

2077th meeting

Thursday, 21 July 1977, at 3.35 p.m.

President: Mr. L. ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia)

E/SR.2077

AGENDA ITEM 4

Regional co-operation and development (*continued*)
(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, E/L.1775-1778)

1. Mr. DØRUM (Norway) expressed his satisfaction that the regional commissions were preparing themselves to take a more active part in the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and of various major United Nations Conferences relating to economic and social development and to the establishment of a more just international order.

2. The observations made by the Executive Secretary of ECE (2071st meeting) on the state of affairs in the region were fairly encouraging. ECE represented an important political factor in the development of East-West trade relations, which had shown remarkable improvement, but

he shared the Executive Secretary's concern with regard to the unbalanced growth of trade and its somewhat static composition.

3. After 30 years of existence, the Commission should take up new responsibilities, especially in the fields of the environment, science and technology, transport and energy. In particular, the role of ECE in the establishment of a new international economic order should be stressed. Fundamental to that task was the development of closer co-ordination and more efficient regional and global co-operation with all relevant United Nations bodies and inter-governmental agencies, with a view to avoiding duplication and overlapping. Such co-ordination and co-operation was particularly desirable in the field of assistance to developing countries.

4. On the subject of the environment, it seemed that there was now sufficient political will to deal in concrete terms with some of the most pressing problems. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Commission had

decided to pay particular attention to the protection of the environment, especially with respect to transfrontier air pollution in the region.

5. His delegation also welcomed the decision taken by ECE to co-operate fully and actively in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The less developed countries had every right to share in the knowledge and resources accumulated by the industrialized countries in the field of science and technology.

6. In conclusion, he declared that, provided there was true political will among Governments, the role of ECE could not fail to become increasingly important.

7. Mr. GARCIA TEJEDOR (Observer for Spain), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that, because of its historic and social links with the countries of Africa, America and Asia, his country attached special importance to the question of interregional co-operation.

8. Spain was playing an increasingly active part in the work of ECE and was pleased to note ECE decision B (XXXII) to encourage economic co-operation in the Mediterranean in implementation of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (E/5944, p. 99). It was essential for the maintenance of peace and security in the region that co-operation among the Mediterranean countries should be strengthened both at the national level and within the three regional commissions of which they were members. The regional commissions were not watertight compartments, and any initiative calculated to stimulate co-operation should be supported; that was exactly why his country had always favoured the participation of the non-European Mediterranean States in activities connected with the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

9. After a long association with the activities of ECA, his country had given up its status as an associate member of ECA when its responsibilities in Africa had ended. That did not mean, however, that it was no longer interested in ECA activities.

10. The present democratization of political life in Spain entailed important consequences at the international level. Spain had acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and had ratified a number of ILO conventions on trade-union freedom.

11. In the economic field, his country was familiar with development problems and was especially aware of the difficulties facing developing countries at the present time because of the uncertainty of the economic situation. It was really alarming to see that the gulf between the industrialized countries and the developing countries was widening. Consequently, no effort should be spared to remedy the situation in a realistic, effective and humane manner. Spain accordingly supported the plans being drawn up within the United Nations system for a new international development strategy.

12. In conclusion, he pointed out that the Economic and Social Council, the body responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the regional commissions, had strengthened the powers of those commissions by its resolution 2043 (LXI), thus opening the way for more effective action in co-operation for development.

13. Mr. AL-MAHDI (Iraq) pointed out that the increase in GDP in the ECWA region had been much less in 1975 than in 1974 and had been concentrated mainly in the oil-exporting countries; that showed the heavy dependence of the region on the export of one vital non-renewable commodity. It was a regrettable development, for there was need for balanced growth in all sectors of the economy. The countries of the region had been faced with strong inflationary pressure originating in the developed countries. The indexation of the prices of primary commodities exported by developing countries and their imports of manufactured and capital goods and services would help to stabilize world markets and lessen the adverse effects of fluctuations in commodity markets, thus contributing to the establishment of the new international economic order.

14. Nor was the situation in the agricultural sector satisfactory, for the region was the greatest food importer, in *per capita* terms, among the developing regions. It was essential that the agricultural potential of the area should be fully exploited, so that dependence on imported food could be decreased and food reserves built up. His delegation deplored the attitude taken by certain major industrialized countries which were trying to use food as a means of exerting political and economic pressure.

15. In the manufacturing sector, regional co-operation would help to bring about the necessary progress. Industrialization in the area should be based mainly on the utilization of hydrocarbon resources. Iraq, together with the other oil-producing developing countries, would like the share of the exports of petroleum derivatives in relation to crude oil exports to be increased. If that goal was to be achieved, developed countries would have to eliminate the tariff and non-tariff barriers which hampered the export of manufactured products from the developing countries; unfortunately, the United States of America had included in its generalized scheme of preferences discriminatory measures aimed at excluding the oil-producing countries members of OPEC from those preferences. In its development plans, Iraq was giving the highest priority to the processing of crude oil, and the nationalization of the oil sector had enabled that sector to be integrated with the rest of the economy and to generate new industries. Iraq's new five-year development plan, which placed special emphasis on the development of the socialist sector as the leading element in the economic and social development of the country and which aimed at the achievement of a minimum yearly growth of 16.8 per cent in national income and 13.3 per cent in *per capita* income, required vast resources and capital.

16. The problem of the development of human resources was the main constraint on development in the ECWA region; a major policy issue in that respect was the linkage of educational programmes to employment and national economic needs. Iraq had already made provisions in that

field and hoped that, in the contracts concluded with the developing countries, the developed countries would take steps to facilitate the training of personnel in those countries.

17. On regional co-operation, his country believed that co-operation among Arab countries was a prerequisite for Arab unity and it therefore supported the activities of the Arab organizations and other bilateral and multilateral schemes of economic co-operation, particularly the regional projects undertaken by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries. He was happy to note the progress in technical co-operation in the region and the development of co-operation between States members of ECWA and developing countries in other regions, which had deepened after the successful efforts of OPEC countries to obtain a fair price for oil.

18. It was stated in the penultimate paragraph of the document entitled "Review of economic and social conditions in the ECWA region, 1975 and 1976" (E/5979) that some Arab oil-producing countries, including Iraq, were making investments in developed market-economy countries. He wished to make it clear that his Government did not invest any capital in developed market-economy countries. Not only did it need external aid to finance its development plans and projects, but it considered that any surplus capital accruing to Arab oil-producing countries should be utilized first of all within the Arab region and secondly in other developing countries. He therefore asked the Secretariat to make the necessary corrections to the document in question.

19. With respect to the resolutions adopted by ECWA at its fourth session (E/5969, chap. III), he drew particular attention to resolutions 38 (IV) concerning the project for public finance and administration in favour of the least developed countries in the region, 41 (IV) concerning the programme of work and priorities of the Commission, 39 (IV) on regional co-operation in the field of water resources development and 51 (IV), which dealt with the question of establishing a regional centre for the transfer and development of technology for Western Asia. Iraq attached even more importance, however, to two other resolutions.

20. Resolution 36 (IV) would enable the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate fully in ECWA. Iraq strongly supported that resolution and considered such membership to be a natural and logical step in the evolution of the position of that Organization as sole representative of the Palestinian people. The Palestine Liberation Organization already participated in a large number of international conferences and organizations, particularly in conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations, in which it enjoyed permanent observer status. Accordingly, its admission to full membership of ECWA would facilitate the task of the Commission, would enhance the international position of the Palestine Liberation Organization and would help to strengthen its struggle against Zionism and racism and thereby enable the Palestinian people to attain the goals of liberating their occupied country and achieving their independence. His delegation therefore hoped that the Council would adopt the resolution by consensus. It also

supported ECWA resolution 37 (IV) calling for the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to membership of the Commission. In addition, he drew the attention of the Council to ECWA resolution 40 (IV) on the reconstruction and development of Lebanon and urged all the specialized agencies to co-ordinate their efforts to assist Lebanon through ECWA.

21. Lastly, he deplored the fact that no financial resources had been made available for 1977 for strengthening the role of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation. The strengthening of the regional commissions was a means of facilitating economic co-operation among developing countries and he hoped that the Secretary-General would make the necessary financial resource available.

22. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece), speaking on a point of order, pointed out that the representative of Iraq had spoken about two draft resolutions which had not yet been submitted to the Council. His delegation wished to speak about those two draft resolutions and wondered whether it was appropriate to do so at that point.

23. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq) pointed out that in its statement his delegation mentioned certain resolutions which were part of the ECWA report, expressing the hope that the Council would endorse them; it had not referred to any draft resolution submitted to the Council.

24. Mr. KOSSAR (Iran) said that he was pleased to see that ESCAP, of which Iran was a member, had reorientated its activities to fit in with the new international order. At its thirty-third session, the Commission had adopted resolution 172 (XXXIII) on the integrated programme on rural development (E/5943, p. 50), which was of vital importance because the economies of most of the countries in the region were based primarily on agriculture. In the case of Iran, rural development featured among the main development priorities. Resolution 171 (XXXIII) on economic and technical co-operation among developing ESCAP countries (*ibid.*, p. 48) was designed to promote collective self-reliance on the part of the countries concerned, which now had five training and research institutions, the most recent of which was the Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development at Teheran. ESCAP had also studied the problems of the least developed and the land-locked countries of the region and had adopted resolutions on the matter, but if it was to put all its decisions into effect, its secretariat would have to be strengthened. He hoped that full support would be forthcoming from the Council.

25. ECWA had recently adopted resolution 40 (IV) on the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. In view of the heavy losses and damage suffered by that country, the resolution deserved unanimous approval by the Council. His delegation also fully supported the ECWA recommendation in its resolution 37 (IV) concerning the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to membership of the Commission.

26. In studying the ECWA report on its fourth session, his delegation had noticed that reference was made in paragraph 98 of section A of annex II to "Gulf countries" and "Gulf States". If the expression "Gulf" was to connote

the body of water known officially within the United Nations system at the "Persian Gulf", he wished to insist that in future documentation the full title and official United Nations terminology should be used.

27. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that his Government, as a member of ESCAP, endorsed all the decisions adopted by that Commission at its thirty-third session and felt that, on the whole, the manner in which all the regional commissions were fulfilling their role as focal points for United Nations activities at the regional level was satisfactory, as also was the work they were undertaking in preparation for certain major United Nations conferences and in the implementation of decisions taken at those conferences.

28. 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) showed that growth in the countries of South and South-East Asia in the 1970s had slowed down markedly as compared to the 1960s and that the peoples in the region had the lowest *per capita* income in the world. It was doubtful whether the ESCAP developing countries would be able to attain the targets laid down in the International Development Strategy by the end of the current decade.

29. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP had announced (2071st meeting) that the future strategy for his Commission would be to promote growth combined with social justice, which meant that high priority would have to be given to development of the rural sector in the member countries. The Philippine delegation was in full accord with that approach, because its Government had always given due emphasis to the social aspects of development and acted on the principle of encouraging self-reliance among peoples.

30. The fact remained, however, that side by side with national efforts the entire international community should increase its efforts to eradicate the external causes of the difficulties encountered by ESCAP countries. Those difficulties arose mainly from their vulnerability vis-à-vis the developed countries in the field of trade, investment and other aspects of economic relations. The regional commissions, for their part, should support and supplement the efforts made at the international level.

31. His delegation therefore welcomed both the measures adopted to strengthen the role of the regional commissions in promoting regional and interregional co-operation and the decision taken by ESCAP and ECLA to include the question of economic co-operation among developing countries on the agenda of their regular sessions. He was interested to see that ECA had already set up an Office for Economic Co-operation within its secretariat.

32. The subject of co-operation among developing countries would reach a high point in 1978 with the holding of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. The regional commissions would certainly make a major contribution to preparations for that Conference, especially if they submitted their proposed joint documents on the subject. Another group of

countries in the ESCAP region, namely ASEAN, was making successful efforts to reinforce economic co-operation among its five members (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines).

33. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP had described the resources at the Commission's disposal as inadequate to carry out its programme. The Philippine delegation therefore endorsed the ESCAP decision to urge member and donor Governments to increase their contributions. ESCAP should also be in a position to co-ordinate the execution of its programme more closely with other agencies in order to put the resources made available by the latter of the optimum use. It was encouraging that UNDP had substantially increased its indicative planning figures for Asia.

34. Mr. BOTERO (Colombia) said that the annual report of ECLA (E/5945 and Add.1) provided a very good picture of the situation of the countries in that region during 1976, which had on the whole been a somewhat bleak year for the non-oil-exporting countries. The targets laid down in the International Development Strategy with regard to official development assistance and growth rates for the industrial sector had not been reached and, despite measures taken by the international community in the sphere of trade, exports of Latin American countries continued to encounter all kinds of tariff and non-tariff barriers. It was therefore not surprising that those countries had come to the conclusion that they would have to pursue primarily a policy of self-reliance.

35. That did not mean that the international community was absolved from its responsibilities. The application of the Integrated Programme for Commodities could be expected to place trade on a much more equitable footing and, in the case of some commodities, existing machinery had already proved to be of value to both producers and consumers. The establishment of a common fund for financing commodity buffer stocks, however, was liable to have a detrimental effect in the long term on prices for certain commodities such as coffee, which undoubtedly posed a structural problem of over-production. The international community should therefore concede to developing countries the right to form producer associations for each primary commodity, which would organize marketing, regulate trade and increase the export earnings of producer countries, thereby promoting the sustained development of the world economy. That would be a major advantage to all concerned.

36. It was also essential that developing countries should be given an opportunity to extract, exploit, develop and market their natural resources in the interest of their own economic and social development. Foreign participation in the exploitation of those natural resources could take a wide variety of forms both for the host country and for the foreign concerns, but the object should be to unify the aims of the parties concerned with regard to control over the resources, apportionment of revenue, employment and transfer of technology.

37. In conclusion, he submitted a draft decision sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Philippines and Togo, inviting the Holy See to attend

sessions of the regional commissions (E/L.1775). For a long time past, the Holy See had been taking an interest in United Nations activities and had stated that it would be prepared to collaborate with various agencies of the United Nations system, on the understanding that such co-operation would be primarily concerned with human questions and would not touch on political questions. His delegation did not think that there should be any difficulty about granting the Holy See the right to attend sessions of the regional commissions as an observer.

38. Mr. AN Chih-yuan (China) noted that in his report on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions (E/5997), the Secretary-General had laid special emphasis on co-operation among developing countries, a subject which would henceforth be included regularly in the agenda of the sessions of the regional commissions. His delegation fully endorsed that principle, since the strengthening of regional co-operation was of major significance to the development of national economies on the basis of self-reliance and to the establishment of a new international economic order. The countries of the Asian and Pacific region, especially the South-East Asian countries, were actively expanding their mutual economic co-operation in such fields as trade and shipping. In Africa, a number of regional bodies for economic co-operation had been established in recent years, including the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes. The Declaration on Afro-Arab Economic and Financial Co-operation,³⁷ adopted at the first Afro-Arab Summit Conference, held at Cairo in March 1977, reflected the desire of the African and Arab peoples to develop their national economies through mutual aid and co-operation. The Latin American countries, too, had established various regional bodies which reflected the immense power of unity of those countries in the struggle to safeguard their national rights and interests and to oppose economic hegemonism; meanwhile, they had strengthened bilateral and multilateral economic co-operation among themselves. All those efforts by the third-world countries to develop regional economic and technical co-operation in the struggle to strengthen their unity and collective self-reliance and to defeat imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism would surely lead in the end to the establishment of a new international economic order.

39. In its resolution 36 (IV), ECWA recommended that the Palestine Liberation Organization should become a full member of ECWA. Since that Organization had been recognized by all the Arab States and many other countries as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and since the Chinese Government and people had consistently supported the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights, his delegation fully supported the EWA resolution and hoped that the Council would adopt the proposal made in that connexion in draft resolution E/L.1778.

40. After hearing the statement by the representative of Lebanon (2075th meeting) concerning the difficulties facing his country in the recovery of its economy, the

Chinese delegation hoped that ECWA and all other appropriate bodies would provide the assistance needed by the Lebanese Government and people.

41. Mr. ONISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his Government attached great importance to the activities of the regional commissions, which had a direct impact on economic development and co-operation at the regional level. The Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which contained specific recommendations for co-operation in the economic, scientific, technological and environmental fields, had brought about an intensification of the activities of ECE. In two years, ECE had already contributed much to the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act, although there was a great deal yet to be done, since some Western countries were still raising obstacles to East-West economic, trade, scientific and technological relations. On the other hand, the socialist countries were fostering all-European co-operation among countries with different economic systems, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference.

42. At the thirty-second session of ECE, the Soviet Union had presented a list of subjects which might be studied within the framework of all-European congresses or intergovernmental conferences. Those conferences should lead to all-European agreements and to programmes of action with regard to transport, energy and the environment. Although the Soviet proposal had been rather coolly received, the Commission, in section II of its resolution 1 (XXXII) (E/5944, p. 96), had invited the Executive Secretary of ECE to carry out a detailed analysis, in consultation with the Governments of member States and with the assistance of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems, of those topics which might be appropriate for consideration at a high-level meeting on the protection of the environment. His own country had already let the Executive Secretary have its observations on the topics which could be submitted at such meetings. It supported the Soviet proposal, in the conviction that such all-European congresses would not only help to solve current European problems but might also serve as a model for the rest of the world.

43. Mr. STIBRAVY (United States of America) said that the regional commissions had demonstrated their ability not only to take on heavier responsibilities but also to redirect their programmes and activities towards the solution of current problems. They had drawn up programmes calculated to stimulate co-operation among developing countries, which the Council considered one of the most promising forms of international action.

44. In its annual report (E/8941 and Add.1), ECA had stressed the difficulty of the problems facing the African countries. On the initiative of its Executive Secretary, it had elaborated an integrated development Strategy intended to maximize not only the rate of development, but also social justice and equity. His delegation was pleased to see that ECA was stressing the transformation of agriculture, the integrated development of industry and the accelerated development of the rural sector, and that prominence was given in its work programme

³⁷ A/32/61, annex II.

(E/5941/Add.1) to the attack on mass poverty and the problem of rural transformation. It also welcomed the success of the Lagos Pledging Conference, which was due both to the efforts of the Executive Secretary of ECA and to the generous response of the contributing African countries.

45. The satisfaction of the basic needs of populations was also a central concern of ESCAP, whose Executive Secretary had rightly asserted (2071st meeting) that the problem could not be a matter solely for the less privileged countries and that, although it largely affected the rural sector, it should be taken into account in the formulation of policies at all levels. The satisfaction of basic needs, however, could in no circumstances constitute the final objective of development; it could only be an essential first step towards the improvement of the quality of life.

46. ECLA and its secretariat were also anxious to harmonize social justice and economic development, so that the peoples of the region could share in the fruits of its impressive economic expansion. At the seventeenth session of the Commission, there had been a fruitful dialogue between the developing countries and the developed countries members of the Commission. Despite the difficulties faced by the countries of the region, it was encouraging to hear the Executive Secretary of ECLA state (2072nd meeting) that Latin America was on the way to becoming one of the major industrial regions of the world in terms of both rate of growth and diversity of production.

47. His country, too, was satisfied with the results of the thirty-second session of ECE, at which the Commission had taken appropriate steps to carry out the responsibilities assigned to it by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. So far as the question of convening an all-European congress on the protection of the environment was concerned, his delegation had already made known its views and had indicated the conditions which would have to be met beforehand.

48. 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 particularly interesting, since such analyses, based on various sources, would make it possible to establish a new international development strategy on firm foundations and would help to preclude unrealistic conclusions and perhaps irrelevant recommendations regarding its objectives. It was important that the studies and projections should be based on proper and consistent methodology. In that respect, he welcomed the decision of the Committee for Development Planning to convene in the latter half of 1977 a working group to study the matter (E/5939, para. 89).

49. His delegation had listened with sympathy and interest to the statement made by the representative of Lebanon at the 2075th meeting of the Council and had noted ECWA resolution 40 (IV) on the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. Between November 1975 and December 1976, his Government had provided Lebanon with aid to the value of \$19 million to solve humanitarian problems, including \$4 million committed to the Special United Nations Fund for Lebanon set up in response to the

appeal by the Secretary-General. In February 1977, it had announced a new \$50 million programme, which was already being implemented. One of the priority projects of that programme was the provision of \$5 million for the immediate installation of essential equipment by the port of Beirut, since the operation of the port had a significant effect on the implementation of various other programmes. Lastly, President Carter had asked Congress to provide additional funds for continuing assistance to Lebanon during 1979.

50. Mr. FARHANG (Afghanistan) said that he considered that the regional commissions could play a useful role and that UNDP should co-operate closely with them. His country had participated actively in the sessions of ESCAP. The thirty-third session, which had taken place in April 1977, had shown that significant progress was being achieved in the different activities of the Commission. His delegation attached great importance to ESCAP resolutions 177 (XXXIII) on special measures in favour of the land-locked developing countries and 178 (XXXIII) on special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries (E/5943, pp. 54-56). Those resolutions called for special efforts, since similar decisions adopted by other bodies, such as resolutions 62 (III),³⁸ 63 (III)³⁹ and 98 (IV)⁴⁰ of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, had not been fully implemented.

51. Referring to chapter III of the report of ECWA on its fourth session (E/5969), he said that his delegation endorsed ECWA resolution 36 (IV) on the admission of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a full member of that Commission. There was no danger of that decision constituting a dangerous precedent, since the case of that Organization was unique. It was recognized as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, who had been driven from their home by aggression and the illegal occupation of their territory; it was a full member of the non-aligned movement and the League of Arab States and its admission to ECWA had been unanimously recommended by the members of ECWA itself.

52. His delegation also supported ECWA resolution 37 (IV) concerning the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to membership of that Commission. The illegal occupation of part of its territory which lay in Asia could not serve as a reason for denying it admission.

53. Lastly, his delegation approved ECWA resolution 40 (IV) concerning the reconstruction of Lebanon. The magnitude of the damage inflicted on that country justified generous aid from the international community.

³⁸ *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.D.4), annex I, sect. A.1, p. 68.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 74.

⁴⁰ *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10), part one, sect. A.1, p. 22.

54. Mr. MCGILCHRIST (Jamaica) said that the regional commissions had a special and important part to play within the United Nations. His delegation had found the results of the ECLA Ministerial Meeting in Guatemala in May 1977 particularly interesting. ECLA had advanced, in the Guatemala Appraisal (resolution 362 (XVII)) (E/5945, p. 134), the concept of "integral development", which called for planning to ensure full participation by the poorest members of society in the social, political and economic activities of their respective nations. Jamaica naturally supported that concept and welcomed the fact that ECLA was to help Governments in devising programmes to improve income distribution in the developing countries of the region. The success of that initiative would obviously depend on the restructuring of the relations between the developing and the industrialized countries, on the lines indicated in the Declaration and the Plan of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

55. Jamaica was also pleased to know that ECLA intended to promote further measures of regional economic co-operation and integration, to strengthen relations with other international bodies and the industrialized world, and to continue to promote trade among all the developing countries. The various regional bodies had already done good work in that regard, but there was need to consolidate the regional economic integration essential to the development of Latin America.

56. The recent world economic crisis had resulted in a new awareness of the interdependence of all countries. The developed countries had realized that their well-being depended on that of other parts of the world and they must now realize also that a more equitable redistribution of economic wealth was a matter of justice, not charity.

57. Justice could only be achieved by the restructuring of the international economic order. Each region should intensify its efforts to that end. The Conference on Economic Co-operation Among Developing Countries held at Mexico City in 1976 had provided the necessary impetus in that respect, which should now be pursued. Jamaica therefore welcomed the steps taken by ECLA and ECA to increase co-operation between the two regions.

58. Since commodities accounted for 85 per cent of the exports of the ECLA region, it was obvious that the world crisis and unstable commodity prices had had serious effects on Latin America. The problem of debt and debt servicing could not be isolated from trade issues. The developed countries should facilitate the access of the developing countries to capital markets on favourable terms, increase their contribution to international and regional financial institutions, and be more attentive to the initiatives of the developing world to alleviate the debt service burden of the poorest nations.

59. With regard to relations between the public and the private sectors, clear policies towards foreign investment were essential. Latin America should co-operate in the formulation of a code of conduct for transnational corporations. Moreover, since it was taking steps to diversify the economy by increasing its production of manufactured

goods, it was only fair to enable it to sell its products in international markets. He urged the developed countries to bring their policies into line with the Tokyo Declaration, for up to now the developing countries had been disappointed with the slow progress of the multilateral trade negotiations and with the negotiations on commodities. He also regretted the unsatisfactory results of the first United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, held from 7 March to 2 April 1977.

60. Reverting to the ECLA Ministerial Meeting held in Guatemala, he said that his delegation had noted with interest the useful work of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and the Latin American Demographic Centre, which was to undertake work on migration, in particular the rural exodus. It was also glad to see that studies on several technological problems arising in Latin America were to be submitted to a preparatory regional meeting for the all-important United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

61. Despite all the important work undertaken by ECLA, the time had perhaps come to see whether its existing structure should not be changed, in view of the increasingly important role that the regional commissions would be called upon to play in the development of the countries of their region.

62. Mr. MESTIRI (Tunisia) said that he would like to comment on the draft resolutions before the Council, some of which were being sponsored by Tunisia. One of those resolutions concerned the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (E/L.1776). Tunisia hoped that the Council would be able to support that African initiative. The developed countries had reacted favourably to the idea when it had been discussed at the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation and he hoped that that reaction would be confirmed in the Council, for the proposed decade would enable Africa to overcome one of the major obstacles to its development and to co-operation between its various regions. ITU could make an important contribution to the success of the Decade.

63. The draft resolutions proposed by ECWA should not give rise to any problems, whether on the subject of aid for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, the victim of a situation for which it was not responsible, whose rehabilitation would certainly contribute to peace in the region, or of the admission of Egypt to membership of ECWA, which was the logical consequence of a historical, geographical, economic, political and human situation.

64. The third draft resolution, approved unanimously by ECWA, concerned the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the work of the Commission and was in conformity with the steps taken by the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council to help the Palestinian people. The text, submitted in document E/L.1778, was completely in line with the decisions already adopted, and it did not state or imply that there would be any change in the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Legally, it could hardly constitute a precedent. Tunisia had respect for legal scruples, but in the

case of the Palestine Liberation Organization it knew that the reservations were mainly, even solely, of a political nature. Tunisia recommended that the Council should adopt the draft resolution unanimously, for it was convinced that it would help to reintegrate the Palestinian people in the economic life of the region pending the recovery of all their national rights.

65. Mr. MAINA (Kenya), introducing draft resolution E/L.1776 entitled "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa" on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the draft resolution was based on one of the resolutions adopted by ECA at its thirteenth session, held in February 1977 (fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers). The participants had considered the inadequacy of transport and communications to be among the major obstacles to the economic development of the region. They had also noted that it was one of the sectors where it was possible, and urgently necessary, to make great improvements in order to facilitate economic co-operation in Africa.

66. During the last five to ten years, OAU, in collaboration with ECA, had taken several initiatives in the matter, particularly with respect to the establishment of an African road network, the rationalization of Africa's railway system and the establishment of a Pan-African Telecommunication Network. Nevertheless, much remained to be done in that pivotal sector if a decisive impetus was to be given to the development of the African economy.

67. ECA and OAU had been requested to convene as soon as possible a meeting of Ministers from member States to define a strategy for the development of transport and communications, including telecommunications, in Africa. The strategy would be put into effect during the proposed decade, which would start in 1978. Technical and financial resources would be needed, and that was the purpose of draft resolution E/L.1776. The draft resolution was self-explanatory; it was mainly procedural and the text was clear. He hoped that the Council would adopt it by acclamation and that, if its decision was confirmed by the General Assembly, the decade would receive the technical and financial support of all States Members of the United Nations and of the various competent specialized agencies.

68. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he was surprised that the Kenyan representative had described the draft resolution as procedural, because it contained a series of requests with quite large financial implications. He would like the Kenyan representative to enlighten him on the subject.

69. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic), introducing draft resolution E/L.1777 concerning the admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to membership of ECWA, said that the draft resolution followed up resolution 37 (IV) adopted by ECWA at its fourth session, in April 1977. Under paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1818 (LV), it was the responsibility of the Council to decide on the recommendation of the Commission, upon further applications for membership of the Commission.

70. For the reasons already mentioned by the Tunisian representative it was logical that Egypt, which was already a

member of ECA, should now be admitted to ECWA. Egypt was part of the ECWA region, with which it had economic, social and cultural links. In any case, it would not be the first country to be a member of more than one regional commission. He recommended that the Council should adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

71. Mr. YUNUS (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution E/L.1778 concerning the admission of the Palestine Liberation Organization to ECWA, said that Lebanon and Yugoslavia should be added to the list of sponsors.

72. The draft resolution before the Council had received unanimous support from the members of ECWA. The Palestinian problem was unique in the history of human relationships; the security of the whole region depended upon its solution, which the United Nations had been seeking for many years. The United Nations had recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as representative of the Palestinian people, considering it important that it should participate in decisions that concerned its future. The Palestine Liberation Organization was also a full member of the League of Arab States, the Islamic Conference and the non-aligned movement.

73. Draft resolution E/L.1778 had been very carefully drafted so as not to be controversial. In fact, it merely repeated decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and did not seek to change the present status of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the United Nations. He therefore hoped that the Council would have no difficulty in adopting it.

74. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, pointed out that the representative of Iran had employed the term "Persian Gulf" in his statement. His delegation could not accept that name and requested the Secretariat to use only the expression "Arabian Gulf".

75. Mr. KOSSAR (Iran) said that the representative of Iraq had chosen to use an incorrect name for the area separating the Arab peninsula and the Iranian plateau. From time immemorial, as was well known, that body of water had been known under the name of "Persian Gulf", a name used in all encyclopaedias and atlases and by all cultivated men and learned bodies. The United Nations and other international bodies always used it. He therefore hoped that delegations speaking in future would use the expression "Persian Gulf", which was correct and universally recognized, when referring to that body of water. In conclusion, he referred to note AD/311/I.GEN dated 5 March 1971, from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations in New York, in which it was stated that United Nations practice was to use the expression "Persian Gulf" in United Nations documents and maps.

76. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) apologized for intervening in a dispute between two countries with which Greece had friendly relations but said that he fully supported the representative of Iran and had never heard the expression "Arabian Gulf".

77. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq) expressed surprise that the Greek representative had seen fit to intervene in an exchange of views resulting from a right of reply. It was only for the last 80 years or so that the expression "Persian Gulf" had been used to designate what had before then been known as the "Arabian Gulf"; that new designation corresponded to the colonial interests of the time.

78. With respect to the Secretary-General's note of 5 March 1971, he pointed out that since that time, following an initiative taken by Iraq, an agreement had been reached

that the United Nations would use the word "Gulf" only in designating that body of water, and that Iraq and Iran would refrain from bringing the question up at international meetings.

79. Mr. KOSSAR (Iran) said that the Greek representative's remark had been quite justified. He himself had never heard of the agreement mentioned by the Iraqi delegation.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.
