

world countries were situated at a great distance from their markets in developed countries and speedy transport could lessen distances and thus make for more competitive products. Transport by air of a growing part of the exports of developing countries deserved closer study by the competent international organs.

69. The present debate was the first economic discussion in the Council since the adoption of resolution 3362 (S-VII) on development and international co-operation by the General Assembly. That resolution had been a turning point: instead of confrontation, developed and developing countries had chosen the path of negotiation and consensus. Economic problems could not be resolved through majority votes, and the seventh special session had provided the impetus for an important step towards negotiation. That was of particular importance to the countries of Africa, which depended so greatly on the assurance of stable prices which were remunerative and just to producers and equitable to consumers. In Africa the volume of foreign exchange earnings from commodity exports determined not only current standards of living but also the fate of development plans and the possibility of executing development projects. For that reason UNCTAD resolution 93 (IV) on commodities provided for preparatory meetings for international commodity negotiations on individual products from September 1976. It was particularly interesting that countries like Israel, which were developing importing countries lacking in natural resources and which might be adversely affected by measures under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, would be protected by means of appropriate differential and remedial measures.

70. Co-operation among developing countries, being based on national self-reliance, was the core of the development process. The experience of one developing country was in many cases directly relevant to others and combining their efforts would strengthen the developing

countries as a whole. The importance of that principle was now recognized throughout the United Nations system.

71. As an illustration he mentioned the country-wide water management system in Israel, which harnessed all existing resources and apportioned their use under an over-all plan based on the national Water Law. Israel's experience in that field was much in demand; hundreds of trainees from all parts of the developing world had studied the different methods of water exploration and management in Israel and the ultra-economic methods of irrigation developed by Israeli experts.

72. Abundance of sunshine, too, had inspired research and for many years domestic solar water heaters had been a familiar sight in the Israeli landscape. As a cheap source of energy that technology was obviously of immediate interest to the developing world.

73. The scope of such co-operation was only now being fully recognized, and Israel continued to explore further fields for fruitful exchanges of experience with countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

74. His delegation had been saddened to see yet another United Nations body subjected once again to slanderous statements against Israel by certain delegations. Delegations of Israel to the proper United Nations forums had refuted all such false and slanderous allegations and he would not waste the Council's time upon them. Rather would he heed the counsel of President Houphouët-Boigny, whose inspiring leadership of Ivory Coast had enabled that country to make optimum use of its human and natural potential. His delegation saluted the President as a great statesman and thanked him for his constructive and original contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council.

*The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.*

## 2020th meeting

Friday, 9 July 1976, at 10.40 a.m.

*President:* Mr. S. AKÉ (Ivory Coast)

E/SR.2020

### AGENDA ITEM 3

**General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (concluded) (E/5790 and Add.1. E/5806, E/5808, E/5823, E/5825/Rev.1, E/5827, E/5834, E/L.1728, E/L.1729)**

1. Mr. MILI (Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union) said he would describe the ways in which ITU co-operated, within its spheres of competence, in the solution of the problems of development and international economic co-operation.

2. In accordance with its terms of reference under the International Telecommunication Convention, ITU has

fostered the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication equipment and networks in the developing countries, especially by participating in the appropriate programmes of the United Nations. ITU had quickly become aware that the development of telecommunications required close co-operation on a world-wide scale, in particular for the purpose of ensuring the rational exploitation of such limited natural resources as the radio frequency spectrum and the geostationary satellite orbit. That was why it organized so many meetings, such as the World Administrative Maritime Radio Conference (1974), which had made it possible to rearrange the radio frequencies allocated to the maritime mobile services, and the Regional Administrative LF/MF Broadcasting Conference (1975) at which an integrated plan for the use of the radio frequency spectrum had been prepared affecting more than



six sevenths of the population of the globe, including all the countries of Africa. Before the end of the present decade, three other world administrative conferences and two technical conferences would also have important repercussions on economic, social and cultural development. The World Administrative Broadcasting-Satellite Conference, to be held in January 1977, should greatly facilitate the introduction of operational direct broadcasting-satellite systems. In that connexion, he reminded the Council that ITU participated in the work of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was concerned with the political problems relating to the introduction of direct broadcasting-satellites. The second Administrative Radio Conference – the World Administrative Aeronautical Mobile (R) Conference –, also to be held in 1977, would undertake preparatory work concerned with the general revision of the Radio Regulations, which would be completed at the General World Administrative Radio Conference, planned for 1979. At the latter conference, the Table of Frequency Allocations, in operation since 1959, would be brought up to date for all radio communication services and decisions would be taken which would, to a large extent, determine the development of radio communication services for the next 20 years. That revision of the Table of Frequency Allocations would be a positive contribution by ITU to the establishment of a new international economic order. It was an extremely difficult task, since the very uneven development of national radio communication services led to differing appraisals of the need for changes in the Table. Moreover, current equipment had entailed enormous investment, and that would militate against any sweeping changes which might compromise the future of that investment. It should not be forgotten either that in 1959, when the present Table of Frequency Allocations had been adopted, ITU had had 96 members and that it now had 148, the great majority being developing countries.

3. It was regrettable that the importance of telecommunications was still frequently underestimated at the national, regional and international planning stages, though improvements in telecommunication systems and networks had a direct impact on the free flow of information, on education, on the development of trade and industry and in various specialized sectors such as meteorology, shipping and air transport. He was therefore taking the opportunity to launch an appeal to the Council and to request all member States, when planning each sector of the economy, to make due allowance for an adequate telecommunications infrastructure.

4. The world and regional conferences organized under the auspices of ITU were of great importance also from the point of view of the transfer of telecommunication technology. The reports and technical recommendations resulting from their work and from the work of ITU's specialized study groups were submitted to both the industrialized and the developing countries. Moreover, the transfer of technology to the developing countries was also ensured by the seminars organized in every continent and by the large number of missions carried out by experts in the field. In particular, for many years ITU had been helping the developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia to improve their telecommunications through the

creation of integrated regional networks. The success of the work had been largely due to the co-operative efforts of the countries concerned, a logical outcome of which had in addition been the creation of regional intergovernmental organizations in Latin America (Inter-American Telecommunication Conference) and in the Middle East (Arab Telecommunication Union) and steps to create such organizations in Africa and Asia (Pan-African Telecommunication Union and Asia-Pacific Telecommunity).

5. ITU also participated very actively in UNDP. In the last five years, it had administered a large number of projects, with an over-all value of about \$60 million, one third of which had been devoted to Africa, mainly for the setting up of the gigantic Pan-African Telecommunication Network. In 1975, co-ordination of the construction of the Network had led to the holding at Kinshasa of the second Conference of African Telecommunication Administrations, which had been attended by 41 African countries and by representatives of OAU, ECA and the African Development Bank. That Conference had recommended the adoption of an over-all regional policy and the establishment of a Pan-African Telecommunication Union which would have an active role to play in the implementation of that policy.

6. In 1975 also, an ITU mission dealing with monitoring and frequency management had given assistance to some 10 African countries. Two ITU experts had visited 18 African countries to study their installations and to determine their maritime radio communication needs. In many countries of Africa, ITU was taking a special interest in the development of telecommunication facilities in rural areas, to help those countries to make good their deficiencies in that respect. With regard to vocational training, the Governments in Africa had often pooled resources to create multinational training centres, one of which was at Rufisque (Senegal) for the countries of West Africa, one at Nairobi (Kenya) for the countries of East Africa and one at Blantyre (Malawi) for the region of southern Africa.

7. Since 1973, ITU had been trying to give special help to the world's 29 least developed countries, of which 18 were African countries. Unfortunately, having no resources of its own, ITU had only been able to provide assistance equivalent to \$800,000 in 1975, the whole of which had been financed by UNDP; that was barely 13 per cent of the assistance which ITU had provided for the African continent as a whole during that year. ITU hoped that the technical assistance provided to those countries by the United Nations and the international community would be more substantial in the next few years.

8. On the vital problem of restructuring the United Nations system, ITU had co-operated with the *Ad Hoc* Committee set up by the General Assembly for the purpose and was studying how it could play a larger role in the system. It could of course undertake new activities, but that depended on the existence of additional financial resources. As things stood at present, ITU co-operation in the field of multidisciplinary planning and programming could only be on priority problems defined by Governments. To participate fully in the development process, the various specialized agencies must be present on the spot. But ITU had no regional offices and not a single official



outside its headquarters in any region of the world. Its presence had been ensured so far by a limited number of regional advisers, financed by UNDP, who had been responsible for co-ordinating work at the regional level. That arrangement had met with the approval of the JIU and of all the regional commissions. Unfortunately, UNDP's financial difficulties had obliged ITU to abolish all those posts with effect from the end of 1976. However, ITU was currently examining the possibility of re-establishing them, and hoped that restrictions imposed in the meantime, which were bound to have an adverse effect on its regional programmes, would be of short duration.

9. Mr. VALDES (Bolivia) said that he had no hesitation in approving paragraph 5 of the draft declaration of Abidjan proposed by the Group of 77 (E/L.1728/Rev.1 and Corr.1), in which the Council expressed its concern over the critical nature of the problems of development in Africa.

10. His delegation was convinced that it was only by dialogue and the consent of all that it would be possible to establish a new international economic order. The International Development Strategy, which had been approved in just that way, was the first example of world agreement in the economic field. General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) on development and international economic co-operation was a similar case. But it had not yet been possible to discover to what extent the developed countries had decided to commit themselves. For that reason, the Council should wait until the next round of review and appraisal to decide what changes should be made in the Strategy, taking into account the decisions taken by the recent and the forthcoming conferences in the economic field. The objective of 0.7 per cent of the GNP set for the contributions of the developed countries to development was a minimum, nevertheless far from having been achieved, which proved that the co-operation effort would have to be considerably enhanced if the resolutions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly were to be implemented. Some countries, it was true, were trying to respect their commitments, and the developing world was very grateful to them.

11. As provided for in the Strategy, the least developed countries and the land-locked countries should be given special assistance, for they had to face permanent problems which were more serious than the temporary difficulties caused by a crisis.

12. The obstacles to economic and social progress were many, but some of them, such as the instability of the prices of commodities, manufactures and semi-manufactures exported by the third world, were particularly dangerous. To that should be added the negative effect of restrictive trade practices, of the loss in value of payment currencies due to inflation in the purchasing countries and the constant increase of the cost of transport and capital goods.

13. That situation was further aggravated in the land-locked countries by the constant increase in the transit cost of their imports and exports which, according to UNCTAD, amounted to 15 per cent of the financial assistance those countries received.

14. The fourth session of UNCTAD had prepared the way for negotiation by establishing a time-table for an integrated programme and by presenting the draft for the establishment of a common fund. The results would nevertheless be minimal if the developing countries did not obtain compensatory financing facilities, an integrated programme for their imports, a generalized system of preferences, the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers and a greater say in the GATT negotiations.

15. Furthermore, international monetary reform must take the interests of the developing countries into account first, and it was essential that a representative group of the latter should be able to participate in the negotiations. To consolidate the currencies of the group of developing countries, a fund must be created, as envisaged by IMF, the resources of which would come from sales of gold. External debt was an excessive burden for the developing countries, and it was hampering their economic expansion; to alleviate that burden, new arrangements with regard to interest rates and periods for repayment must be sought.

16. In the field of science and technology, it was urgently necessary to implement the Lima Declaration and Programme of Action. World co-operation must be encouraged so that in the year 2000 the share of the third world countries in world industrial production would reach the 25 per cent provided for, and technological information banks should be created for that purpose. Bolivia approved of the transformation of UNIDO into a specialized agency and hoped also that a code of international conduct for the transfer of technology would be drawn up.

17. With regard to the world food problem, the progress made was far from corresponding to the targets fixed by the World Food Conference, but the creation of IFAD was an encouraging element.

18. The Bolivian delegation had noted with interest the Pakistani proposal that a summit conference of the third world countries should be convened shortly.

19. Bolivia knew that it would be impossible for it to achieve an economic development which benefited all social classes of its population without the multiplier effect of investment, whether national or foreign. It had been a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 3514 (XXX) concerning rules of conduct to be respected by transnational corporations, and it hoped that multilateral agreements would enable corrupt practices in that field to be brought to an end. Although Bolivia had had to nationalize its mineral and petroleum wealth because of the corrupt practices of some foreign firms, it had in every case negotiated appropriate compensation. But to increase the flow of capital, it had adopted a new law on investments which provided guarantees for the foreign capital concerned. The Bolivian delegation was prepared to support the establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group to draw up an international agreement on the measures to be taken to combat corrupt practices, and it hoped that a resolution along those lines would be adopted during the session.



20. With regard to regional co-operation, he reminded the Council that Bolivia was a member of LAFTA and of the Latin American Economic System; and within the sub-regional framework it was also a member of the Andean Group and of the River Plate Basin Group. Such groupings would not only solve the trade problems in the region, but would make it possible, moreover, to establish an economy on an otherwise unachievable scale. Enterprises created with capital from all the countries of the region or its subregions would be called “transnationals” to differentiate them from the “multinationals”. Bolivia was determined to participate actively in the mutual co-operation effort of the developing countries within the framework of the United Nations.

21. There were two major problems facing Bolivia: its reliance on a “single commodity”, since more than 60 per cent of Bolivia’s foreign currency earnings came, in fact, from tin; and its status as a land-locked State as the result of an unjust war.

22. The fifth International Tin Agreement was not equitable so far as Bolivia was concerned, for considering the conditions under which the Bolivian mines were worked, it did not ensure that Bolivia obtained prices that were always remunerative, and that jeopardized the country’s economy. That was why, in a spirit of dialogue, Bolivia had for the time being merely expressed its intention of approving the Agreement.

23. With regard to the second problem, it should be remembered that two of the three least developed countries of South America – Paraguay and Bolivia – were land-locked countries. As the representative of Afghanistan had said (2014th meeting), land-locked countries must be granted free access to the sea so that they could develop. Bolivia had started negotiations with Chile on the subject and it was grateful to the countries of Latin America, almost all of which had supported its just claims.

24. In conclusion, he reminded the Council that his country had recently started implementing a five-year development plan which laid stress on improving the lot of the most disadvantaged classes. Bolivia’s aim was economic and social self-sufficiency. To achieve that it needed, like the other countries of its group, disinterested co-operation from other nations.

25. Mr. MONDJO (Congo) congratulated the President of Ivory Coast on the way in which he had tackled his country’s economic development after securing its political independence. The Congo and Ivory Coast had not always enjoyed good relations but today Abidjan and Brazzaville were an example of fruitful co-operation between two different social and economic régimes in Africa. He also paid a tribute to the President of the Economic and Social Council, whose efforts should enable the session to achieve positive results.

26. He regretted that so many members of the Council had gone into endless detail over the world’s troubles. Such monologues did nothing to solve the distress of the third world. To hear them anyone would think that no one bore

the slightest responsibility in the present crisis in international relations.

27. The proletarian countries had at last demanded greater justice in international economic and commercial relations, refusing to submit any longer to the outdated rules of international commerce. It was clear that the monetary system created at Bretton Woods, UNCTAD’s sessions, the measures adopted by the United Nations to raise the developing countries from poverty, had resulted in total failure. The only effect of all those efforts had been to tighten the stranglehold on the economies of the third world countries still further, to increase the poverty of those countries and to aggravate their sense of precarious political independence. That was what had led to the convening of the sixth special session of the General Assembly, on the initiative of Algeria, and the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and, at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the adoption of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the convening of the seventh special session of the General Assembly – a new stage in the reform of international economic relations which was to put an end to political exploitation, plunder and domination by the industrialized countries.

28. Those new decisions and instruments had not had the backing of the capitalist Powers, which had always tried to make the third world countries believe that without their sanction no measure could gain enough support to be given effect. But it would be a mistake for those Powers to ignore the new truth – the interdependence that bound all States together. Neutrality had become a luxury that could no longer be afforded, as the western countries were learning to their cost from their current serious upheavals. The third world countries, which knew the value of international solidarity, were deeply disturbed to see the industrialized countries with 18 million unemployed, failing industries and recurrent inflation.

29. The time had come for all the members of the international community to join together and give serious thought to the structural causes of world stagnation and recession. That was particularly important because, if statistics were to be believed, the crisis had enabled OECD member countries to offset part of their balance-of-payments deficit of \$27 billion, by importing less and exporting more – particularly to the OPEC countries – while in the poorer countries poverty had reached a dangerous level and the total balance-of-payments deficit amounted to \$38 billion, four times greater than in 1973.

30. The third world countries realized that the achievement of economic independence was a long-term process, and it was not easy to sweep away the false principles on which international society was still based. They had therefore decided to reinforce their unity and fight for truly just ideas: permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources, the equitable organization of the commodity market, the transfer of capital and technology from the rich to the developing countries on favourable terms; they called for the implementation of the Lima Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation, the



liberalization of international trade and the adoption of measures against the corrupt practices of transnational corporations. A frank and open dialogue, of historic importance, must be started. The people of the third world were determined to assert their will whatever the cost, for they wished to share in the government of a world where dignity would no longer be the exclusive attribute of the powerful and humiliation the daily lot of the poor.

31. That was why the people of the third world were also fighting for the eradication of colonialism, racism and imperialism. They were surprised at the stubborn opposition of certain great Powers to the entry of the People's Republic of Angola into the United Nations. OAU had unanimously denounced Israel's aggression against an African country whose President had made every effort to have the hostages held on his territory set free; the African members of the Council regretted having to break the silence on that subject, but they felt that the Council should not adopt an attitude of complete indifference to such a serious affair.

32. He urged all members of the Council to ponder their collective task. They must put away their pride and egoism and do everything in their power to ensure that the Abidjan meeting was not one more addition to the list of failures.

33. Mr. DIAWARA (Ivory Coast) reminded members that the President of the Republic of Ivory Coast in his message of peace to the Council had suggested to the poor countries that all was not lost and had demonstrated to the rich that the backward countries could be developed. Ivory Coast was proof that the principles put forward by the President were not Utopian. It was proud of its economic development, which was a prerequisite for genuine human development.

34. Ever since independence, Ivory Coast had been working to build a model system of production and an economic infrastructure of road, telecommunication and energy systems. The model was a system of agricultural production directed towards diversification and greater productivity. Starting with an agriculture based on three products - cocoa, coffee and wood - the Ivory Coast now had a highly diversified agriculture producing palm oil, cotton, rice, pineapples, bananas, avocados, maize, fruit and vegetables and would shortly be producing sugar, natural rubber, soya and silk. Productivity had been increased through agronomic research and the spread of new techniques, such as the use of fertilizers and animal or tractor-drawn implements. The primary sector had thus grown in volume at an average rate of 5 per cent a year and its production had risen in value from CFA francs 61 billion in 1960 to 195 billion in 1974.

35. To build up a modern production system, it was also necessary to establish an industry designed first to replace imports, and later for making the best use of resources and for large-scale export. The development of the industrial system could be seen from the turnover in the textile sector, which had risen from CFA francs 13 billion in 1960 to 300 billion in 1975. In the same period the industry's share in total production had risen from 15.2 per cent to over 25 per cent.

36. The transport, telecommunication and energy systems in the economic infrastructure required for the establishment and growth of new activities had been set up. The road network had been extended from a few dozen kilometres of asphalt road in 1960 to more than 2,000 kilometres at the present time, the telephone system, which was 90 per cent automatic, had grown from 2,560 subscribers in 1960 to 34,000 at the present time and electric power production had risen from 67 gigawatts/hour in 1960 to 962 in 1975.

37. As a result of the country's economic advances, its average growth rate was nearly 8 per cent a year. The GDP had risen from CFA francs 130 billion in 1960 to 760 billion in 1975 and in the same period *per capita* income had increased from \$152 to nearly \$500, while the population had almost doubled.

38. That degree of economic development could be achieved only in a climate of social peace. The secret of the Ivory Coast miracle was a harmonious balance between the need for large-scale investment in all sectors and supplying all kinds of needs. In education, the number of secondary school pupils had risen from 8,000 in 1960 to nearly 105,000 in 1975, and university students from 150 to more than 6,000. There had been about 100 doctors in 1960 compared with nearly 400 in 1975. The effort would continue; in the five-year period 1976-1980 30 per cent of the State budget would be spent on education and health and all the centres of population would be provided with drinking water. Since 1974 special efforts had been concentrated on the more disadvantaged regions, particularly for educational, public health and social purposes, through the creation of regional funds for rural development based on the principle of solidarity and participation and financed by the State and the beneficiary population in varying proportions according to the average income in each region. The people participated in the Fund at two stages - decision-taking and implementation of projects - either financially or in the form of work.

39. In 15 years Ivory Coast had managed to accumulate the kind of capital that had taken the industrialized countries a century to achieve, and without forgetting the human aspect. Its achievements had been possible only through stable political conditions in the region and at the cost of certain disparities that the Ivory Coast society had had to accept. For example, rigorous selection had had to be imposed in education and health protection, and certain regions had been chosen for heavy investment. The dilemma of the authorities had been the contradiction between humanitarian feelings and the need for effective action. The President had chosen the hard path of pragmatic progression by an original method, namely dialogue.

40. The people of Ivory Coast were proud of their progress but aware of its precarious nature. It was because of that precariousness that international relations between men must be changed so that success would be possible for everyone. It was a question of co-operation, which must be tackled with realism and in a spirit of dialogue - the determination to achieve understanding despite the obstacles. Realism for the developing countries meant ridding



themselves of the idea that poverty was inescapable and accepting the need for mass production. It must also be understood that the developing countries' strength in raw materials was offset by the industrialized countries' accumulated know-how and technology, which it was essential to acquire.

41. For the industrialized countries – the privileged – realism meant awareness that the current evolution contained the seeds of an explosive situation. The poor countries together had not sufficient financial resources to accumulate the capital they needed to achieve a self-sustaining development.

42. To ensure that the world did not develop towards an explosive situation in which by the year 2050 there would be 9 or 10 billion underdeveloped people and 2 billion rich – there must be a new kind of co-operation. First there must be a real increase in the level of aid to enable the developing countries to equip themselves. In that connexion he believed that it was somewhat artificial to fix the level as a percentage of some economic aggregate; it would be better to use a yardstick suited to needs and negotiate aid on that basis. A new international division of labour would then be necessary in order to ensure a better distribution between men and nations of the capacity to produce wealth. Lastly, the developing countries should assume their full responsibilities, taking their own development in hand and committing themselves on the path of concerted action with the industrialized countries.

43. Those were the three essential objectives. His country would work to achieve them through dialogue, a frank but firm dialogue which could be the first step towards the international solidarity that many hoped for and which was surely inevitable.

*Position paper of the Group of 77*  
(E/L.1728)

44. Mr. HUSAIN (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that during the past week members of the Economic and Social Council had expressed their views on individual economic and social issues and on the over-all economic and social order. They would, no doubt, have noted the desire among countries of the third world and among many developed countries to bring about changes in institutions and policies governing trade and resource flows so as to enable the Governments and people in the less developed countries to pursue more meaningfully their efforts to realize their full human potential.

45. The countries of the third world were fully conscious that their effort to bring about improvements in the international environment in which their development took place could not be an isolated effort. It had to be a co-operative effort in which developing and developed countries were partners; and a meaningful partnership could develop only in an environment in which the obvious shortcomings and inequalities of the international economic system had been eliminated. The developing countries were fully aware that the fundamental effort to achieve economic development and social change had to be internal.

They viewed the reform of the international economic order as a complement to their own endeavours.

46. The historic meeting of the Economic and Social Council in a developing country could not end without a statement of the position of the Group of 77 on international economic and social issues. That was a continuation of the effort which the developing countries, and many in the developed countries, were making to raise the level of consciousness about the major issues raised in the Council and the need for speeding action on them. As the co-ordinator and spokesman of the Group of 77, he was introducing to the Council the Group's proposals on international economic and social issues having a direct bearing on the lives of people in the developing countries and on the future course of their economic and social development.

47. The text of the position paper (E/L.1728) dealt, first of all, with the basic environment in which international development and co-operation took place. It was obvious that only within the framework of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations Charter and full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the rights of peoples to self-determination and independence, the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, alien domination, racial discrimination, *apartheid* and neo-colonialism, and the effective control by developing countries of their natural and other resources could meaningful co-operation for development become a reality. Those conditions were set forth in the first 10 paragraphs of the document.

48. Paragraphs 11 to 16 of the position paper reaffirmed those decisions of the General Assembly which the Group of 77 considered as having laid down the foundations of the new international economic order. Those decisions included General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI) and 3281 (XXIX), as well as resolution 3362 (S-VII), which elaborated agreed procedures for moving towards that objective.

49. The developing countries were particularly concerned at the almost complete absence of commitment to implement those decisions, which had been adopted by the General Assembly either unanimously or by large majorities. Paragraphs 17 to 21 of the text reflected the views of the Group of 77 on the present world economic situation; the members of the Group noted with concern that the gap between developed and developing countries was widening. Their efforts to bring about social and economic changes had been seriously hampered by international inflation, monetary instability and the deterioration in the terms of trade of the developing countries which would certainly not be able to meet the growth target of the Second United Nations Development Decade. Paragraph 21 gave a general picture of the grave economic outlook for the developing countries, especially the less privileged among them, should there be no fundamental change. The rate of growth for the Second United Nations Development Decade would be only 4.8 per cent per annum, less than the 5.1 per cent achieved in the First Development Decade. What was particularly disconcerting



was that that modest growth included the higher earnings of the OPEC countries.

50. The failure of the developed countries to fulfil their obligations and commitments arising from the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly, and to respond to the recommendations of other forums was reflected in paragraphs 22 to 25 of the position paper. There had been no substantial movement towards the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions; there was a lack of adequate response to the proposals of the developing countries as contained in the Manila Declaration. At the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation the developed countries had not even responded, beyond general remarks, to the concrete proposals put forward by the group of 19 developing countries taking part in the Conference. The developing countries, therefore, called upon all countries to demonstrate their political will to reach concrete and adequate solutions to the economic problems of the developing countries, so that the establishment of the new international economic order would not be delayed. In particular, they called upon the developed countries to accept fully the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the principle of indexation, to eliminate barriers to the exports of developing countries, to respect the principle of standstill, to accept the need for automaticity in development finance, to achieve the official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of the GNP, to reform the international monetary system to make it more responsive to development objectives and accept a legally binding code of conduct for the transfer of technology, to provide general debt relief, and to implement the special measures adopted in favour of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the most seriously affected among the developing countries.

51. The Group of 77 had found it necessary further to emphasize the pressing need to increase the resources of international development institutions which provided "soft" funds to the developing countries, and in particular to replenish the resources of IDA at a level of at least \$3 billion annually for the next three years and to increase contributions to UNDP.

52. The Group of 77 believed that unless all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, alien domination, racial discrimination and *apartheid* were eliminated by the international community as a matter of high priority, there could be little hope for the attainment of a just and equitable system of world economic relations. It could but hope that the United Nations and all its Members would seek to ensure full and universal compliance with the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter. Paragraphs 31-36 of the text referred to the serious development problems of the countries of Africa. That continent faced all the problems inherent in under-development and had the largest number of the least developed countries.

53. The Group of 77 had also found it necessary to stress the importance which it attached to the concept of co-operation among developing countries in trade, finance, technology, and indeed in all areas of economic endeavour.

The developing countries also recognized the imperative need to strengthen their unity and solidarity. Only it that way could they ensure the early eradication of the injustices inherent in the world economic system.

54. The endeavours of the developing countries to reinforce their unity and solidarity, in the face of the lack of an adequate response from the developed world, would be continued in the meetings and conferences which they intended to hold in the near future. In paragraph 41, it was noted that it was the intention of the developing countries to meet at various levels, including the highest level, to strengthen their concerted efforts in all relevant fields. The meetings referred to were the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at Colombo, the summit meeting of the Group of 77 in Mexico, which was at the decision stage, and the conference of third world countries proposed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, which was being considered.

55. In paragraphs 43 and 44 of the position paper, the Group of 77 emphasized the importance of the role of the Economic and Social Council in international economic co-operation for development and stated that the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System should ensure that the Council became a more effective instrument for development and international economic co-operation.

56. Finally, in paragraphs 48 and 49, the Group of 77 expressed its adherence to co-operation, dialogue and negotiations between developed and developing countries, based on a real political will to promote an equitable and just system of international economic relations, in conformity with the objectives of the new international economic order.

57. In conclusion, he requested, on behalf of the Group of 77, that the title of document E/L.1728 should read: "Position Paper of the Group of 77 in the context of the consideration of agenda item 3 of the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council".<sup>1</sup> He also proposed that the document should be annexed to the Council's report to the General Assembly and that the text of his statement should be reproduced *in extenso* in the summary record of the meeting.

*It was so decided.*

58. Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic) recalled that at the fourth session of UNCTAD a number of socialist countries had also set forth their position and had submitted proposals concerning international economic relations. Those proposals had been circulated in document TD/211.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A revised version of this document was subsequently circulated as document E/1728/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

<sup>2</sup> See *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), annex VIII.



*Declaration of Abidjan*

(E/L.1729)

59. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran), Chairman of the Contact Group, introduced the draft declaration of Abidjan (E/L.1729) and proposed that, in conformity with the agreement concluded in the Group, the Council should adopt it unanimously.

*It was so decided.*

*Decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme relating to the coherence of the United Nations development system*

60. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) recalled that, in his statement on 7 July (2017th meeting), the Administrator of UNDP had informed the Council that at its twenty-second session the Governing Council of UNDP had adopted a decision entitled "Coherence of the United Nations Development System", which it requested the Economic and Social Council to bring to the attention of the specialized agencies, requesting them to arrange for its distribution at their next session, where appropriate.

61. The report of the Governing Council of UNDP (E/5779 and E/5846) would be considered by the Council at Geneva during the second part of the session. Nevertheless, as the governing body of one of the large specialized agencies was opening its session on 12 July, a number of

delegations had held consultations with a view to ascertaining how the Council should act on the UNDP request and bring the decision in question to the attention of the governing bodies of the specialized agencies as soon as possible. In view of the exceptional circumstances, the Bureau had considered it desirable that the Council should immediately transmit the UNDP decision to the specialized agencies, without prejudging the subsequent consideration of the UNDP report. Therefore, he formally proposed that the Council should transmit to the heads of secretariats of the specialized agencies, without delay, the decision of the UNDP Governing Council entitled "Coherence of the United Nations Development System", the text of which had been circulated to members of the Council for their information.<sup>3</sup>

*It was so decided.*

62. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had completed its working meetings for the first part of its sixty-first session.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*

<sup>3</sup> The Council had taken note of that decision at its 2031st meeting, when it had adopted the draft resolution submitted by the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee (E/5880, draft resolution V) on agenda item 19 (Operational activities for development).

## 2021st meeting

Friday, 9 July 1976, at 4.35 p.m.

*President:* Mr. S. AKÉ (Ivory Coast)

E/SR.2021

### *Closure of the first part of the session*

1. Mr. LONGERSTAEY (Belgium), Vice-President of the Council, introduced the following draft resolution:

"Expression of thanks to the Government and people of Ivory Coast

*"The Economic and Social Council,*

*"Meeting for the first time on the continent of Africa,*

*"Aware of its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations,*

*"Believing that its historic meeting at Abidjan has given new impetus to fulfil those responsibilities,*

*"1. Expresses its profound appreciation to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ivory Coast and to the Government of the Republic of Ivory Coast for making this meeting possible;*

*"2. Invites the President of the Economic and Social Council to convey an expression of its deep gratitude to the people of the Republic of Ivory Coast for the*

generous hospitality and warm welcome accorded to them on every side and in particular to those responsible for the excellent arrangements for the meeting."

*The draft resolution was unanimously adopted.*

2. Mr. HARRIMAN (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the African States, said that the meeting now coming to a close was a historic one. It was the first Council session to be held in Africa, a continent which had had its share of the problems that were the concern of the Council, having suffered from slavery, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, occupation, disregard for human rights, *apartheid* and an abundance of natural disasters. The session was also taking place at a time when Africa and the rest of the third world could see the glimmerings of a new international economic order on the horizon, whose emergence was only a matter of time. Universal political independence was also not far off, as the President of Ivory Coast had said in his opening address (2006th meeting).

3. The President of Ivory Coast was renowned throughout Africa. He had been in the vanguard of the struggle for