

African States with the assistance they required to tackle their serious economic and social problems and ensure the survival of their people.

34. On behalf of the Government and people of the Comoros he thanked the States and organizations which had come to his country's aid following France's withdrawal of technical assistance and its illegal occupation of Mayotte.

35. Mr. ROUGÉ (France), exercising his right of reply, said that his delegation felt that the Council's present session, devoted as it was to better understanding between nations, was not the right place to reopen what was an essentially bilateral question. His delegation had already explained its position in the appropriate United Nations forums and would not now relate the circumstances in which, in accordance with the principle of self-determination and with French constitutional law, the people of the island of Mayotte had made their choice by referendum.

36. He reminded the Council, however, that France was always prepared to co-operate with the Comoros, and had been happy to welcome a representative from that country to the third Franco-African Summit Conference held in Paris in May 1976.

37. Mr. MOKODOPO (Observer for the Central African Republic), speaking at the invitation of the President, endorsed the words of the President of the Republic of Ivory Coast (2006th meeting), who had stressed the importance of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the International Development Strategy, the Declaration

and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and on development and international co-operation; and the resolutions of the World Food Conference.

38. Those resolutions, some of which called for direct action by the United Nations in the promotion of national development, had not been followed up as expected and, despite their importance, had not produced tangible results. His Government was still waiting for a response to the requests it had addressed to the specialized agencies for help in accordance with the UNDP indicative planning figure, in exploring the mineral resources that had been discovered in the country.

39. Several States, particularly in the third world, were beginning to wonder what the prospects of the new international economic order really were and what measures the United Nations intended taking to prevent a further deterioration in the world economy.

40. His country had suffered particularly from the economic situation, being land-locked and classified as among the least developed. It would like to co-operate more closely with ECA, and hoped that the Commission would fulfil its function of helping African States to prepare their development plans.

41. His delegation hoped that the present session would mark an important stage in the move towards a new economic and social order.

*The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.*

## 2018th meeting

Thursday, 8 July 1976, at 10.35 a.m.

*President:* Mr. S. AKÉ (Ivory Coast)

E/SR.2018

*In the absence of the President, Mr. R. Rivas (Colombia), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

### AGENDA ITEM 3

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

1. Mr. SOBHI (Director-General, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union) expressed his pleasure at the fact that the current session of the Council was being held in the capital of a country with which UPU had for many years maintained relations of fruitful co-operation. Abidjan was the headquarters of the Multinational Postal Training Centre, the only French-speaking African school at the regional level in the postal field. The realization of that important project, financed partly by UNDP, had been

made possible by the support given by the authorities of Ivory Coast. It was interesting to note that the school had recently begun to train senior personnel, which was in keeping with the principles of action laid down by the last UPU Congress with regard to technical assistance.

2. UPU's role might appear to be unobtrusive compared with that of other specialized agencies; but in fact its activities fitted perfectly into the general programme of the Economic and Social Council. Postal services played an important role in the modern world, and served as a factor of economic, social and cultural development at the national and international levels.

3. In every country, regardless of its level of development, the postal services were constantly obliged to adapt themselves to new tasks; and that called for a continuing evolution of techniques and attitudes. The XVIIth Universal Postal Congress of 1974 – the UPU centenary year –

had reaffirmed its determination to strengthen the Union's activities in the field of technical co-operation and to use every available means to make postal services an increasingly effective instrument in the struggle for the development and well-being of mankind. It had *inter alia* decided to intensify UPU's participation in the Second United Nations Development Decade and to give priority to the needs of the least developed countries from the postal point of view.

4. The UPU Executive Council had tried to spell out some of those objectives in greater detail. It had considered, on the one hand, general technical assistance policy, especially in the context of the new international economic order, the new dimensions of the regionalization of technical assistance activities and the prospective increase in the volume and effectiveness of the aid available; and it had also considered the general programme of action which covered programming and studies, the organization and management of postal services and, lastly, postal training. In keeping with the policy of the United Nations system that regional institutions should be associated in the programming of regional technical assistance activities, the UPU Executive Council had adopted a resolution designed to strengthen the role of small postal unions, without prejudice to the need for collaboration with the regional commissions and subregional economic integration bodies – collaboration which would be maintained by means of periodic tripartite meetings.

5. With regard to technical co-operation among developing countries, an essential element of UNDP's policy, UPU had established the general guidelines for its action, and the International Bureau of the organization would now try to convert them into specific form.

6. The notable decline in available resources for 1976, as a result of UNDP's financial crisis, had inevitably affected the programmes and projects executed by UPU, which had made vigorous representations to the competent authorities in order to reduce the effects of the crisis on those projects. UPU had sought to increase the assistance furnished independently of UNDP – missions of specialists and consultants, assistance provided against payment, financing of certain projects by the recipient country, and collaboration between administrations members of the Union. Also, the International Bureau of UPU was endeavouring to improve the selection of the operations to be carried out and to increase their efficiency, on the basis of a more precise determination of the needs of recipient countries.

7. UPU was prepared to co-operate fully in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII). Indeed, the orientation of that resolution was in accordance with the policy followed by the Union for more than 10 years, particularly in the field of technical co-operation. In view of the very specialized nature of UPU's field of activity, its contribution would mainly be of a complementary nature, but it would endeavour to broaden that contribution so that the objectives sought could be attained as soon as possible.

8. Mr. HARRIMAN (Nigeria) said that he wished first of all to make some comments on the political and social

situation in Africa. The Nigerian Government had always felt that the "dialogue" approach had been overtaken by events in and around southern Africa. If the dialogue recently conducted between Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Vorster against the wishes of African States had failed to produce any concrete results, the United States Government should recognize the legitimate right of the liberation movements to resort to armed struggle to liberate southern Africa. At present, some of the allies of the United States of America were providing assistance to the racist régimes in southern Africa and were contemplating supplying them with nuclear technology, while the transnational corporations continued to participate in their economic development.

9. With regard to the question of international peace and security, his delegation associated itself with all those who had condemned the recent incident in Uganda.

10. Referring to the events at Soweto and the forthcoming pseudo-independence of the Transkei, as well as the repressive measures taken recently by the Vorster régime, his delegation severely criticized the attitude of France and the agreements recently concluded by that country with South Africa. On the other hand, it wished to thank countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Netherlands and the Nordic countries which had provided material support to certain independent States in southern Africa which, because of their geographical position, were involved in the struggle being waged there.

11. Turning to economic problems, he said that it was for the Economic and Social Council to elaborate on the guiding principles already set forth in certain instruments such as the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. It was also for the Council to define policies geared towards the eradication of other basic injustices such as those relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms. In that respect, it would be essential to apply to the international community as a whole the standards and criteria which had led to social reforms in most European States and particularly in the Nordic countries.

12. Africa, which was the least developed region of the third world, faced a number of problems in addition to the disabilities common to all developing regions. It was because of the complexity of the solutions envisaged for those social, political and economic problems, and also because of the attitude of the more privileged and industrialized countries that he believed it possible to say that Africa was now at the cross-roads; and, poised at the cross-roads, the African countries were able to make frustrating comparisons between their situation and that of the developed countries, and to identify what concrete steps they could take to improve their condition in the context of a new international economic order. The results of the joint effort of the States members of the African region in that regard were contained in two ECA documents.<sup>1</sup> The value of those documents lay in the objectivity

<sup>1</sup> See documents E/CN.14/ECO/31/Rev.2 and E/CN.14/ECO/90/Rev.3.

underlying the principles set forth therein and the deliberate attempt to generate economic growth of an indigenous type in preference to the traditional reliance on foreign trade as the principal engine of growth.

13. If ECA was to provide the necessary impetus for the implementation of the various programmes based on those principles, it had to be provided with the necessary human, material and financial resources. It was the duty of the Council and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to ensure that adequate budgetary allocations were furnished to all the regional commissions wishing to execute regional, subregional and interregional projects. ECA would require special attention in as much as its member States had expressed the desire that the Commission should move into more operational activities capable of accelerating the social and economic growth of the region. To that end, the Council should seek to ensure the implementation of a recommendation accepted by the General Assembly and the UNDP. Governing Council on two questions of vital importance for the operational activities of the regional commissions – namely, the decentralization of those activities and the possibility of delegating to the regional commissions the functions of executing and participating agencies for UNDP-financed projects. Furthermore, in view of the large number of programmes for which the regional commissions were responsible, his delegation would submit to the current session of the Council recommendations on certain questions such as staff recruitment and discipline.

14. In order to make progress on the path that they had chosen, the developing countries required more than ever moral, intellectual and material assistance from the privileged and industrialized nations.

15. In his statement (2007th meeting), the representative of the United States of America had mentioned the proposal made by Mr. Kissinger at the fourth session of UNCTAD for the establishment of an international resource bank and he had added that the United States Government intended to put forward that idea again in due course. In principle, the Nigerian delegation was not opposed to the creation of a resource bank but it did not wish to abandon the system of buffer stock financing proposed by the developing countries. Also, in view of the difficulties which many developing countries encountered in evaluating their available resources, and also because of the problems of sovereignty over natural resources, the resource bank project hardly seemed to be feasible at the present time. Indeed, Mr. Kissinger's proposal sought to perpetuate the North-South relationship which was characterized by the exploitation of the resources of the developing countries for the exclusive advantage of the developed countries.

16. Turning to the question of the international monetary system, he said that reform of the system would be meaningless for the developing countries unless it was accompanied by a reform of the world banking system, since at present the policy of major institutions, such as the World Bank and IMF continued to favour assistance which could only be channelled into infrastructural projects that had the effect of facilitating the production and transport

of the traditional raw materials of particular interest to the developed countries.

17. With regard to the debt problem, his delegation hoped that the negotiations to be held on that subject would lead to a moratorium, particularly in view of the decline in the prices of the main raw materials exported by the developing countries. It would also be necessary to accelerate the negotiations on arrangements to facilitate the access of the products of the developing countries to the markets of the developed countries.

18. In the field of human resources, Africa's requirements were enormous. If the various action programmes envisaged by a number of agencies in and outside the United Nations system were to be executed, specific steps would have to be taken to ensure the availability of the necessary manpower. In that regard, his delegation believed that the United Nations, and UNDP in particular, should re-examine their policy concerning the utilization of experts and consider the possibility of recruiting national experts more frequently, instead of having experts come normally from abroad. As the cost of a United Nations expert was estimated at \$52,000 a year, would it not be more economical to use local experts? That policy would have the advantage of promoting continuity, reducing the brain drain, and minimizing foreign exchange problems. In his delegation's opinion, the United Nations should seriously consider the possibility of selecting experts for service in the developing countries in accordance with the following descending order of preference: first, national experts; secondly, subregional experts; thirdly, regional experts; fourthly, experts recruited from members of the Group of 77, and, lastly, experts from western Europe and other areas.

19. No discussion of the economic situation in Africa could be complete without mentioning the efforts made by African countries towards economic co-operation and integration within the region. The Executive Secretary of ECA had already mentioned the example of the Trans-African Highway. Members of the Council were also aware that the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé, signed early in 1975, had brought a new dimension to the international relations between the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, on the one hand, and the member countries of EEC, on the other. That Convention, which represented a step forward from the Yaoundé Convention, would also help to foster better trade and economic relations between the French- and English-speaking countries of West Africa. With regard to economic integration, mention should also be made of the recent establishment of the Economic Community of West African States, whose membership included virtually all the West African countries parties to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé. Subregional economic groupings required all the possible moral, material and intellectual support that the United Nations system could offer.

20. In general, Nigeria's position on the various problems facing the developing countries was similar to that of the Group of 77, whose solidarity would not be compromised. Nigeria had been able to assist other developing countries, but it would be a mistake to regard it as a wealthy country

that did not require assistance from the developed countries. As its population was roughly estimated at 70 million, Nigeria's needs were enormous. In order to implement its third national development plan, which sought to increase the current rate of growth and to raise the general living standard of the population – one of the lowest in the world – Nigeria would require external assistance, particularly in the field of manpower; and for that it would continue to count on its traditional friends.

21. Mr. DESTREMAU (France) said that the statement by the Secretary-General (2006th meeting), the studies prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the assessments presented by the specialized agencies gave the same picture of a world economy which was emerging from recession, but whose convalescence was threatened by inflation. It was essential, therefore, to remain vigilant and to understand that the interdependence of countries was no longer a slogan but a law applicable to everybody. The sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council was taking place at a particularly important phase in international relations, since the general principles of international co-operation defined at the two special sessions of the General Assembly were now being put into effect and there seemed to be a chance of better defining the scope of future action.

22. His Government considered that the major international conferences of the past year had indeed been profitable, since a few months' work had made it possible to lay the foundations of the more just and the more equitable economic order which the international community had resolved to build. Action had been initiated on three main fronts: organization of the raw materials market, distribution and increase of production capacities and, lastly, the improvement of public aid.

23. In the vital sector of commodities, erratic price fluctuations would have to be controlled, and market upheavals would have to be replaced by the discipline of an international system of commodity agreements. The fourth session of UNCTAD seemed to have made some headway in that respect, and his delegation at Nairobi had appealed to participants not to leave the Conference without assuming a commitment to conclude a number of commodity agreements within the next two years. The Conference had ended with the adoption of resolution 93 (IV) calling for a very broad programme of studies and negotiations in that field. From the autumn onwards, France would be prepared to discuss the vital question of commodities and to proceed to the negotiating phase.

24. The establishment of a more equitable economic order also called for a better distribution of, and an increase in, production capacities. Important landmarks had been established since the Second General Conference of UNIDO, held at Lima in 1975. The Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution and Social Progress and the International Division of Labour had confirmed the developed countries' support of the idea of industrial redeployment, and UNCTAD had defined a set of measures for strengthening the technological capacity of the developing countries. The Commission on Transnational Corporations set up by the Council had already embarked

on its chief task, which was to bring the activities of those corporations under more effective control in order to make them fairer and more constructive.

25. Lastly, a more equitable economic order called for the maintenance of an adequate transfer of resources to the developing countries; and, for that purpose, official aid was still an irreplaceable instrument. France had reaffirmed at Nairobi the importance it attached to the 0.7 per cent of GDP target and had expressed its determination to achieve it. It had decided to participate as a donor in IFAD and had recently launched two funding projects to benefit African countries.

26. He then referred to the beneficial effects of the North-South dialogue which had replaced the tensions and confrontations that had existed only recently, the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, which had just completed the first analytical phase of its work, had been a source of political impetus and reflexion. Above all, it had induced participating Governments to practise concertation and to convince themselves that it was necessary and fruitful. One might say that after the meetings at Kingston, Paris, Nairobi, Rome and Geneva, the problems had been identified and outlines for solutions had been proposed. It now remained to define certain lines of action.

27. Three very simple principles were already emerging from the exchanges of views at the present session. The first was that the spirit of co-operation must be fostered in order to ensure that all countries that were already in a position to contribute to the international aid effort were involved to a greater extent in the service of development. France noted with satisfaction the increasing role which the States members of OPEC were taking in that effort, particularly by participating in the establishment of IFAD. But it hoped that all countries which were able to subscribe to the official aid target of the International Development Strategy would do so. The second principle was that the Council's real task should be to ensure the consistency of the action to be taken, and to strengthen the basic principles of a genuine development strategy. His delegation thought that the Council should proceed without further delay to define the objectives and orientations of the third Development Decade. It hoped that the Council would in so doing take account of the contributions of the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, which had introduced into economic development some qualitative human factors and quantifiable social criteria which should enrich the development strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade.

28. In his delegation's view, there were three fields in which action should be taken without delay. In the case of food production, the developed countries should pursue their assistance efforts through whatever channels they considered to be most appropriate, since only results counted. But the general question of raw materials called for organizational solutions and, first and foremost, the negotiation of commodity agreements. The question of a common fund was indeed crucial, but the concentration of attention exclusively on the objectives and modalities of

the fund would break the rhythm of the discussions on commodity agreements.

29. With regard to the transfer of technology, it was material assistance rather than legal instruments that mattered. France, with 37,000 technical co-operation personnel, was contributing over a third of the world effort, and it thought it was more useful to continue that policy than to engage in equivocations concerning the legal nature of a code of conduct. Lastly, the transfer of resources provided an opportunity for reaffirming the value of the 0.7 per cent target for official aid. The studies relating to the debt problem should be pursued only in so far as they were not likely to lead the developed countries to abandon that target.

30. The third principle related to the need to evaluate proposals at their true worth and not in terms of ideological considerations or political tactics. To be effective, any commodity price stabilization programme would have to be based on financial machinery which responded both to general investment requirements and to the specific needs of development financing. With that in mind, his country had proposed at Nairobi the creation of an international guarantee machinery under joint IBRD-IMF management to make it easier to obtain medium- and long-term finance and to enable banks to increase their aid to the developing countries. His delegation thought it would be necessary, for the same reasons, to study the project for an international resources bank, which had been submitted at the fourth session of UNCTAD by the United States of America and which would offer support both to investment and to the necessary stabilization efforts. France hoped that all the developed States which had expressed reservations on certain provisions of the UNCTAD resolutions would play an active part in the work to be undertaken at Geneva, particularly on the question of raw materials.

31. To be realistic, however, that did not mean that the Council should confine its discussions to essentially technical studies, since the Council was a political body. In giving delegations an opportunity to speak seriously and at length on the fundamental issue of the moment – namely, the North-South dialogue – the host country of the present session had enabled the Council strikingly to reaffirm its authority within the United Nations system and thus answer those who were doubtful as to its place and its future in the reform of the economic and social structures of the United Nations.

32. The choice of Africa as the venue of such an important meeting naturally led his delegation to recall the co-operation which existed between several African countries and France. Under the Yaoundé Convention, that co-operation had been extended to the nine EEC countries: at Lomé, it had been taken beyond the framework of Africa, since under the new convention States in Africa, the Carribean and the Pacific were associated with the Community. France, whose efforts in Africa were well known, had just taken three initiatives in conjunction with and for Africa. It had announced its decision to participate in the African Development Fund; it had proposed the establishment of an African solidarity fund to facilitate the economic development of African States, particularly the

most disadvantaged ones; and it had launched a project for an exceptional fund for African promotion to support specific development tasks such as the building of roads and railways to put an end to the isolation of land-locked countries, drought control, the modernization of agriculture and the development of all mining resources. His delegation was pleased with the welcome that initiative had received at the Third Franco-African Summit Conference held in Paris in May 1976.

33. In conclusion, after noting that his country's policy had been criticized by the Nigerian representative, he said that his delegation reserved the right to reply in due course.

*Mr. S. Aké took the Chair.*

34. Mr. BARCELÓ (Mexico) said he was glad that the Council was meeting in Africa, a continent which was in the forefront of the third world's struggle to ensure that international relations were in future based on universal solidarity and on the right of all peoples to a fair share of the earth's riches. It was the same concern which had led his Government to propose the drafting of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Out of that Charter, which the Economic and Social Council was responsible for enforcing, there would henceforward emerge a number of common aspirations which, once machinery had been developed and specific action taken, would lead to the establishment of the new international economic order. The Charter reaffirmed the inalienable sovereignty of the peoples of the third world over their natural resources, which could not be appropriated by transnational corporations. Like all poor nations, Mexico believed that the principles set out in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States would ultimately triumph over the obtuseness of the dominant minorities, as self-evident principles which would result in a more just and more humane order.

35. Meanwhile, the peoples of the third world were still being seriously affected by the world economic depression. In Latin America, the GDP had increased by only 2.6 per cent in 1975, after reaching an annual rate of 6.7 per cent during the first half of the decade. The shrinking of foreign demand, the fall in the prices of various commodities, the increases in the prices of imported manufactures and oil, the alarming food situation and the over-rapid population growth – all those were factors which gave grounds for fearing that those countries would be unable to accelerate their development, balance their payments or service their debts; and they all pointed to the need to establish without delay a new international economic order strictly in keeping with the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

36. States Members of the United Nations had to understand the need for all to participate in the new effort of international economic co-operation which was, moreover, in the interests of all. All peoples should be made well aware of what the third world wanted. For that restructuring of the international economic and social order, the United Nations system must be given the necessary means of action.

37. In particular, the work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations should be based on solid foundations so that a mandatory code of conduct could be prepared which would oblige those corporations to respect the sovereign will of peoples. Other codes should also be elaborated for improving in various ways the terms of international trade and defining compulsory standards with regard to the transfer of technology. He noted with satisfaction that several industrialized countries had decided to collaborate on those points in the establishment of the new economic order, and he hoped their decision would serve as an example. Also, the realization of the Integrated Programme for Commodities called for the creation of a special fund as soon as possible. It was to be hoped that the initial progress made in that regard during the fourth session of UNCTAD would soon be followed by agreement on the establishment of effective machinery for financing buffer stocks.

38. His country regarded science and technology as essential to the autonomous development of the peoples of the third world; and at the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development his delegation had therefore proposed that the United Nations conference to be held on the subject not later than 1979 should take place at Mexico City. In the conviction that that conference would be of vital importance in strengthening the scientific and technical capacity of the third world countries, his country was renewing that offer and requested that the Council should make an immediate start on organizing the preparatory work for the conference. It still remained to define regional contributions and the activities of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, which was to act as the preparatory committee, to appoint a secretary-general and to determine the content of the documentation to be prepared by the various countries.

39. More generally speaking, the necessary transformation of the relationships of interdependence between countries called for a revision of the International Development Strategy. The mere fact that the Council had set up a Special Economic Committee to review the existing Strategy proved that the measures called for and the targets established in General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) had not been realized. The reservations made since the adoption of that resolution and the two review and appraisal exercises that had taken place half way through the Development Decade had clearly revealed the need for a change in attitude on the part of some – few, admittedly, but powerful – industrialized countries. The third Development Decade must not be as frustrating as the preceding ones, either in regard to the declaration of aims or in regard to the machinery it was to establish. From the present session onwards, the Council should try to make specific preparations for a decade which would consolidate the new order, the exclusive purpose of which should be to achieve a major improvement in the well-being of all individuals.

40. Mexico had already been deploying its national efforts along those lines for several decades. His Government realized that it still had much to do, such as increasing exports, mobilizing domestic savings for job-creating agricultural and industrial activities, developing the nationalized sector of the economy and generally strengthening the

country's production capacity. Similarly, in foreign affairs his country was systematically upholding the right of peoples to political and economic autonomy. It felt united with all the disadvantaged countries and was especially keen to strengthen its contacts with the peoples of Africa. It also wished to see established in Latin America a "Latin American economic system" which would enable the region as such to take a stand on world problems, and would also enable individual member countries to conclude agreements fostering regional economic integration. A centre for third world economic and social studies had recently been set up in Mexico to study the problems facing the tropical, arid-zone, temperate-zone and cold-climate countries and to develop autochthonous technologies adapted to the requirements and means of the developing countries.

41. He hoped that when the Group of 77 met at Mexico City in September 1976, it would give further evidence of the effort of solidarity of the third world, which had already been reflected in the Programme of Action adopted at Manila in February 1976 before the fourth session of UNCTAD. The execution of that programme called for the economic co-operation of all the large countries, without any ideological distinction. If only it really wanted to, the international community had an opportunity, at Abidjan, of achieving positive results already.

*Mr. R. Rivas (Colombia), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

42. Mr. M'BOW (Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) recalled that at the fifty-ninth session of the Council he had already given some indication of UNESCO's views on its role in the establishment of a new international economic order. The annual report of UNESCO (E/5818) showed what had been done since then in response to the General Assembly's appeal to the organizations of the United Nations family at its sixth special session.

43. The very concept of the new international economic order called for some comment. It would be wrong to regard that concept merely as a disguise for purely economic demands, or as an essentially negative protest against the present state of affairs. The search for a new world economic order was based on a reasoned passion – to serve mankind and to enable all national communities to fight side by side against the evils which affected them all in varying degrees. Viewed in that context, the economic foundations for the new order envisaged more clearly not an end in themselves but the essential means for making more far-reaching changes, whose sole objective was to serve mankind. Development could not therefore be considered merely as growth: it also called for changes in relations not only between societies but also within each society in accordance with freely chosen procedures. The role of international organizations was not to propose pre-established models and provide the means for reproducing them but rather, by supporting national efforts, to contribute to the creation of infrastructures based on national aspirations and traditions which would constitute the foundations of a truly endogenous development. Within that framework, UNESCO was attempting, *inter alia*, to help its most disadvantaged member States to acquire the scientific and technical foundations which they needed to make better use of their resources; to extend and orient

education with a view to enabling peoples to take charge of their own development; and to extend communications and information systems. By the promotion of social sciences, UNESCO was also attempting to encourage each society to engage in self-examination so that it could derive the maximum possible advantage from the instruments of change while safeguarding its cultural identity.

44. The Economic and Social Council had before it at its present session the report on the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development (E/5777). When the Council had considered that report, it would have to take decisions and provide guidelines of major importance for the whole of the United Nations system, and particularly for UNESCO.

45. UNESCO wished to promote not merely the transfer of technology but also the national development of science and the national elaboration of technologies which responded to the specific needs of the disadvantaged countries. National scientific and technical development not only ensured long-term independence in an essential area of economic activity; it also played an important cultural role by helping to create a body of modern thought better attuned to the national context. It also enabled developing societies to take part in the collective work of creating science and technology, with the result that the activities of the international scientific and technical community would in turn be geared to a greater extent towards the needs and problems of the third world.

46. UNESCO was fully aware that its work on science and technology could be developed only in close co-operation with the other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system. Hence, with regard to institutional arrangements, he had noted with satisfaction that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, like the Executive Board of UNESCO, was in favour of strengthening the present machinery.

47. In particular, the Committee had stressed in its report that the time was past for parallel development of narrowly specialized programmes, and that what was needed now was vast multidisciplinary endeavours with aims that could be achieved only through the concerted action by several, if not all, the organizations of the United Nations system. UNESCO would certainly contribute to the common task; and it was in that spirit that it would take an active part in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

48. That widening of the perspectives of interagency co-ordination was only one aspect of the effort needed to adapt the methods of action and structures of the United Nations system to the requirements of the new international economic order. The major weakness of the United Nations system was, it seemed, that it was not yet sufficiently capable of acting as a system. It was essential to ensure consistency of strategies, programmes and activities within the framework of a general policy based on a detailed knowledge of situations and a forward-looking vision. Not only in the economic field but also in the fields of education, information science, population, health, working conditions, and income distribution, various basic

hypotheses must be established in close collaboration with States.

49. The major guidelines for action would of course be established, and the over-all directives issued by the General Assembly. But it was for the Economic and Social Council to analyse the problems, to review the solutions recommended, to consider the programmes of action and to approve them. The Executive Board of UNESCO had at its last session emphasized once again that that was the role of the Economic and Social Council. With regard to the specialized agencies, the Executive Board of UNESCO believed that it was important to preserve their autonomy, which enabled them to make their own contribution to that global policy and to take the initiative in the formulation and implementation of sectoral policies to complement the strategies of a general nature. The agencies of the system should, also, be able to take part in the decision-making process in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and in preparations for major specialized conferences such as the conferences on water, desertification, and science and technology. They should also play an active part in the work of those conferences and in the implementation of their recommendations.

50. With regard to co-ordination at the technical level, UNESCO had actively associated itself with the efforts made by the ACC to improve its methods of work. He believed, however, that much remained to be done in that area. In particular, the ACC should have an interagency programming body to help the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in analysing medium- and long-term problems and in formulating strategies common to the whole system. The ACC should also strengthen and widen the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies, so that they would be able to harmonize the medium-term draft plans more satisfactorily and organize multidisciplinary activities. Finally, the provisions governing the dialogue between member States and the organizations of the system should be made more flexible, since that dialogue was still too limited and formal.

51. However, the reforms would bear fruit only if Governments were really determined to implement the plans and strategies for the establishment of a new international economic order, and to make the United Nations system their chosen instrument in that endeavour. The fact was that in some sectors there was at present a crisis of confidence in regard to the United Nations system, which was reflected above all in the inadequacy of the resources placed at the disposal of the system for continuing its work. It was already disquieting to see member States hesitating to give the organizations the additional resources which would make it possible to carry out the decisions of Governments more effectively; it was much more serious that one of the financing institutions of the system, the very one which supplied the specialized agencies with most of the resources they needed to help the third world, was obliged for lack of funds to revise its plans and programmes in a Draconian fashion. Finally, there was a new fact which he had brought to the attention of the Council in the annual report of UNESCO. For the first time, three UNESCO member States, among those which made the largest contribution to the Organization's budget,

were in arrears in the payment of their contributions. At its ninety-ninth session, the Executive Board of UNESCO had pointed out that non-payment of contributions constituted a breach of the obligations of member States under the financial regulations and had taken the view that harmonious international co-operation would be seriously jeopardized by yielding to the temptation of using it as a means of influencing the decisions of the Organization.

52. He wished to voice his concern at that situation not only because of the difficulties it caused to UNESCO or other organizations, but also because such an attitude

demonstrated that the spirit of concertation and the desire for general agreement, without which no effective results could be achieved, were not yet sufficiently prevalent in the work of legislative bodies. If the United Nations system were to remain worthy of its mission and capable of carrying it out, each State must feel itself responsible for the system as a whole and must be determined to strengthen its capacity and means. Only then could the secretariats devote all their efforts to the task which had been entrusted to them.

*The meeting rose at 1.00 p.m.*

## 2019th meeting

Thursday, 8 July 1976, at 3.35 p.m.

*President:* Mr. S. AKÉ (Ivory Coast)

E/SR.2019

*In the absence of the President, Mr. E. Longerstaeve (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

### AGENDA ITEM 3

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

1. Mr. ANTENEH (Ethiopia) said that the Council was meeting for the first time in Africa at a critical moment, for despite the fact that the peoples of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Comoros, Angola and the Seychelles had recently broken the shackles of colonialism, the fascist régime of South Africa continued to occupy Namibia and to practise its policy of *apartheid*. The recent outrageous killing of innocent Africans by that régime could not be tolerated.

2. The people of Africa, while struggling courageously for full political and economic decolonization, were playing an increasingly vital role in shaping international economic and social policies. Africa was demonstrating its confidence in the United Nations by making itself a forum for important international meetings, including the first part of the Council's sixty-first session. In that connexion, he expressed his delegation's gratitude to the people and Government of Ivory Coast for their hospitality.

3. Economic conditions in the world had been characterized by the coexistence of prosperity and crisis, of growth and stagnation, by the poor becoming poorer and the rich richer. That was the legacy of colonialism and the international system created after the Second World War. To change that system, which was designed to serve only the interests of the developed nations, should not be the responsibility of the victims but the obligation of the beneficiaries.

4. The developing countries had demanded a fundamental change in the international economic order so as to enable them to recover and control their natural resources and at last to own the means of their economic development. With the emergence of new nations the fulfilment of those demands had become inevitable.

5. The Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned States, held at Algiers in September 1973, had called upon the United Nations to convene a meeting on problems of the developing countries. Since that time various measures had been undertaken, including the adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which had ushered in a new era of understanding of the mutual responsibilities of all Member States to mankind and of the need for negotiation between developed and developing countries on the basis of equality, in order to mitigate the danger of confrontation.

6. The process begun at the sixth special session of the General Assembly had continued in other international forums, the most recent of which had been the fourth session of UNCTAD, which had not, however, achieved as much as had been hoped. Although consensus had been reached on the central points of the Integrated Programme for Commodities, it would be wrong to view that programme without the establishment of a common fund to finance buffer stocks; and the key to the Programme was finance. Postponement of the establishment of a common fund would frustrate the desire to improve the terms of trade of the developing countries and efforts should be made to implement those measures on which consensus had been reached without delay.

7. Despite the commendable efforts of the United Nations, the record of the Second United Nations Development Decade was disturbing. The targets set by the International Development Strategy had not been reached.