed that, if effective results were to be obtained, countries of the region would have to make constant and hard efforts. The revival of the activities of the Committee for co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, which had been suspended because of the turmoil in Indochina, was evidence of the wisdom of the countries concerned, although relations among them still seemed to be strained.

22. It would also be desirable for the regional commissions to strengthen the exchange of information among themselves, so that such policy orientation could be shared by all the Commissions.

23. At the thirty-third session of ESCAP, the Japanese Government had announced its intention to make a contribution of \$720,000 for the period 1977-1978, to be utilized by ESCAP according to its programme priorities. Japan had always strongly supported the work of that Commission and would continue to do so.

24. Mr. NETTEL (Austria) said that, ever since the outbreak of the troubles in Lebanon, Austria had taken an active part in international relief efforts on behalf of Lebanon. The Austrian Government had not only contributed one million Austrian schillings to the International Committee of the Red Cross to assist its humanitarian relief work but had provided agricultural assistance in the same amount, in the form of fertilizers, and was at present considering further assistance measures.

25. Official assistance had been supplemented by that of private organizations such as Caritas, which since 1975 had given some 4 million Austrian schillings and planned to make a further contribution later in 1977.

26. Bearing in mind the need to end the suffering as soon as possible and to co-ordinate assistance efforts with the

utmost efficiency, his delegation had noted with satisfaction the decision by the Executive Secretary of ECWA to take immediate action in that regard.

27. Mr. ZÁPOTOCKÝ (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation appreciated the increasingly positive influence of the regional commissions on the over-all structure of international economic relations and their role in promoting multilateral economic, scientific and technical co-operation.

28. ECE, in particular, contributed actively to the development of international co-operation and détente in Europe. The successful conclusion of the work of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe had given a fresh stimulus to its activity. ECE had already taken positive steps in the practical implementation of the Final Act of the Conference. It seemed, however, that better use could be made of the potential of ECE and its organs. The Soviet Union's proposal concerning the convening of all-European conferences on the protection of the environment and the development of transport and energy³⁴ was of particular importance in that respect. Czechoslovakia was prepared to contribute actively to the preparations for such meetings. ECE should in general continue to give priority to the promotion of East-West economic, scientific and technical co-operation.

29. His delegation supported the idea of wider and deeper co-operation between ECE and the other regional commissions, for it thought that the results of the efforts of ECE to solve the problems of its member States could be successfully utilized beyond the European region. It attached particular importance to the study of long-term trends of economic development in the developing countries; such a study should help to speed up development and produce economic prosperity. At the same time, no effort should be spared to achieve the relaxation of tension and to strengthen peace, since the savings resulting from disarmament would make it possible to speed up economic development.

30. The report of the Secretary-General on long-term trends in the economic development of the regions of the world (E/5937 and addenda and corrigenda) was mainly of a preliminary nature and much remained to be done in that field; closer contacts and co-operation among the competent United Nations bodies and the national and international institutions dealing with the problems concerned would be beneficial. With regard to the analysis of general trends since 1960, the critical period of the 1970s should be studied much more closely, contrasting as it did with the relative prosperity of the 1960s. In particular, an evaluation was needed of all new developments in the world economy which had caused changes in economic trends. There was also the question whether the analysis should have included 1975 instead of stopping at 1974. Lastly, the analysis was rather one-sided, in that it stressed the technical and economic aspects of the matter, while the socio-economic factors were either omitted or inadequately presented.

³⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 8 (E/5781), paras. 65-72 and decision B (XXXI).*

Although the study of trends in the ECE region (E/5937/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2) gave only partial results, those results were interesting, and the methodological approach of the secretariat was to be commended. It was unfortunate that it had not been possible to present at least partial results of the long-term projections relating to the ESCAP region. His delegation recommended that studies of long-term trends of economic development in the various regions of the world should continue and that the final results should be considered in the appropriate United Nations forums.

31. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) stressed that three factors should be taken into consideration in the assessment of the activities of ECWA. Firstly, ECWA was a young commission compared to the other regional commissions; its work, both in the preparation of medium-term and long-term strategies and in the process of consultation between the Commission and its member States, was only just beginning. The latter process was now starting to give satisfactory results. Secondly, ECWA was working in a region in which there were already a number of Arab intergovernmental organizations with functional terms of reference; intensive co-operation was therefore needed between the Commission and those organizations. Thirdly, for the past two years or more ECWA had been unable to operate in normal conditions, since the civil war in Lebanon had adversely affected the implementation of its programme of work.

32. The report of ECWA on its fourth session (E/5969) showed that both the secretariat and the countries of the region were interested in promoting regional and inter-regional co-operation in specific spheres. Despite the logistic difficulties and the unstable conditions in the region, they had done their utmost to achieve the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade as part of the new international economic order. In terms of over-all economic and social growth, the ECWA region's performance compared favourably with that of other developing regions. There were still some serious problems, however, particularly the inadequacy of food production in the region.

33. The resolutions adopted by ECWA at its fourth session reflected the complex and difficult nature of the problems it had to solve. Perhaps the most important, because of its human aspect, was resolution 40 (IV) on the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. In his statement, the representative of Lebanon had clearly outlined his country's needs, and the Syrian Arab Republic confirmed its support for whatever efforts could be made to meet them. There was no denying the special responsibilities of ECWA towards one of its member States. Unfortunately, contributions to the Special United Nations Fund for Lebanon still fell far short of the amount needed. It was to be hoped that the report of ECWA on the implementation of its resolution 40 (IV) would be able to record the resumption of Lebanon's economic and social development.

34. The Syrian delegation hoped that the Council would unanimously endorse the Commission's resolution 37 (IV) concerning the admission to ECWA of the Arab Republic of

Egypt. From the geographical point of view, Egypt belonged to both Africa and Asia; it had to pursue its economic and social development in both continents, and Sinai, in particular, could not be severed from the development programmes for Western Asia.

35. In its resolution 36 (IV), adopted unanimously, ECWA asked that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be allowed to participate fully in the Commission's activities. The reasons for the request were both functional and pragmatic; ECWA, while not elevating the Organization to the rank of a State or Government, recognized that it played an active role at the regional, subregional and international levels. It had extensive international relations both with States and with United Nations bodies. In addition, it assumed responsibilities with regard to the Palestinian masses as heavy as those borne by any State. Its juridical status, which had its origin in the tragic history of the Palestinian people, was different from that of any other non-State entity. It had been recognized by the General Assembly as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and had been invited on a number of occasions to take part in Security Council debates; it contributed to the work of various international conferences and was a full member of the League of Arab States and of the non-aligned movement. To deny it the right to become a full member of ECWA would be an act of discrimination against an entity which served the economic, social and political interests of a people which was part and parcel of the Arab nation. To those who argued that the admission of the Palestine Liberation Organization to ECWA would create a precedent for other regional commissions, the reply was that the case of the Palestinian people was itself without precedent. To those who argued that the Palestine Liberation Organization was not a State and that only States could become members of regional commissions, the reply was that it was generally recognized that the law reflected the facts, not *vice versa*, and that the fact was that the Palestinian people existed, although deprived of its sovereign rights through foreign occupation. The admission of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a full member of ECWA would help to improve the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people. The United Nations should take no decision which could be interpreted as obstructing the development of a people deprived of its sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and fundamental human rights.

36. Mr. AL-HADDAD (Yemen) said that his delegation whole-heartedly supported resolution 36 (IV), in which ECWA recommended that the Council should grant membership in the Commission to the Palestine Liberation Organization, which had already participated fully and actively in the Commission's work as an observer. Moreover, as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, that Organization was an entity with political and social functions recognized as such by the League of Arab States, of whose Council it was a member, and by the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council itself, in its resolution 2026 (LXI), had requested the agencies within the United Nations system to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, with a view to establishing and implementing concrete projects to ensure the improvement of the social and economic condition of

the Palestinian people. The Palestine Liberation Organization was also a member of the group of non-aligned countries.

37. Yemen welcomed ECWA resolution 37 (IV), in which the Commission recommended to the Council the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of the Commission. A decision to that effect could not fail to strengthen the co-operation between ECA and ECWA. It would be noted that, in its resolution 43 (IV) (E/5969, p. 29), ECWA expressed its appreciation of the memorandum of agreement on co-operation between the two Commissions and had requested the Executive Secretary of ECWA to work out arrangements for further co-operation with ECA.

38. He hoped that the Council would endorse ECWA resolution 40 (IV), which was designed to establish a technical assistance programme for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. In view of the extensive war damage suffered in Lebanon, only an effort by the whole international community could help the Lebanese Government to rebuild its country.

39. He was glad that ECWA had adopted a resolution (38 (IV)) concerning a programme of action in favour of the least developed countries of the region (*ibid.*, p. 24). In view of the importance of the regional project for public finance and administration to the Yemen, Democratic Yemen and Oman, he hoped that the United Nations Office for Technical Co-operation and UNDP would reconsider their position on the financing of the project, in order to ensure its continuity at least during its second phase.

40. ECWA had also adopted resolution 50 (IV) (*ibid.*, p. 36) on the participation of the developing countries in the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade. It was gratifying to note that the oil-producing countries of the region had allocated far more than 1 per cent of their national income to assistance for the developing countries and he earnestly hoped that the industrially developed countries would follow that example.

41. He also wished to stress the importance of ECWA resolution 48 (IV) (*ibid.*, p. 34), on the preparation of an economic survey of the region, on the lines of the surveys made by all the other regional commissions. He hoped that the Secretary-General would be able to allocate sufficient funds from the United Nations regular budget to publish such a survey annually.

42. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Argentina) noted that, in paragraph 40 of his report on the strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation (E/5998), the Secretary-General had informed the Council that in view of current financial constraints he was not in a position to submit any further request for increased resources in relation to the strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation, and that realignments of priorities involving the redeployment of available resources should therefore be considered. That being so, his delegation was glad that ECLA had decided in its resolution 363 (XVII) (E/5945, p. 206) to

include in the agenda of its bi-annual sessions an item entitled "Co-operation among developing countries and regions of different geographical areas" and, like ECA, to set up a service for promoting economic and technical co-operation among developing countries at the sub-regional, regional and interregional levels.

43. The report of the Secretary-General on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions (E/5997) put forward a suggestion that was worth adopting, namely, that consideration should be given to the publication of a bulletin on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, for the information of all United Nations organizations concerned. With respect to preparations for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to be held in Argentina in 1978, it seemed that for the moment the regional phase was developing satisfactorily. The Executive Secretaries had also had the excellent idea of establishing a joint report which would be submitted to the Conference, and ECLA at its seventeenth session had duly stressed the importance of its relationships with ECA and UNDP in all matters concerning the preparations for the Conference.

44. The Executive Secretaries had also mentioned the conflicts that might arise between decisions concerning programmes taken by intergovernmental bodies and decisions arising from programme budgeting and medium-term planning. The Council should give attention to difficulties of that kind and make recommendations as early as possible to solve those problems for all organizations in the system.

45. He had noted the indications given in chapter V of the same report on the role that the regional commissions could play before and after certain world conferences, such as the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the third General Conference of UNIDO, the United Nations Water Conference, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and the United Nations World Conference of the International Women's Year. The Committee on Natural Resources, for instance, having examined the many recommendations concerning action by the regional commissions appearing in the Mar del Plata Action Plan adopted at the United Nations Water Conference,³⁵ was thinking of holding a special session to consider the follow-up to those decisions and recommendations; it would be useful for the regional commissions to hold preparatory meetings in anticipation of that special session.

46. Turning to the activities of ECLA, he noted that under its ambitious work programme for 1977-1979 (E/5945/Add.1), Latin American integration would be given a fresh impetus. Argentina was particularly interested in that matter, because the activities of the institutional machinery already established, the Central American Common Market and the Latin American Free Trade Association, had for some years been slackening off. Argentina

³⁵ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

believed, however, that regional integration was a powerful instrument for development. The study that the ECLA secretariat was to undertake in order to analyse the situation and seek technical solutions would be extremely useful in stimulating the integration of the countries of the whole region.

47. Lastly, he wished to raise a point which had already been mentioned during the general discussion and which appeared also in paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, where it was stated that the regional commissions considered that the main objective of development was the quality of life rather than economic growth *per se*. That distinction between the idea of the quality of life and the idea of development was likely to have unfortunate effects upon international and inter-regional co-operation. First of all, although international co-operation was advantageous for all peoples, it was for Governments alone to determine their own development strategy and to establish the model of society that they wanted, in other words to define their concept of the quality of life. Next, care must be taken not to make "basic needs" a stereotyped and abstract notion. In the Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Employment Conference,³⁶ it was specified that the concept of basic needs was a country-specific and dynamic concept, and should be placed in a context of national independence. A distinction should no doubt be made between growth and well-being, but there could be no well-being without development and no true development without growth.

48. The difficulty on that point was also connected with the fact the Latin American region, which was at a relatively advanced stage of industrial development, represented a sort of middle class in the international community and would seem to be able henceforth to do without international co-operation. Inasmuch as such co-operation should be designed exclusively to wipe out poverty among the masses and to meet their "basic needs". That would be a mistake. Firstly, any generalization concerning the level of development achieved in Latin America, whether at the regional or at the national level, was premature. Secondly, it would be unjust to limit the international aid that was due to the countries which were beginning to reap the fruits of their struggle against under-development just when they would need it most if their development was to be regular and constant.

49. Mrs. JIMÉNEZ (Venezuela) said that the statements by the Executive Secretary of ECWA and the representative of Lebanon gave a clear idea of the tragedy that country was undergoing. Her delegation therefore supported the various proposals put forward for the benefit of Lebanon and hoped that the Council would consider them with all speed.

50. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) said that he wished to comment on the activities of ESCAP, of which his country was a member. In particular, his delegation supported the

³⁶ International Labour Office, Document WEC/CW/F.1 (transmitted to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-first session under the symbol E/5857).

draft resolution proposed by ESCAP for the amendment of its terms of reference, in view of the admission of Papua New Guinea to membership of the Commission (see E/5943, p. 1).

51. Among the other resolutions, decisions and initiatives of ESCAP, New Zealand supported the proposed reactivation of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin. His Government would again find financial support for the Mekong secretariat and had pledged its support for various Mekong projects. It also hoped that Democratic Kampuchea would shortly be taking part in the activities of the Mekong Committee.

52. Certain resolutions adopted by ESCAP at its thirty-third session were directly concerned with the implementation of the International Development Strategy. The integrated programme on rural development in the ESCAP region adopted in resolution 172 (XXXIII) (*ibid.*, p. 50) was particularly important because of the disappointing results in regard to agriculture and food production in the 1970s. The Commission had rightly decided in its resolution 171 (XXXIII) (*ibid.*, p. 48) to intensify economic and technical co-operation among developing countries at the regional and subregional level. His delegation emphasized

the need for the maximum co-ordination of activities with other parts of the United Nations system in that regard.

53. It was also satisfactory to note from resolution 173 (XXXIII) (*ibid.*, p. 51) that the Commission wished to promote participation by the developing island countries in the Pacific in its activities. Such island countries, especially small ones, had certain structural difficulties, which entailed the need for the adjustment of a large organization's scale of approach; that was a point to be borne in mind, not only by ESCAP but by all agencies supporting development projects.

54. As the Executive Secretary of ESCAP had pointed out, the formulation of the work programme and priorities of the Commission was an evolving exercise and the new presentation of the work programme, which could be regarded as a charter for the development of the region, was commendable. It would certainly be very useful for the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to consult the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives to ESCAP to the fullest extent possible throughout the year.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.