



## CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 7:	
Reports of the regional economic commissions ( <i>concluded</i> )	19

*President*: Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN (Netherlands).

*Present*:

Representatives of the following States: Afghanistan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Holy See.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization.

## AGENDA ITEM 7

**Reports of the regional economic commissions (E/3320, E/3333, E/3340, E/3349; E/L.872) (*concluded*)**

1. Mr. TARRE MURZI (Venezuela) emphasized the importance of the item under discussion and congratulated the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions on their achievements. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was the oldest and most experienced of the regional commissions and it was composed of the most industrialized countries; its work could therefore serve as an example to countries in the other regions. He welcomed the work done on agriculture, coal and steel, as also the efforts to promote trade between eastern and western Europe in an attempt to overcome the Commission's chief obstacle, which lay in the differences of the economic systems of its members. Among the important resolutions adopted at the Commission's fifteenth session (E/3349), he referred to those on assistance to the less developed countries, the improvement of techniques of foreign trade and the collection of information about the work of the other regional economic commissions. Much of the work of ECE was of great interest to his country, which had sent an observer to the Commission's sessions. It was particularly important

to increase the exchange of information and experience between the four regional commissions.

2. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) had made remarkable progress in the short time of its existence. The *Economic Survey of Africa since 1950* (E/CN.14/28 and Corr.2) was a most valuable document, which would fill a gap in economic literature. One of the most important developments in the region was the emergence of the newly independent States. It was encouraging to see how countries which had recently achieved political independence and were now struggling for economic independence were ready to play their full part in regional and international co-operation. The Commission had gained the respect of the governments and populations of the region and he wished it every success in its work. In the circumstances, he thought it was only right that ECA's budget and staff should be increased. Co-operation between ECA and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) promised to be most useful, and should be given every possible support.

3. He shared the concern expressed by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) at the slow pace of economic development of the under-developed countries in comparison with that of the highly industrialized countries (E/3340, para. 254). Latin America, too, suffered from the unfavourable prices of primary products. He was convinced that social disturbances in the ECAFE region had the same source as in Latin America — namely, the low level of living of the population. It was therefore the responsibility of the industrialized countries and the international organizations to help to find solutions to the many and serious problems facing the under-developed countries.

4. The report of ECLA (E/3333) showed that the Commission had carried out its duties faithfully and deserved the appreciation of governments in the region. It was clear, however, from the report and from the Executive Secretary's introductory statement made at the 1113th meeting that the economic situation in Latin America was unsatisfactory. The slower tempo of economic development which had been noted over the past five years was still continuing and it had only been temporarily interrupted by the Suez crisis. There had been an inexplicable decrease in the prices of primary products in spite of the increased demand brought about by the growth of industrial activity in the United States of America and Europe. That situation was a striking example of the vulnerability of many Latin American countries whose economy was at the mercy of international consortia which could hold down the prices of primary products to suit their own interests.

5. Among the internal problems of the region, the report mentioned the inadequate development of agricultural production. The old-fashioned feudal methods used were apt to nullify the Commission's efforts to raise productivity. Many of the political disturbances and tensions of the region had their source in economic factors and it was urgent that something should be done to raise the level of living. He was therefore distressed at the doubts expressed at the 1114th meeting by one delegation about the size of ECLA's budget. Latin America's share in the funds available to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance had been reduced in 1959 and it was consequently out of the question to make further cuts in the budget of the regional commission. As an example of the valuable work being done, he mentioned some of the Commission's chief activities, in particular its help in the preparation of the Treaty establishing a Free-Trade Area (Montevideo Treaty) (E/3333, Annex II) and the assistance given by ECLA experts on questions of industrialization.

6. The ECE had done some preliminary work before the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community but ECLA's assistance in the preparation of the proposed common market for Latin America had been far greater. One of the purposes of the proposed common market was to introduce free trade among its members but the chief aim was to promote co-ordinated economic development, as envisaged in article 16 of the treaty. Because of the special structure of its economy, the comparatively high prices prevailing in the country and the high value of its currency, Venezuela had had some hesitation about joining the common market. Some special measures would have to be devised in order to overcome those difficulties. Nevertheless, his country desired most earnestly to co-operate with the other countries in the region and would favour any movement to increase its trade with all countries throughout the world.

7. The *Economic Survey of Latin America, 1959* (E/CN. 12/541) stated that Venezuela had suffered a reduction in currency reserves due to the speculative outflow of capital. That did not give the whole picture, however, for the decline in reserves had been partly due to increased imports of capital goods required for economic development and of consumer goods to meet the increased demand resulting from the redistribution of wealth. It was true, however, that the outflow of capital had been partly due to psychological reasons and to fears about the possible return of the former régime. He assured the Council that the position had now changed and emphasized that there need no longer be any doubts about the strength of the Venezuelan currency and its free convertibility. During the first part of 1960 there had been a new flow of capital into the country from the United States of America and Europe.

8. Mr. GREEN (New Zealand) emphasized the growing importance of the regional economic commissions in the work of the United Nations as a whole. One of the urgent problems defined in the reports before the Council was the need for the less developed countries to earn sufficient foreign exchange from exports to finance development and, in particular, to avoid interruption in the rate of capital investment. The reports showed

clearly that the demand in industrialized countries for imports of primary products had tended to lag behind the rate of general economic growth, while in the less developed countries demand for imports had risen faster than domestic production. The commissions were, however, aware that the vulnerability of the less developed countries was due primarily to the structure of their economies, in particular from dependence on a narrow range of primary products for export, but steps were being taken to remedy the situation through diversification. Although the objective of a balanced economy was fairly apparent, its achievement was often fraught with difficulties. For example, inasmuch as diversification involved industrialization, it might for a time actually increase the need for imports. Industrialization should of course always go hand in hand with the balanced development of other sectors of the economy. The need for balanced economic and social development had been emphasized on previous occasions and he congratulated ECAFE on its initiative in setting up a Working Party on Economic Development and Planning and on the excellent bulletin which has been produced as a result.<sup>1</sup>

9. Turning to the question of technical assistance, he said that the experience gained by the regional secretariats would be of great value to their co-operation with the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations in giving advice on development problems. For some years to come abnormal demands would be made on the resources available. It seemed appropriate, therefore, that in the interests of economy and the pooling of experience, technical assistance programming should be co-ordinated on a flexible basis with the projects of the commissions. His delegation was glad to note the progress already made in that direction and was confident that such *ad hoc* arrangements did not imply any relaxation of control over centrally financed personnel.

10. The scheme for the development of the Lower Mekong river basin in South-East Asia was an outstanding example of regional co-operation sponsored by the responsible commission and was one in which New Zealand was privileged to participate on an increased scale.

11. His delegation favoured experimentation in the use of the different services which could be provided by the various organs of the United Nations. In the case of the Lower Mekong project, ECAFE had been in an admirable position to co-ordinate the work, whereas in the case of the project for the development of the Indus basin in which New Zealand had also offered to participate, the agency primarily concerned had been the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The stage had not been reached where it would be advisable to use any particular form of machinery or any one group of agencies to perform the co-ordinating role. Nevertheless, the regional commissions by their very nature must increasingly act as focal points for the identification of joint projects and in some cases as suitable agencies for international collaboration in carrying them out.

12. A feature of the period under review was the way in which the notion of economic integration had spread throughout the world. He would not discuss the merits

<sup>1</sup> *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East* (vol. X, No. 3).

of the case in detail but would simply state that from the New Zealand delegation's point of view regional co-operation in economic planning and investment projects was a desirable trend. Regional co-ordination of commercial policies would result in greater economic growth and might also be expected to create an increased demand for imports. The trend towards regional trade blocs might hold dangers in practice for countries outside the region on account of restricted access of non-members to markets, but the countries which had already formed such blocs had generally expressed a desire to pursue outward-looking policies and not to restrict traditional currents of trade. The New Zealand delegation sincerely hoped that such would indeed be the policy.

13. In Europe, a more sophisticated stage of regional co-ordination had led to the creation of specialized trade and economic organizations independent of ECE. That Commission inevitably had a less active part to play than those in the other regions. Nevertheless, ECE was a useful forum for the discussion of the expansion of trade between eastern and western Europe, and its role in the formulation of principles and procedures governing such trade would depend on the countries directly involved. His delegation would welcome any satisfactory and practical measures which might come out of ECE's efforts to increase the volume of trade between countries organized on different economic principles.

14. Since the end of the Second World War, attention had been concentrated on the problems of the poorer countries to an extent that had never been known before. At the same time there had been a rapid expansion in the operational activities of international organizations with an increasing orientation towards field work. Consequently, the regional commissions had grown increasingly important. To be fully effective their work must be co-ordinated and it was the task of the Council to co-ordinate their activities with the other work of the United Nations.

15. Mr. VIDAL (Brazil) said that his government was convinced that in modern times most economic problems were world-wide in scope and that consequently the activities of one regional commission might often serve as a guide to those of other commissions. His Government was accordingly greatly interested in the work of all the regional economic commissions and wished to congratulate them on the results they were achieving with the limited funds at their disposal.

16. He wished to pay a special tribute to ECLA, which through its objectivity and its dynamic activities had rendered immense service to the Latin American countries. It had played a highly practical part in the negotiations that had resulted in the conclusion of the Montevideo Treaty and the outstanding studies it had prepared had been of cardinal importance in laying the foundations for the Latin American Free-Trade Association. Those positive achievements owed much to the energy and the competence of ECLA's Executive Secretary, to whom Latin America already owed thanks for so many invaluable services.

17. As representative of one of the signatories to the Montevideo Treaty, he wished to affirm, as had been done

when the Treaty had been submitted to the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, that the step towards economic integration which had been given practical form in the Treaty was but one of the central objectives of the expansion of international trade between the signatory countries and other countries, for through it they hoped to improve their economies. Indeed, it was to be expected that better utilization resources, increased production and intraregional trade, and the higher revenue derived therefrom would result in a greater demand for goods coming from outside the free-trade area. Thus the Treaty would appreciably foster the free-trade area's trade with other countries, which the signatories to the Treaty had every reason to maintain and expand, since it represented some 90 per cent of the area's total trade and since, therefore, their economies were largely dependent upon it. The Montevideo Treaty should therefore be regarded as the first fruit of the Latin American countries' joint effort to consolidate their economic structures as an essential step towards raising the level of living of their populations. The experiment might prove useful to other regions where similar problems arose and, with the results it had already achieved to its credit, ECLA might give invaluable aid to any other regional economic commission requiring it.

18. Mr. MELLER-CONRAD (Poland) said that the reports of the regional economic commissions on their activities and the statements made by their respective executive secretaries at the 1113th meeting were a valuable contribution to the Council's work. He emphasized the fact that the United Nations and the regional economic commissions could play an increasingly active part in the endeavour to find practical solutions to the world's economic problems. Foremost among such problems were those involved in the development of the various regions of the world, whose solution called for measures of a regional character, and those resulting from trends towards regional economic integration with the consequent reactions they evoked in countries whose interests were thereby menaced.

19. He went on to comment on the long-term programmes of the regional economic commissions and on the relations between United Nations Headquarters and the regional bodies; his conclusion was that decentralization was necessary for such United Nations activities in the economic and social field as did not fall within the competence of the specialized agencies. He also stressed the growing importance, on the one hand, of co-ordination between the work of the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariats of the regional commissions and specialized agencies, and, on the other, of co-operation between the regional commissions themselves. For the executive secretaries of the four commissions to meet once a year at the Council's session did not seem to him enough to ensure satisfactory co-ordination of their Commissions' work. In particular he felt that a study of the problems raised by the development of economic relations between the European countries and those of Africa would require closer co-operation between the secretariat of ECE and that of ECLA.

20. As the very function of the regional economic commissions was to co-ordinate the economic policies

of countries in the regions within their competence, they would find it essential to draw up long-term programmes, particularly for the under-developed areas. Thus the formulation of the methods and principles of long-term economic programming would little by little have to take precedence over advisory functions. It was to be expected that during the next phase of their activities, their functions as a clearing house for long-term regional development plans would become more prominent. In that connexion the contribution of ECLA and ECAFE would be particularly important, although it was scarcely conceivable that ECAFE would be able to cope with its problems effectively as long as the People's Republic of China — the most important State on the Asian continent by reason of its population and its economic potential — and the other socialist States of Asia were kept from participating in its work. Similarly, if ECA was to find a swift solution to the problems of that region, the co-operation of all States concerned, including the German Democratic Republic, was indispensable.

21. The situation which was developing through the process of economic integration within the various regions represented an economic trend whose importance could not be overlooked; it also constituted a threat to the legitimate interests of the countries which did not participate in any regional or sub-regional grouping. The regional economic commissions whose function it was to make an objective appraisal of economic phenomena and whose concern it was to safeguard the economic unity and balance of the regions within their competence, were particularly well placed to continue a systematic analysis of that process of integration and to aid the countries of the region to overcome the difficulties it engendered.

22. Turning more particularly to the work of ECE, he said that, apart from its traditional functions, the Commission could help to facilitate co-operation between the socialist and capitalist countries by seeking means to eliminate obstacles which were, in a sense, the consequences of the cold war or which stemmed from certain prejudices. In practice that would mean, first and foremost, the admission to ECE of the German Democratic Republic, whose economic potential was rapidly increasing, the development of more sustained contacts between the countries of the East and the West, exchange of information of a technical nature, suppression of all measures artificially restricting trade, and elimination of discrimination in economic relations. The ECE should also give more attention to the problem of the economic development of the countries of the region, particularly those of southern Europe. It should put the great experience it had acquired in the course of an already long existence at the disposal of other regional commissions which might desire to make use of it. With that end in view it should be allowed greater flexibility in the matter of internal organization. Thought must be given to the new tasks which would devolve on the Commission as a result of the trend towards decentralization of work in the sphere of technical assistance and of the fact that it would be desirable to intensify research work in connexion with the long-term development of Europe as a whole, and in particular with the development programmes of the under-developed countries. While multilateral action was

indeed of great importance, the importance for those countries of disinterested bilateral action must not be under-estimated.

23. Mr PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) was glad that the Council had decided to discuss the reports of the regional economic commissions in plenary session, thus giving them the importance they deserved. Previous speakers had expressed appreciation of the work of the commissions and, as the representative of one of the less developed countries, he had all the more reason to endorse that appreciation. He would not comment in detail on all the reports but would confine his remarks to ECAFE. Much of what he had to say, however, would also apply to other regions where the problems were similar.

24. Considerable progress had been made by ECAFE; the volume of trade and the amount of foreign aid had both increased during the period under review. The plans to encourage tourism and the valuable work done by the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources were encouraging developments. There were, however, some aspects of the economic situation in Asia which had been causing concern for some time past and were again evident in the most recent report (E/3340). It appeared that the existing difficulties were likely to increase rather than to lessen. The adverse price relationships against raw materials were continuing and it seemed unlikely that the countries affected would be able to offset the loss in the foreseeable future by increasing their exports of manufactured goods. The problem was serious and more vigorous steps should be taken to solve it. There were two aspects to the question — namely, price stabilization and the relationship of price levels of primary commodities to those of industrial products. With regard to price stabilization, consideration had been given in the past to the question of international buffer stocks and he thought that the time had come to pursue that idea further. The relationship between the prices of industrial products and raw materials was a far broader subject; nevertheless, it deserved urgent consideration. Effective action would of course require the co-operation and assistance of the large industrialized countries. Price stabilization and support would enable the countries producing raw materials to earn through their own efforts a substantial part of what was now received in the form of assistance. Moreover, assistance at present was granted under short-term programmes which made careful planning very difficult. He was fully conscious of the arguments against price support, the greatest danger being that higher commodity prices might encourage the use of synthetic substitutes. On the other hand, better prices and, especially, a stabilized market would enable countries producing raw materials to finance a substantial part of their own economic development programmes. If broad international programmes of that nature were at present impossible, the alternative would be for the smaller countries producing primary products to consider regional plans which might lay the foundations for a more comprehensive programme in the future.

25. For several years past some concern had been expressed about the possible effects of the new regional economic groupings in Europe. It was perhaps too soon

to judge the full effect of the European common market on the economies of the countries producing primary products in Asia and the Far East. If, however, it had an unfavourable influence on existing patterns of trade or on the possibilities for expanding trade, new groups would be formed in order to counteract those effects. The net result would be that, in the place of national barriers to trade, there would be new and stronger group barriers. Moreover, individual countries might be forced by the new trend to maintain restrictions on trade and foreign exchange which might otherwise be liberalized. Greater consideration should therefore be given to the need to strengthen the organs of the United Nations which were more universal in their objectives.

26. Turning to the clear and constructive introductory statement by the Executive Secretary of ECAFE (1113th meeting), he drew attention to the latter's observation that, in spite of some real progress, levels of living in many countries were as low as ever and per capita incomes were not rising sufficiently rapidly. In studying the reports of the regional economic commissions the Council should not allow its legitimate satisfaction with what had been achieved to blind it to unpleasant realities.

27. He quoted with approval the passage of the statement made by the Executive Secretary of ECAFE at the 1113th meeting referring to disturbing long-term trends and to the failure of the primary-producing countries of the region to keep pace with the development not only of the industrial countries but also of the primary-producing countries of the rest of the world. As the Executive Secretary had said, a continuing decline in intraregional trade would lead to a shrinking in primary exports and a great increase in import needs for economic development. The essential needs of the region were well described as "more trade and more aid on a long-term basis and in the right direction". The Afghan delegation joined the Executive Secretary in hoping that the present session of the Council would bring the most urgent problems nearer to a satisfactory solution. Afghanistan was deeply interested in the projected Conference of Asian Economic Planners and wished it every success.

28. He found it difficult to agree entirely with the Executive Secretary's reference to growing co-operation between the countries of the region. In the view of his delegation, the situation in that regard was far from satisfactory. Economic pressures arising from political differences had created a dangerous situation, more especially where adjacent countries were concerned. Some countries had unfortunately been using certain regional projects to further their national ambitions and some of the most important projects had been misused or their implementation seriously hindered. He instanced the project for a network of Asian highways referred to in the report (E/3340). In the consideration of measures more attention should be paid by all participating bodies, particularly those associated with the United Nations, to the elimination of any elements which might impede the implementation of useful projects. His delegation would take that matter up again both in ECAFE and in the United Nations. Afghanistan was one of the countries which had suffered in that respect, was still suffering and hoped that it would not have to suffer in future. He asked the Council to pay particular attention to the matter.

29. Mr. GARCIA de LLERA (Spain) associated himself with the previous speakers in congratulating the executive secretaries of the four regional economic commissions on their most interesting amplification at the 1113th meeting of the reports on the Commissions' work.

30. Referring to the ECE, he pointed out that the reduction in the number of working party and sub-committee meetings had had a regrettable effect on the general efficiency of the Commission's work. In striving to concentrate its efforts, ECE must not lose sight of the importance of the tasks to be accomplished. In regard to the annual *Economic Survey of Europe*, he found that each year's edition was increasingly valuable and that by presenting a general survey of European economy and examining various particular problems it succeeded in giving a clear picture of economic developments both in the free-economy countries and in those with a planned economy. ECE had achieved more positive results in the technical than in the commercial field, but it must be noted that the countries which claimed to be the most convinced of the need for developing intra-European trade were not those which were making most effort to attain it. He deplored the fact that ECE had not been more energetic in studying the Mediterranean Development project of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and hoped that that work would receive fresh stimulus with the co-operation of the countries concerned.

31. In regard to the work of ECAFE, the brilliant achievements that could be credited to that Commission, and in particular its efforts to improve agricultural production, were to be commended. Valuable results had been obtained but they were far from sufficient in view of the immense needs of the peoples in that region. He emphasized the importance of the regional projects and of efforts to introduce diversified crops so as to give that region greater autonomy in agriculture. It was well known that if an economic survey were to be of any value it must be based on sound statistics, and he was glad to hear of ECAFE's efforts to train the statisticians who would be working to build up more adequate statistical information than had hitherto been available. He found that in general ECAFE was on the right road in regard to the implementation of major regional projects and he mentioned in particular the admirable initiative the Executive Secretary had taken in trying to develop tourist traffic, which could be a valuable source of revenue for the region.

32. In regard to ECLA, he had been glad to hear that the Montevideo Treaty (E/3333, annex II) had been signed and he welcomed the advantages it would bring to the seven signatory countries. As the Executive Secretary of ECLA had remarked at the 1113th meeting, the free-trade area remained open to other countries in the region and that would help the continent to advance rapidly towards economic integration. He also expressed satisfaction with the assistance ECLA gave the Latin American countries in economic programming. Recalling the magnificent example of solidarity the Council had given in deciding at the 1112th and the 1113th meetings to seek ways of helping the victims of the catastrophe which had devastated Chile, he stressed that international

solidarity should not be shown only when great tragedies plunged a country into mourning and that assistance to under-developed countries should be continuous if those countries' resources were to be systematically developed and used for the greater well-being of their peoples.

33. He wished to stress that his country was following the work of the ECA with great interest. Historically and geographically, the African continent had close ties with Spain. Although only recently established, ECA had already performed valuable work both on its own account and in co-operation with the United Nations, despite the difficulties the Executive Secretary had encountered in recruiting staff. The Commission had done useful work on the compilation of statistics and towards training the necessary staff for working out and implementing regional development projects. The achievement of positive results in as short a time as possible undoubtedly depended to a large extent on the mobilization and co-ordination of all efforts. In that connexion he expressed satisfaction with the favourable outcome (E/3320, resolution 6 (II)) of the suggestion he had made at the 265th meeting of the Economic Committee held during the twenty-eighth session of the Council, that the Federal Republic of Germany should be allowed to take part in the work of ECA. Although they were politically independent, the new countries of Africa would nevertheless need economic assistance, and the contribution of foreign capital would be an important factor in their rapid development.

34. In conclusion, he welcomed the admission to the United Nations of the countries which had recently attained independence and expressed the sincere hope that they would quickly find their way as sovereign States and that their existence would be safeguarded through peace at home and abroad.

35. Mr. ADEEL (Sudan) complimented the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions on the valuable reports they had presented to the Council. He felt that the Council had been right in deciding, at its twenty-ninth session, to discuss the reports at an early date and in plenary session rather than to refer them, as it had done in previous years, for discussion in committee. That decision demonstrated the important place which the regional commissions had come to occupy in international life.

36. He had been glad to hear the Executive Secretary of ECE declare at the 1113th meeting his willingness to co-operate with and render assistance to the other regional commissions, especially ECA. The active exchange of views among the United Nations bodies was an effective means of developing the co-operation essential for the solution of economic and social problems.

37. The Executive Secretary of ECAFE had described at the 1113th meeting how the prices of primary commodities had directly influenced the level of economic activities in Asia and the Far East. Increased exports and an improvement in the terms of trade had helped to create more favourable conditions in 1959 after the setback of the previous year. The Executive Secretary had rightly emphasized the importance of diversifying exports by means of vigorous national policies of economic development. The attention of the industrial countries had once

again been drawn to the interdependence of trade and economies and to the need to help the agricultural countries in their desperate efforts to stabilize the prices of primary commodities.

38. The Executive Secretary of ECLA had given, at the 1113th meeting, a lucid account of the experience of Latin America in tackling the thorny question of economic integration. That great experiment in regional co-operation would provide other parts of the world with invaluable information about the means of handling such problems. It was certain that small countries and territories would benefit from increased economic contacts. The conference of African business men to be held in 1961 could, for example, accentuate the potentialities of intra-African trade.

39. He welcomed the encouraging introductory statement made at the 1113th meeting by the Executive Secretary of ECA. The eyes of the world were on Africa in the present year: many African nations had just attained independence, and others were shortly to do so. All members of the Council were aware of the magnitude of the political, economic and social problems those young nations would have to solve before they could play their full part in the international community. No under-developed nation could hope to solve its immense problems unaided and the sooner the African States were helped by the community of nations to help themselves, the better it would be for mankind and for the cause of peace. His delegation was anxious not to fail in its responsibility towards Sudan's emerging sister nations in Africa. A heavy share of responsibility lay also upon ECA and its secretariat. Increased world attention to Africa would inevitably be reflected in the work of the Commission. As the Executive Secretary had said at the 1113th meeting, the United Nations had started its operations in Africa much later than in the other regions. It was only just and prudent that Africa's share in the new and uncommitted funds of the United Nations should be such as to redress the balance. Means could and should be explored to increase the resources of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It was essential for them to minimize waste by the concentration and co-ordination of their efforts. Although ECA had had only about two years' experience and although the secretariat was making great efforts, his delegation considered that, given the moral and material support of the Council, much more could be achieved. Original research was of crucial importance so that reliable data might be available on which to base development plans. The social aspects of economic development had been especially incorporated in the terms of reference of the Commission (E/3320, annex III) because of conditions peculiar to Africa. His delegation would like to see the research activities of the economic and social sections widened and strengthened by the recruitment of additional qualified staff. The Executive Secretary of ECA should use every means, including personal approaches, to obtain such staff.

40. Much could and should be done in the field of co-ordination, consultation and co-operation. The secretariat of ECA should maintain the closest relations with United Nations Headquarters, avail itself of the experience and assistance of the other regional commissions and take

the initiative in maintaining contact with individual African governments. It should foster by means of conferences, seminars, working groups and joint ventures a similar spirit of co-operation between the African governments.

41. Advisory services should be expanded to the maximum. The vastness of the problems encountered and the dire shortage of trained personnel might temporarily hinder African States from seeing where advice was needed. The secretariat was in a better position to discern the need and had a corresponding duty to take the initiative in supplying advice. Nearly all African governments were anxious to have objective studies and recommendations to guide their future policies. Africa needed the right weapons with which to fight poverty, ignorance and disease. The assistance rendered should not be given in the guise of charity or in order to serve the interests of the donor but in a spirit of brotherhood.

42. Concerted action was essential for the development of the African countries on a sounder economic and social basis. His delegation was interested in the concerted action study of the Maghreb and West African economic integration projects<sup>2</sup> and would welcome an assurance that all governments concerned would help the Executive Secretary to carry out that important study.

43. A much more elaborate study of the implications for African trade and industrial development of non-African economic groupings than the one already issued<sup>3</sup> was impatiently awaited by all African governments. His country was a great believer in free trade. It had made very limited use of import restrictions and it followed a policy of multilateral trade and payments with no preferential treatment. The establishment of the European Common Market with its policy of discrimination against non-members, a policy which could have far-reaching effects on world trade and payments, was, therefore, a source of concern to his delegation. He earnestly hoped that the countries of the common market and the free-trade area would not devote themselves exclusively to the extension of trade in their own areas but would also concentrate on the extension of world trade as a whole.

44. He expressed his appreciation of the action taken by the United Kingdom Government in making application for membership of ECA on behalf of a number of African territories. Such steps would broaden and strengthen the Commission, and he hoped that Portugal, Spain and France would take similar measures.

45. Mr. HESSELLUND-JENSEN (Denmark) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the extremely valuable work performed by the four regional economic commissions, as described in their reports and in the introductory statements of their executive secretaries made at the 1113th meeting.

<sup>2</sup> See Economic Commission for Africa, Report of the First Session (E/3201, paras. 42 and 43) *Economic and Social Council, Official Records: Twenty-eighth session, Supplement No. 2*.

<sup>3</sup> "The Impact of the European Economic Community on African trade" (E/CN.14/29 and Add.1).

46. Although ECE's report (E/3349) was of particular interest to the member countries of the Commission, it described some activities which deserved world-wide attention. ECE was contributing significantly to the establishment of fruitful relations between all countries in the United Nations, and it had taken new and important steps in that direction the previous year.

47. The Danish Government had taken particular interest in the extended studies by the Committee on Agricultural Problems of the provision and consumption of agricultural products within Europe. As a prominent coal-importing country, Denmark had also welcomed the efforts sponsored by the Coal Committee to redress the market situation of coal and coke. The achievements of the Housing Committee in the industrialization of house building and the standardization of building materials had been of considerable practical value to Denmark. He emphasized the important role of the Inland Transport Committee in providing facilities for the extension of intra-European trade.

48. The Special Meeting on the Organization and Techniques of Foreign Trade sponsored by the Committee on the Development of Trade had taken an important step towards the better understanding of the methods applied by member countries in their external trade and payments relations. It had provided a great deal of extremely useful information and had stimulated the consideration of new approaches to the problems involved in freer multilateral intra-European trade.

49. In considering problems of trade between countries with different economic systems, the Danish authorities had been very much assisted by the outstandingly good *Economic Survey of Europe in 1959* (E/ECE/383 and Corr. 1 and 2). His Government had welcomed the tendency of state-trading countries to place greater emphasis on foreign trade. In the previous year, his Government had concluded a number of important agreements with eastern European countries, including the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Poland and Bulgaria, on the settlement of trade balances in convertible Danish kroner. The Danish delegation to the fifteenth session of ECE had therefore expressed its concern at the fact that the state-trading countries seemed to be reorienting their trading relations on a more exclusively intra-orbital basis. The tendency to regard trade with the rest of Europe as merely marginal not only implied a discontinuity in trade relations with those countries but also jeopardized a rational international division of labour. The Danish delegation had accordingly joined in sponsoring the resolution on improvement of techniques of foreign trade which had been adopted unanimously at the fifteenth session (E/3349, resolution 6 (XV)). His Government intended to take an active part in the examination and analysis of the problems of East-West trade envisaged in the resolution. If the Committee on the Development of Trade concentrated its activities on problems admitting pragmatic solutions, he was confident that ECE would once again prove its constructive role in international economic co-operation.

50. In suggesting that the meeting by senior government advisers proposed in resolution 3 (XV) (*ibid.*) should consider as its main item problems of economic growth,

the Executive Secretary of ECE had acted in the same spirit as the Secretary-General, who had emphasized in his statement on the world economic situation (*ibid.*) the importance for the development of the less developed countries of maintaining a sustained and balanced growth of the world economy.

51. He expressed the Danish delegation's sincere gratitude to the Executive Secretary of ECE for his inspiring leadership of the secretariat, to which so many achievements were to be attributed.

52. The PRESIDENT announced that the general debate on agenda item 7 was concluded.

53. He called for comments on the draft resolution submitted jointly by France, Spain, Sudan and the United Kingdom (E/L.872) to replace the draft resolution recommended by ECA (E/3320, part IV).

54. Mr. CHERNYSHEV (USSR) said that his delegation would vote in favour of paragraph 1 of the joint draft resolution as an expression of the great importance it attached to the work of ECA. It would, however, be obliged to abstain from voting on paragraph 2 since that paragraph reflected unfair discrimination in singling out for mention only one State not a member of the United Nations.

55. Mr. MELLER-CONRAD (Poland) requested a separate vote on paragraph 2.

56. The PRESIDENT put paragraph 1 of the joint draft resolution (E/L.872) to the vote.

*Paragraph 1 was adopted unanimously.*

57. The PRESIDENT put paragraph 2 of the joint draft resolution (E/L.872) to the vote.

*Paragraph 2 was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

58. Mr. MELLER-CONRAD (Poland) said that he had abstained from voting because the paragraph had shown unfair discrimination in mentioning the Federal Republic of Germany while omitting to mention the German Democratic Republic.

59. Mr. KAMENOV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation had abstained for the same reason.

60. The PRESIDENT put the joint draft resolution as a whole to the vote.

*The joint draft resolution was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

61. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution contained in part IV of the report of ECLA (E/3333).

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

62. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution contained in part IV of the report of ECAFE (E/3340).

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

63. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution concerning the Commission's annual report and programme of work and priorities for 1960-1961 appearing in part IV of the report of ECE (E/3349).

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

64. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution to give effect to the proposal of the Inland Transport Committee concerning driving licences in international traffic appearing in part IV of ECE's report.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

65. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America) said that the reasons for his delegation's abstention from the vote were identical with those set forth by the United States representative at the fifteenth session of ECE, as reported in paragraph 314 of the report (E/3349).

66. Mr. ERROCK (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the resolution and his Government would do its utmost to implement its recommendations. The third recommendation would, however, require special legislation, which it might prove impossible to enact within the time-limit mentioned.

67. The PRESIDENT announced that consideration of agenda item 7 was concluded. The expeditious manner in which the item had been dealt with justified the Council's decision to consider the reports of the regional economic commissions in plenary meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.