

2083rd meeting

Friday, 29 July 1977, at 3.35 p.m.

President: Mr. L. ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia)

E/SR.2083

AGENDA ITEM 6

Assistance to Mozambique (*concluded*)
(A/32/96, E/L.1773, E/L.1783)

AGENDA ITEM 28

Assistance to Botswana (*concluded*) (E/L.1772, E/L.1784)

AGENDA ITEM 29

Assistance to Lesotho (*concluded*) (E/L.1772, E/L.1785)

AGENDA ITEM 5

Assistance in emergency situations (*concluded*)
(E/5939 and Corr.1, E/L.1786)

1. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the reports drawn up by various United Nations review missions drove home the urgency of the economic problems arising from the decisions of Botswana, Lesotho and Mozambique to comply with United Nations resolutions on southern Africa and indicated practical ways whereby the international community could help to alleviate those problems.

2. The United Kingdom, which had traditionally been closely associated in helping to meet the development needs of Botswana and Lesotho, was making available additional assistance of £3 million to Botswana and £2 million to Lesotho for development projects hindered by the situation in southern Africa. It was also contributing a total of £300,000 to UNHCR for the needs of Southern Rhodesian refugees, to help to ease the severe economic strain their presence imposed upon the front-line countries.

3. The Secretary-General's report on assistance to Mozambique (A/32/96) confirmed the serious economic position faced by Mozambique even before the impact of recent events. In addition to the pledges of £5 million and £10 million for project and programme assistance respectively, the United Kingdom had offered the Government of Mozambique 3,000 tons of wheat under the European Economic Community's food aid programme, had provided disaster relief after the floods, had established a technical co-operation and training programme and had recently been discussing a possible further offer of development assistance.

4. His Government's position on the wider issues had been made clear on numerous occasions, in particular in the Security Council. It fully supported the Governments and peoples of those countries in their unflinching implementation of United Nations resolutions on southern Africa and in their efforts to secure national development and it considered that they deserved the full support of the whole international community.

5. Mr. KLEIN (United States of America) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the clear account given of the difficulties confronting the people and Governments of Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho.

6. His delegation had supported Council resolution 2020 (LXI) on assistance to Mozambique and it supported the efforts made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations system in compliance with that resolution.

7. His country had pledged assistance to Mozambique through two agreements between the two Governments in 1976: one granting 21,800 metric tons of wheat, which the Government of Mozambique would sell through normal market channels, with an estimated realization of \$2.5 million in local currency, and the other for a \$10 million programme grant for the improvement of Mozambique's foreign exchange position; the local currency equivalent of that sum would be used to finance agricultural development activities and drinking water supply projects.

8. His Government reaffirmed its support of Security Council resolutions 406 (1977) and 407 (1977). It intended to continue its assistance to Botswana and Lesotho and

urged all countries to do likewise. In response to the appeal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on behalf of the refugees in southern Africa, it had recently made a substantial special contribution to Botswana.

9. His delegation was prepared to support the addition of the Comoros and Cape Verde to the list of least developed countries but considered it important that the criteria established for inclusion should be fully observed. Thus, the eligibility of Sao Tome and Principe and Angola for inclusion should be further reviewed by the Committee for Development Planning.

10. Mr. SKOUROLIAKOS (Greece) observed that, apart from the economic sacrifices involved in applying sanctions, Mozambique had apparently been the victim of a continuous series of aggressive acts resulting in heavy losses. Botswana's serious economic problems were the result of continued hostile acts against its territory and people which had entailed the utilization of scarce development resources for defence and for the care of refugees. Lesotho was vulnerable to coercive measures applied by its stronger neighbour and it too had a refugee problem.

11. The situation in those countries was serious. The Security Council's appeal for financial, technical and economic assistance to enable them to carry out their development programmes and to comply with the system of sanctions had received a prompt response from the international community, but the assistance granted was quite inadequate. His delegation therefore fully supported the draft resolutions on assistance to Mozambique (E/L.1783), Botswana (E/L.1784) and Lesotho (E/L.1785) submitted to the Council.

12. With regard to assistance in emergency situations, his delegation supported the efforts made by the Secretary-General to mobilize assistance with a view to meeting the short-term and long-term development needs of the Governments of Cape Verde, the Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, and Angola and it endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning made at its thirteenth session regarding the inclusion of those countries in the list of the least developed countries (E/5939, paras. 82 and 83).

13. Mr. ABBAS (Sudan) said that, because of the efforts made by Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho to implement General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, they were being subjected to economic hardship and to armed aggression by the illegal minority régimes in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. Sudan would continue to accord material and moral support to the front-line States and liberation movements in southern Africa, believing that the combating of racial discrimination and *apartheid* and support for the struggle for the independence of Zimbabwe and Namibia was a moral obligation as well as a political necessity for peace in Africa and the world.

14. The comprehensive statements produced before the Council had shown the extent of the damage suffered by Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho and had drawn attention to the diversion of development funds to meet security

requirements and the needs of the refugees. Although the front-line States were facing emergency situations, he was confident that their peoples would continue their resolute efforts to combat the racist minority régimes, whose days, he was sure, were numbered. The international community should redouble its efforts and assistance to the front-line States.

15. His delegation called on the Powers which co-operated in military matters and in trade and finance with South Africa and Southern Rhodesia to sever such connexions, in accordance with General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

16. His delegation supported the efforts to mobilize assistance for Angola, Cape Verde, the Comoros and Sao Tome and Principe and hoped to see those countries included in the list of the least developed countries. It urged the United Nations and Member States to implement the General Assembly resolutions on that subject and it called upon the Council to adopt by acclamation the draft resolutions submitted by the representative of Yugoslavia.

17. Miss THOMPSON (United Nations Children's Fund) said that, at its session at Manila in May-June 1977, the UNICEF Executive Board had approved commitments totalling \$5.5 million for the usual type of UNICEF aid to Mozambique, Botswana, Angola, Zambia, Lesotho, the Comoros, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe and a further \$7.4 million for "noted" projects, for which special contributions were being actively sought. That assistance of nearly \$13 million was in addition to the \$1.2 million allocated for the assistance of children and mothers associated with liberation movements in southern Africa. Details of the projects were to be found in annex II, and in the documents listed therein, of the report of the UNICEF Executive Board (E/6014).

18. Needless to say, all UNICEF assistance was provided in full co-operation with the Governments concerned, which usually provided a major share of the resources required, and in co-ordination with the other organizations of the United Nations system.

19. Mr. LAWSON (Togo) said that his delegation, which had supported the appeal for increased assistance to Zambia, realized that the sacrifices being made by Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho by reason of their geographical situation and their determined struggle for the liberation and dignity of the African peoples oppressed by the Pretoria and Salisbury régimes were no less than those of Zambia.

20. His delegation wished to reaffirm its support for the national liberation movements in southern Africa and for the front-line States. Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho had suffered serious losses because of their implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations. His delegation hoped that the Council would give its support to draft resolutions E/L.1783, E/L.1784 and E/L.1785.

21. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) recalled that since the independence of his country, it had pursued a two-pronged policy: the pursuit of a resolute struggle

against all forms of colonialism, and the provision of bilateral or multilateral assistance to the victims of colonialism both within and outside their respective countries. The minority régimes in southern Africa were colonial régimes and as such they must be eradicated if further human suffering was to be avoided.

22. Settler colonialism and *apartheid* were an institutionalized form of permanent aggression against human dignity, freedom and equality. The situation in southern Africa undermined not only the rights of the peoples in that area but those of mankind as a whole. Crimes against humanity, such as *apartheid*, could no longer be condoned; the struggle against *apartheid*, racism and settler colonialism must remain the first priority of the United Nations until those scourges were eradicated.

23. The Syrian Arab Republic, itself a victim of Zionist expansionism, racism and settler colonialism, was in a good position to judge the policies of the racist régimes, and had been among the first countries to sever all relations with them. *Apartheid* and zionism were identical; both strove for domination, exploitation and depersonalization, and ignored the basic tenets of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. His Government had always considered the African and the Arab struggle to be one and the same. The imperialist system had branches similar to those of the transnational companies, and two of them were still prospering, in the Middle East and in southern Africa. The interdependence of the colonial racist régimes, such as those of southern Africa, and zionism was particularly marked.

24. Both South Africa and Southern Rhodesia had stepped up their acts of aggression and coercion against Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho and Angola, further complicating the social and economic problems of those countries and creating large-scale displacements of people. The economic situation of those countries was deteriorating not only because of the influx of refugees but also because of the acts of aggression being committed deep inside their territories.

25. Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho were suffering tremendous hardship because of their faithful implementation of the United Nations resolutions decreeing sanctions against Southern Rhodesia, but the international programmes to assist those countries fell short of meeting their basic needs. It was therefore essential to harness more resources within the United Nations system, in order to furnish more material and technical assistance to those countries. The United Nations reflected the political will of its Members and it seemed to his delegation that the international community as a whole had not channelled enough assistance through the system. Indeed, lack of political will was a key factor in the situation; South Africa was still a haven for investment and continued to receive sophisticated arms, from Israel and other countries. If there was a sincere desire to solve the problems of the front-line countries, there must be an end to all dealings with Pretoria and Salisbury.

26. Mr. BINTU'a-Tshiabola (Zaire) said that his delegation supported all the appeals for assistance to Mozam-

bique, Botswana and Lesotho and hoped that the Council would be able to prevail upon the international community to help those countries to overcome the serious difficulties brought about by their implementation of the sanctions decreed by the United Nations against the racist régimes of southern Africa.

27. Zaire had given substantial aid to the African liberation movements. Its assistance to Angola and Mozambique had been given to all movements engaged in the struggle for self-determination and independence, without regard for ideology.

28. With regard to assistance in emergency situations, his delegation considered that the Council should include semi-land-locked countries in the list of recipients of such assistance. It had been pleased to note ECA resolution 293 (XIII) on semi-land-locked countries (E/5941, p. 66). The geographical position of semi-land-locked countries was a serious obstacle to their trade and to their economic and social development, for high transport costs prevented them from exporting their products at competitive prices. His delegation therefore requested the Council to ensure, in line with ECA resolution 293 (XIII), that the international community recognized the concept of semi-land-locked countries and enabled those countries to benefit from the advantages already being given to land-locked and island countries.

29. His delegation supported draft resolutions E/L.1783, E/L.1784 and E/L.1785 and urged the Council to adopt them unanimously.

30. Mr. DIRAR (Organization of African Unity), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that Zambia, Mozambique, Lesotho and Botswana were facing economic hardships as a result of their uncompromising adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to United Nations resolutions. The member States of OAU had already taken a number of steps to assist those countries; African countries had provided bilateral assistance and had forgone some of their share in the Afro-Arab Solidarity Fund for the benefit of those countries.

31. OAU had repeatedly drawn the attention of the international community to the continued threat to international peace and security posed by the South African racist régime and the illegal régime of Ian Smith, and to the urgent need to achieve majority rule and full recognition of the rightful demands of the African peoples in southern Africa.

32. While thanking the countries that had already provided assistance, he drew attention to the fact that it fell far short of meeting immediate needs, let alone contributing to the restoration of normal economic activities and the continuation of development efforts. He therefore requested the Council to look for new ways and means of involving the whole international community, at both governmental and non-governmental levels. What was needed was an intensified campaign by the United Nations and all countries with a view to increasing international consciousness of the plight of the countries of southern Africa and the suffering they were enduring because of

their courageous stand on principles to which the whole international community subscribed.

33. Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho and Mozambique had every right to expect the full co-operation of the international community, and the international community had a duty to assist those countries in their present difficulties. That assistance should be viewed only as a short-term measure. The main issue remained the continuation of the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia and the racist régime in South Africa, and the need for continued international efforts to solve the problems of southern Africa on the basis of the resolutions of OAU and of the General Assembly.

34. It was the duty of the international community to solve the problems of southern Africa. The African countries had tried every peaceful means possible, but their appeals had fallen on deaf ears. Consequently, OAU and the liberation movements in Zimbabwe and South Africa had to resort to the only alternative open to them: armed struggle to achieve the legitimate aspirations of the majority.

35. With respect to Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde and the Comoros, he expressed the support of OAU for the recommendation of the Committee for Development Planning that Cape Verde and the Comoros should be included in the list of the least developed countries. He appealed to that Committee to review the situation in Angola and Sao Tome and Principe in the light of the latest information and to investigate all the possibilities for obtaining such information. Those countries had just emerged from a long and courageously-fought war of liberation which had left them with acute economic and infrastructure problems. OAU called upon the international community to assist all the newly independent countries to rebuild their economy.

36. He recalled the repeated requests that OAU had addressed to the countries trading with and arming the South African régime to cease to do so. Only when that request was complied with would peace and progress be ensured in southern Africa. He also recalled what OAU had adopted a resolution urging all members to provide financial, military and diplomatic support to the front-line countries which had courageously lived up to their convictions and international obligations.

37. He hoped that the Council would adopt the draft resolutions before it unanimously.

38. Mr. SHERZOI (Afghanistan) said that his delegation would like to express its thanks to the countries which had assisted the newly-independent African States of Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho, whose economies had been severely damaged by the aggressive policies of the racist minority régimes of Salisbury and Pretoria, from which their territories were under constant threat of attack and incursion. Despite the moral and material assistance provided by a number of friendly countries, Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho had not been able to concentrate their efforts on the development of their economies, because they were compelled to allocate a large part of

their national income to the defence of their homeland and people.

39. His delegation's intention in co-sponsoring the three draft resolutions introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia had been to draw the attention of the international community, and especially of the developed countries, to the grave situation prevailing in southern Africa and the urgent needs of the three front-line countries. It urged the international community to assist those countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, so as to enable them to defend their independence and territorial integrity and to implement their national plans for economic development.

40. His delegation considered that, as the newly-independent Republic of Angola found itself in a similar situation, it too should benefit from the provisions for assistance in emergency situations.

41. His delegation hoped that the draft resolutions would be adopted unanimously and that their approval would be followed by prompt and effective action by all the countries and international institutions concerned.

42. Mr. LOPES (Portugal) said that the common determination of Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho to oppose the illegal racist régimes in southern Africa was one of the main causes of their economic predicament. They not only had to cope with a constant influx of refugees, but also, in the case of Mozambique and Botswana, they were suffering heavy human and material losses resulting from armed aggression by military forces of the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia. Furthermore, Mozambique had to bear additional burdens as a result of its decision to close its border with Southern Rhodesia, in compliance with the Security Council resolution on sanctions against that country and as a result of the catastrophic destruction caused by recent floods.

43. His delegation was convinced that the international community would not fail to respond favourably to the appeal made to it by granting to the three countries the indispensable economic and financial means to rebuild their infrastructures destroyed by acts of aggression and to compensate for the losses they had incurred through the implementation of economic sanctions or through opposition to the establishment of the bantustans. He was sure that identical solidarity would be forthcoming in regard to Angola, Cape Verde, the Comoros and Sao Tome and Principe, in accordance with the recommendation in the draft decision proposed by the President (E/L.1786).

44. The request for the inclusion of Angola in the list of the least developed countries already appeared in General Assembly resolution 31/188, which strongly recommended that, in view of the heavy damage caused to its social and economic infrastructures during its fight for national sovereignty, Angola should be included in the list of the most seriously affected countries and considered by the United Nations Special Fund for urgent assistance. Angola had also to face the problems arising from the presence, within its borders, of 5,000 refugees, who, owing to South

Africa's policy of racial discrimination, had fled from Namibia.

45. The Portuguese Government had assisted the new Portuguese-speaking nations in various ways, mainly in the form of help in telecommunications, air and sea transport, fisheries, agriculture and education. Despite its high unemployment rate, Portugal had also accepted approximately 95,000 workers from Cape Verde. It had also concluded various bilateral agreements, based upon the principles of non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual advantage.

46. His delegation supported the three draft resolutions submitted by Yugoslavia and the draft decision proposed by the President. It earnestly hoped that the Council would give proof of its unconditional solidarity with the countries in question by unanimously adopting the drafts.

47. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that his delegation supported the draft resolutions concerning financial, technical and material assistance to Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana and Zambia. The Philippine Government intended to abide by the provisions of the proposals, within the limits of its resources, and had already contributed modest amounts to assist the countries in question. Botswana, Lesotho and Mozambique deserved the full support of the international community in their common struggle against the activities of the racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. The attacks and threats perpetrated by those minority régimes against poor developing countries had absolutely no place in the modern world, which he liked to think was committed to the tenets of interdependence and co-operation among peoples and nations, a world where the yearnings for freedom and self-determination could no longer be stifled and where colonialism no longer had a place.

48. His delegation particularly commended the act of supreme courage on the part of the people of Lesotho in refusing to recognize the so-called independent Transkei, thereby incurring the wrath of the South African régime. Botswana and Mozambique were similarly experiencing serious economic difficulties, human suffering and loss of property as a result of their courageous stand. The international community could not remain indifferent to the plight of those countries.

49. The numerous resolutions adopted by various United Nations bodies, particularly the General Assembly and the Security Council, had gone unheeded by the racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. In the light of that deplorable situation, it might be worth considering a special session of the Economic and Social Council devoted essentially to the question of assistance to countries bearing the brunt of political, economic and military aggression by South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. His delegation would be prepared to join in such an initiative, if deemed necessary.

50. His delegation was also in full agreement with the draft decision proposed by the President on assistance in emergency situations (E/L.1786) and had supported the

General Assembly resolutions mentioned in the draft decision.

51. Mr. SAVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the Yugoslav delegation associated itself with the speakers who had expressed support for Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho in their courageous stand against the illegal minority régimes in southern Africa. To provide all possible help for those States to enable them to consolidate their independence, to embark on the process of accelerated economic development and to resist the continued violations of their sovereignty and the material devastations and losses of human life suffered at the hands of the racist régimes was not merely a gesture of solidarity but was the sacred duty of the international community.

52. All the front-line States were subject to aggression on the part of their racist neighbours. For that reason, the General Assembly and the Security Council had adopted a number of resolutions for the provision of assistance to those countries. The Yugoslav Government had taken an active part in the adoption of those decisions and furnished material and other assistance to the countries in question. His delegation, which had had the honour of introducing the three draft resolutions before the Council on behalf of the Group of 77, hoped that the Council would be able to adopt them without a vote.

53. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to adopt draft resolutions E/L.1783, E/L.1784 and E/L.1785, as amended orally by the representative of Yugoslavia.

Draft resolution E/L.1783, as amended, was adopted [resolution 2094 (LXIII)].

Draft resolution E/L.1784, as amended, was adopted [resolution 2095 (LXIII)].

Draft resolution E/L.1785, as amended, was adopted [resolution 2096 (LXIII)].

54. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision E/L.1786 on assistance in emergency situations.

55. Mrs. MAAZA (Ethiopia) said that her delegation had not spoken in the discussion on the items in question because the leader of the delegation had already expressed Ethiopia's support for the relevant proposals during the general debate at the beginning of the session. Her delegation welcomed the action just taken and wished to express its support of the sister countries of Angola, Cape Verde, the Comoros and Sao Tome and Principe. It wished in particular to support the proposal for their inclusion among the group of the least developed countries. It therefore requested the Committee for Development Planning at its fourteenth session to review all the relevant information concerning the countries in question, and in particular the report of the Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance to Cape Verde, Indochina and Zambia (2079th meeting).

Draft decision E/L.1786 was adopted [decision 252 (LXIII)].

56. Mr. LOROTHOLI (Observer for Lesotho), speaking at the invitation of the President, thanked the Council for

its valuable support and expressed his gratitude to delegations for their many heart-warming statements. Their support was not only support for Lesotho, but active support for those who were suffering directly from the policies of *apartheid* and racism in southern Africa as a whole. He wished particularly to re-emphasize the words of the representative of Jamaica, who had said that the front-line countries must not be the only countries to fight the battle against injustice and *apartheid*. As the hardest hit of all, they must not be allowed, by the accident of geography, to bear the burden alone, but must receive greater assistance, both moral and material, from the international community to wage what should be, in the final analysis, a world war against the evils of racism and *apartheid*. Those words marked the fundamental spirit that had moved the Council to adopt three vital resolutions. He hoped that the fundamental analysis of the various aspects of the southern African situation which they evidenced had been appreciated by all.

57. The criticism which had been expressed concerning the role of the transnational corporations was not unfounded. They, along with various private investors, had unquestionably made a substantial contribution to the strength of racism and *apartheid*. Military support for racism in southern Africa represented the hallmark of double standards. For any nation, at the present stage in the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa, to issue licences for the manufacture of weapons to suppress the liberation struggle of the peoples constituted the height of hypocrisy and an affront to all people of good will. The people of Lesotho hoped that the present meeting would mark a clear step forward in curbing such contemptible gestures of ill-will towards the peoples of southern Africa. *Apartheid* and racism were the prime evils of the world today. Any country which aligned itself with those evils was calling down on itself the condemnation of history.

58. At the present session the many facets of the problems of southern Africa had been explored and exposed. Military aggression against Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia had the same motivation as the intimidation of Lesotho. In all those cases, racism and *apartheid* sought to dominate the peoples of southern Africa by every means of violence and aggression. The white minority régimes in southern Africa had learned nothing from the historical process of decolonization and the universal liberation of man from domination by barbaric concepts in the present century. His Government invited all nations of the world to bring the maximum pressure to bear on the defenders of *apartheid* and racism. The Government and people of Lesotho were there to carry on the struggle right behind the enemy lines, alongside the oppressed peoples of southern Africa, who would welcome the support of the world community as expressed in the adoption of the resolutions.

59. Mr. TLOU (Observer for Botswana), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the positive action just taken by the Council demonstrated the solidarity of the international community on the question of southern Africa. The oppressors of the peoples of southern Africa and of the independent African States in that troubled region would now know that those people did not stand alone in their struggle against the forces of reaction. There

was a common theme in the statements made in the Council, namely, that assistance to the African States adversely affected by the racist situation in southern Africa, while a necessary step, was not the ultimate solution; that could only be achieved by the removal of the oppressive minority régimes.

60. He thanked the Council for acting so rapidly and so positively in the matter of assistance to Botswana and the other States similarly affected. The comprehensive resolution just adopted matched the gravity of the situation. He noted with appreciation the Council's desire that the situation should be reviewed periodically. He also thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, the Co-ordinator of Assistance to Botswana and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for their efforts on behalf of his country. He was grateful to the Group of 77 for their support and to all the delegations which, on behalf of their Governments, had made pledges of assistance to Botswana.

61. Mr. MACE (Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that he wished to express the gratitude of UNHCR to the Governments which had responded positively to the UNHCR appeal. He hoped that others would follow the example, since pledges still fell far short of the target of \$16 million. He also hoped that Governments would allow flexibility in the use of their contributions.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Regional co-operation and development (*concluded**) (E/L.1776/Rev.1)

62. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of the revised draft resolution on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (E/L.1776/Rev.1).

63. Mr. MAINA (Kenya) said that two amendments to the revised draft resolution had been agreed upon in informal discussions. At the end of the third preambular paragraph, the words "and economic" should be inserted between the words "social" and "integration". In operative paragraph 3, the words "*Requests also Member States*" should be replaced by the words "*Calls upon all Member States and others in a position to do so*".

64. The new fifth preambular paragraph mentioned the report of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (see E/L.1774). Although the Council had not yet discussed that report, it was thought that a reference to the section which touched upon the subject of the draft resolution would be appropriate. He hoped that the revised draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

65. Mr. JURASZ (Poland) asked for a vote to be taken on the revised draft resolution, because his delegation had some difficulty in accepting one of the preambular paragraphs.

66. Mr. ONISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, members of the Economic and Social Council, deemed it necessary to issue to following joint statement in relation to draft resolution E/L.1776/Rev.1 entitled "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa".

67. The countries mentioned appreciated the efforts of the African peoples to accelerate the social and economic development of their countries and provided many forms of assistance to the African countries, including assistance in the fields of transport and communications. In many international forums, including the United Nations, they played a constructive part in the consideration of a wide range of questions relating to the social and economic development of Africa. In particular, they fully understood the proposal of ECA for a transport and communications decade in Africa. They had carefully studied draft resolution E/L.1776/Rev.1 and had endeavoured to find a possibility of supporting it through consultations with the sponsors of the resolution. During those consultations, they had expressed the view that the correct course would be to await the holding of the meeting within the framework of OAU referred to in ECA resolution 291 (XIII) (E/5941, p. 63), which was to define a global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa. Only then would the objectives of the proposed plan of action be more or less clearly defined, enabling specific decisions to be taken on the form and amount of the assistance required from the United Nations. As things were, however, the appeal to the United Nations for the mobilization of resources for the development of transport and communications in Africa gave no clear idea of the actual contribution the United Nations would be called upon to make. It was therefore difficult to regard the Secretariat's estimates of the financial implications of the project in question (see E/6033) as final and definitive.

68. In addition, the draft resolution referred to the so-called Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, in which Bulgaria, Poland, the USSR, the Ukrainian SSR and Czechoslovakia had not participated, and for whose decisions, therefore, they could take no responsibility, as had been clearly stated in the joint statement by the Byelorussian SSR, Bulgaria, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, Czechoslovakia, the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, at the 46th meeting of the Second Committee. In view of the above, the delegations of Bulgaria, Poland, the USSR, the Ukrainian SSR and Czechoslovakia would abstain in the vote on draft resolution E/L.1776/Rev.1. In doing so, they would in no way depart from their consistent policy of co-operation with the African countries. They wished only to ensure that the resolutions adopted in the United Nations, and in particular in the Economic and Social Council, were accurate and carefully worded, whatever their sphere of application. Only thus would the organizations in question be able to achieve increased effectiveness in their activities and, in particular, a more rational utilization of the material resources at their disposal.

* Resumed from the 2079th meeting.

69. He requested that the joint statement just made should be included in the record of the meeting.

70. Mr. BRUCE (Canada) said that the African countries had requested the Conference on International Economic Co-operation to give special consideration to the immense problems facing Africa in the development of transport and communications. The Governments of 27 developed and developing countries at that Conference had responded in a constructive way, calling upon donor countries and international institutions to join with African countries in helping to achieve their transport and communications objectives in the coming decade.

71. It was not his intention to prejudge the results of the discussion of the report of the Conference, but to draw attention to section D.8 of part III of that report⁵² which was highly relevant to the draft resolution under consideration.

72. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the revised draft resolution (E/L.1776/Rev.1), as orally amended.

Draft resolution E/L.1776/Rev.1, as amended, was adopted by 40 votes to none, with 5 abstentions [resolution 2097 (LXIII)].

73. Mr. POOLE (United States of America), explaining his delegation's affirmative vote, said that the adoption of the resolution was a significant step towards initiating plans for the improvement of transport and communications in Africa. In the resolution, the work begun in other organizations, including ECA, OAU and ITU, was also recognized. He was pleased that the sponsors had added to the preamble a paragraph referring to the decision of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation concerning African transport and communications.

74. His delegation understood that the adoption of the resolution entailed no increase in total assessed funding by the United Nations for the forthcoming biennium and was therefore not in competition with other equally worthy demands on United Nations resources. It was also his delegation's understanding that the mobilization of the necessary financial and technical resources mentioned in paragraph 2 implied voluntary rather than assessed funding. His delegation would expect that any subsequent increase in assessed funding required in connexion with the provision of assistance to the African States in the preparation of a detailed plan of action for the initial Decade would be met solely through reallocation of resources in favour of

the transport sector, as recommended by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its seventeenth session (see A/32/38, para. 14).

75. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that, in preparing for the Decade, account should be taken of the activities of UNCTAD in endeavouring to meet the needs of land-locked developing countries, in the context of the application of the global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa.

76. Mr. AL-MAHDI (Iraq) said that he had voted in favour of the resolution because he considered that the African States deserved the economic support of the international community. The main source of such aid, however, should be the developed countries, which bore the main responsibility for the backwardness of many countries of the third world, including the African continent.

77. Mr. van LAETHEM (Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the debate on regional co-operation and development had been valuable in providing guidance for the future work of the Secretariat. The appreciation expressed for the work of the regional commissions served to reinforce the suggestions made for expanding their activities. He was pleased to note that those suggestions were in line with the directions his department had been endeavouring to follow in the past two years. Some delegations had rightly pointed out that additional resources would be needed to carry out those additional activities. He hoped that additional budgetary provisions would be forthcoming.

78. It was of particular importance to the Secretariat to see how the idea of increased regional co-operation in dealing with certain major problems such as those of transport, energy, water, communications and some large-scale industrial projects was gaining ground. It was also clear that some developing countries were becoming conscious of the advantages of planning their development together with their neighbours. Such trends should receive the full support of the regional commissions.

79. The Secretariat had noted the numerous appeals for the continuation of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system for the assistance of certain countries or peoples in a particularly difficult situation, in particular Lebanon.

80. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 4.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

⁵² See foot-note 12 above.