



CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 10:	
Programme of concerted practical action in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (<i>continued</i>)	17

President: Mr. ENGEN (Norway).

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Israel, Italy, Poland, Romania.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Programme of concerted practical action in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (E/2890, E/L.728) (*continued*)

1. Mr. ABDEL-GHANI (Egypt) reminded the Council of the origins of the report of the Secretary-General (E/2890) on the programme of concerted practical action. When, at its fourteenth session, the Council had considered a preliminary report on the world social situation, which had dealt exclusively with problems and shortcomings in the social field, certain delegations, including his own, had felt that the Council ought also to be informed of the endeavours being made by governments to improve social conditions in their countries. A resolution (434 A(XIV) had accordingly been adopted requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a second report dealing with that side of the question, which report had subsequently been submitted to the Council at the twentieth session, under the title *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1). A number of delegations, again including his own, had thereupon proposed that, in order to avoid duplication, the Secretary-General should submit annually a single report on social affairs, dealing with three aspects thereof: the main social problems; the main national efforts to tackle them; and the main international efforts to assist that

process. The proposal had not been adopted in its original form, the Council having instead requested the Secretary-General to prepare a separate report on the third aspect. That report was the one at present before the Council.

2. Given that historical background, it could reasonably have been assumed that the report would have filled in the picture provided by the other two. What the Egyptian delegation had expected was that it would show how the services provided by the various international organizations were co-ordinated with one another, and with national and local services, to achieve concerted action in the social field, and that it would give by way of illustration specific practical examples of how the international organizations were co-operating to that end.

3. One suitable example would have been that of the fundamental education centres set up by the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Egypt and Mexico. In that case, the main work had been done by UNESCO in co-operation with local authorities, while the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization (WHO) had also participated by providing expert advice and granting fellowships. Other suitable examples would have been a demonstration project for community development, and the social seminars organized under United Nations auspices. In each case the report could have assessed the effectiveness of the co-ordination achieved by the various bodies, and recorded their success and failures.

4. He realized that it was difficult to gauge the extent of co-ordination between different bodies, and that there was a danger of encroaching on the field of technical assistance. Nevertheless, a study of the kind of international co-ordination he had outlined would have been of great value to governments wishing to seek international assistance.

5. In point of fact, the report simply consisted of separate accounts of the work of the several organizations concerned. Nevertheless, those accounts constituted valuable brief summaries of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the social field during the past three years. Moreover, it was gratifying to note that the organizations had been trying to plan their social programmes in accordance with the recommendations of Council resolution 496 (XVI). The under-developed and less developed countries, including Egypt, were grateful for the assistance they had received.

6. He reserved the right to give the views of his delegation on the achievements of the individual agencies during the discussion on item 3 of the agenda, and to

speak on the subject of the suggestions made by the Secretariat at an appropriate juncture in the Social Committee.

7. Mr. ALEEM (Pakistan) reiterated the view, repeatedly stressed by his delegation, that the main problem of any under-developed country was that of economic development, and that ambitious programmes of social development ought not to be embarked upon until such a country's economic position was strong enough to sustain it.

8. In the view of his delegation, the community development programme should essentially be one of economic development. In Pakistan itself, the village agricultural and industrial development programme was primarily of that nature. Although it covered adult education and the improvement of domestic sciences, first priority was given to increasing output by assisting agriculture, cottage industries and the like, and second priority to the improvement of sanitary conditions and health. Even the control of malaria and the eradication of illiteracy could, in their turn, be regarded as economic measures.

9. It was gratifying to learn, from the Secretary-General's report, about the growth of community development in the past three years, and to know that it had extended to such fields as rural health development, co-operatives and small-scale industries. He hoped, however, that the Council would give overriding priority to its economic aspects.

10. Although a considerable amount of work had been done on the training of personnel and the development of national and local administrative machinery, much more ought to have been accomplished. No doubt lack of funds was responsible. Attention ought to be turned to training more local staff to take charge of established projects, and to the development of techniques suited to local conditions and national characteristics. Experts and advisers sent out for short periods did not have sufficient time to adjust themselves to the conditions obtaining on the spot.

11. He agreed with what the Secretary-General said in the report about the inadequacy of information on social conditions. Fuller information would not only help planning, but, by intensifying international awareness of the problem, would also touch the social conscience of the world.

12. Mr. CARDIN (Canada) observed that it appeared from the Secretary-General's report that the United Nations and the specialized agencies were, in general, making progress towards concerted practical action in the social field. The situation gave grounds for modest satisfaction.

13. The Canadian Government's attitude to world social problems had been consistently based on three principles. In the first place, it considered that the United Nations and the specialized agencies ought to work in the closest harmony in developing their programmes. It was good to see the advance made in that direction. Secondly, attention ought, where possible, to be concentrated on programmes likely to promote and sustain action on a nation-wide basis. That rule should not,

however, be too strictly interpreted; in some countries certain types of community development and training of a more local kind might be more important at the present juncture. Thirdly, programmes should be designed to achieve indisputably beneficial results within a reasonable time. To pursue programmes of doubtful merit would not only squander scarce funds, but would also endanger the prestige of the United Nations.

14. His delegation noted with interest the account in paragraph 4 of the report of the factors which tended to limit the effectiveness of the Council's recommendations. Countries could not be expected to bring their own list of priorities entirely into line with those laid down in Council resolution 496 (XVI). Nevertheless, they ought to realize when making their requests that, conversely, established United Nations priorities could not be altogether subordinated to those of the requesting countries. Similarly, within the limitations imposed by their constitutions, the United Nations and the specialized agencies ought to take established and agreed priorities into account when considering projects submitted to them for approval. Those priorities might, of course, call for re-assessment from time to time, in which event the views of recipient countries and the agencies would be received with interest. But, in the meantime, all parties ought to try to fit the various programmes of social assistance into the framework agreed upon.

15. With regard to the points made in paragraph 6 of the report, his delegation would go further and say that a demonstration project launched purely for its own sake was useless. The sole purpose of a demonstration project should be to demonstrate the feasibility of starting similar projects throughout the country. No project for a demonstration centre destined to be the only one of its kind should ever be approved.

16. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General's remarks about the importance of training personnel. Unless national and local administrations had properly trained staff, programmes of work in the social field would be likely to prove ineffective. Short-term courses for auxiliary workers were of particular value.

17. Canada was always glad to provide training facilities for foreign students under the various technical assistance programmes, and had already received considerable numbers through the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and also under the Colombo plan, to study social welfare, public administration and related subjects. It was to be hoped that the experience they had thus acquired would be of benefit to their governments. For their part, the Canadians with whom they had associated had been left with a better understanding of the problems of the students' countries. Such an interchange of ideas and experience could not but be beneficial to all.

18. In the view of the Canadian delegation, the cause of the inadequacy of information on social conditions referred to in paragraph 11 of the report lay in the governmental structure of the economically less-developed countries. The situation could consequently be expected to improve but slowly, and subsequent reports by the Secretary-General would inevitably suffer from a similar lack of background material. Too much attention ought not, however, to be devoted to the problem of improving

information: first of all, facilities for training competent public administrators would have to be improved. Once better-qualified administrators were in control and the administrative machinery had been improved, more satisfactory information would automatically be forthcoming.

19. It might be preferable to defer consideration of a long-range concerted programme in the field of urbanization until the forthcoming report on the world social situation, in which particular attention was to be given to the subject, had been examined. Delegations would then be in a better position to judge whether such a programme was desirable, and to draw it up if necessary.

20. It was true that there was as yet no clear conceptual framework for integrating economic and social projects into a coherent development plan, and perhaps the different conditions obtaining in various countries made such a framework impossible. The only way of achieving it, if indeed that was feasible, was by analysing the actual experience of particular countries. Accordingly, his delegation supported the Secretary-General's suggestion that a modest study should be made along those lines.

21. Miss AASLAND (Norway) observed that, while it was generally agreed that social progress had to go hand in hand with economic development, it was difficult, and perhaps not desirable—as was pointed out in the report—to apply common criteria for allocating funds between the two fields, or between the various projects within each of them. Countries still differed too greatly from one another, and each ought to fix its own lines of development. That principle had been duly respected by the Council in the country programming of technical assistance through the United Nations and the specialized agencies. At the same time, the programme of concerted practical action in the social field represented an important achievement, and the suggested methods and techniques to be used in its implementation had been, and would continue to be, of great value to governments desiring to avail themselves of it. The fact that the Council's schedule of priorities did not tally at all points with the desires and requests of individual countries for assistance need cause no embarrassment, since there was no suggestion that the Council wished to impose its own views. Its list simply represented an approximation to a common denominator, and was intended to serve as a guide, not as a strait-jacket.

22. The Norwegian delegation agreed with the Secretary-General's suggestions for improving and enlarging the scope of the programme of concerted practical action, and would support their incorporation in an appropriate resolution. Her delegation also supported the suggestion made by the Netherlands representative at the 927th meeting that any study of the problem of urbanization should include consideration of the problems arising in areas which were becoming depopulated as the result of the flight of labour to the towns. Lastly, she endorsed the remarks of the Indonesian representative, also at the 927th meeting, about the value of the co-operative movement as a means of promoting community development likely to be particularly useful to the poorer sections of the population.

23. Her delegation was appreciative of the endeavours made by the United Nations and specialized agencies to

put the recommendations of resolution 496 (XVI) into practice, and was confident that they would continue to work, perhaps even more actively than hitherto, along the lines recommended by the Secretary-General.

24. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that, despite the considerable success achieved, much remained to be done in the social field to eradicate discriminatory practices and personal differences that might lead to the perversion of the noblest ideas and even, in many cases, of correct policy.

25. The Dominican Republic was a small country, but its development had been remarkably rapid, as a result of its social conditions, geographical situation, climate, efficient civil administration and stable currency. His country's foreign debt had been wiped out in 1945, since when it had owed nothing to anyone. It could now join in international co-operation and was prepared to receive whatever technical assistance was offered, provided that the offer was made in good faith.

26. The Dominican Republic, therefore, regarded technical assistance from a viewpoint that was rather different from the usual one. In its view, the time had come for the Council to think about re-classifying developed and under-developed countries. Countries should be regrouped in accordance with their economic, cultural and social standards as reported by their own governments. A class should be created for countries which, although not yet fully developed, were neither under-developed nor insufficiently developed. Many countries of Latin America would reject out of hand any comparison between their political, social and cultural conditions and those obtaining in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which were under-developed in the strict sense of the term. Their pride was wounded when they were classified as under-developed countries; some more acceptable and more appropriate term should be found. The Dominican Republic, for example, regarded itself as a developed country; true, the process was not yet complete, but its stage of development could certainly not be assimilated to that of an under-developed country. Hence the need for reconsidering the basis on which technical assistance should be provided in the future.

27. That new view of technical assistance also meant that governments should consider in which fields they should receive it and in which they should not. The latter would apply to problems which could be solved out of domestic resources and by means of domestic legislation.

28. The Secretary-General's report, admirable though it was, required realistic reappraisal. It was undoubtedly necessary to train social workers, but the nature of such training must depend largely on the areas where the training was to be applied. In the Dominican Republic, a problem had been created by the increase in the school-age population, and the consequent need for new school buildings. In no more than two years, 81 new schools had been built at a cost of US \$12 million, without foreign help. That new building would have a substantial effect on agriculture, since it would bring a great increase in literacy; it was hoped that by the end of the next five years not more than 15 per cent of the population of the Dominican Republic would still be illiterate.

It could not be too often repeated that the social problem of ignorance, together with that of public health, should be given the highest priority, since only educated and healthy people would be capable of appreciating the value of the social services of the United Nations and specialized agencies in raising the living standards of the family and of society as a whole.

29. The inhabitants or citizens of a country must also enjoy unrestricted rights to participate fully in its life. In the Dominican Republic there was no discrimination on grounds of sex, religion or political beliefs, and all its citizens were collaborating with the Government to better the country's social conditions.

30. The international community was faced with a tremendous task in the social field. The Secretary-General had described the problems arising out of the implementation of resolution 496 (XVI), but his report raised a number of questions. It was not clear how a balance was to be maintained between the developed and the under-developed areas. He agreed with other speakers that efforts should not be concentrated on certain specific problems, since priorities varied from one country to another. The most that could be done was to give the individual an idea of how he might live the full life to which he was entitled. For that, housing was a vital factor, but its heavy cost might well prove incommensurate with the economic capacity of a State. The Dominican Republic, for its part, had not hesitated to ask the Organization of American States for technical assistance to help it to build working-class dwellings. Such housing became an integral part of the very structure of the country, and the assistance that made it possible could be accepted with pride.

31. Some revision of the system of selecting the staff responsible for carrying out technical assistance projects was, perhaps, needed, as the delegation of Ecuador had pointed out at the 928th meeting. The Dominican delegation endorsed all that that delegation had said. International civil servants appointed to carry out such projects should first make themselves acquainted with the history, traditions and way of life of the country to which they were being sent, and thus make sure that they did not become a nuisance to its government and to the international organization, the international community and the agency which had chosen them. More than one programme had failed because of the personal character of the experts or members of the mission appointed to implement it. The Council and the organizations concerned should devote particular attention to averting such disasters. Action to that end would be valuable and timely; in certain cases, indeed, it was urgently required.

32. The Dominican Republic was extremely appreciative of the assistance it had received from UNESCO, from WHO and from the International Civil Aviation Organization. It had welcomed international meetings and conferences, particularly in 1956, which had taken place in an atmosphere universally recognized to be excellent. The Dominican Republic was prepared to lend its full support to international social action, and was anxious to take advantage of the experience of other areas similar to the Caribbean. The Council could be assured of its co-operation, which had already found tangible expression

in its policy towards refugees and displaced persons, in its substantial contributions to the United Nations International Children's Fund and in its agreements with the Technical Assistance Administration, which had been concluded with no demand for matching. Finally, the constant social progress within the Dominican Republic was in itself a contribution to social work at the international level.

33. Mr. EPINAT (France) regretted that the Secretary-General's report had reached the French Government too late for thorough study. The ministries concerned needed time to formulate their comments; moreover, their comments had to be studied by a co-ordinating body, in the case in point by the Commission consultative nationale des questions sociales, which had been unable to consider the report.

34. In those circumstances, the French delegation, which hoped that steps would be taken to avoid such delays in future, would confine itself to a few provisional comments, reserving the right to revert to the matter in the Social Committee.

35. His delegation was gratified by the progress already made in carrying out the programme laid down in 1953. Doubtless there were still difficulties—understandably so, since, as the Secretary-General's report showed, problems in all fields had had to be faced at the same time. The report referred to difficulties with which the Council was familiar, particularly in the training of social service personnel, the inadequacy of statistical information, the problem of keeping a balance between economic and social development, the resistance due to local customs, and so on. However, the picture as a whole was favourable, and one could hope that it would thenceforward be possible to apply methods which had already proved their worth.

36. The French delegation noted with satisfaction the desire of the participating organizations, as shown in the report before the Council and the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to consider jointly reasonably long-term concerted programmes, particularly in the field of urbanization. It would make known its attitude on that last issue in the Social Committee.

37. The French delegation attached the highest importance to the problem of nutrition. Valuable progress had certainly been made in that field, but the moment seemed to have come to co-ordinate the work done. The Council must be provided as soon as possible with data which would enable it to draw up a co-ordinated programme in respect of nutrition.

38. As to community development, French Government departments had read with interest the booklet entitled *Social progress through community development* (E/CN.5/303/Rev.1). As the French delegation understood it, that concept included everything being done to equip and instruct communities for their well-being, and with their participation. The idea was no new one, and any hesitation on the part of French representatives when it had first been put forward by the United Nations had perhaps been due to the fact that they had been looking for an element of novelty in it which had not been there. The report of the United Nations mission instructed to

make a study of this subject in Africa in 1956 would perhaps dispel some misunderstandings. The French delegation and French Government departments would study that report—which would, *inter alia*, have a special bearing on community development and organization in the Ivory Coast—with the greatest care. The ultimate conclusion might well be that the fundamental purposes were the same, and only the methods differed. The French delegation was also much interested in the training of community leaders by the United Nations.

39. The very concept of community development was now taking definite shape. Nevertheless, the remark in the Secretary-General's report that the problem was now becoming an international one might give rise to some confusion. Perhaps what was meant was that many governments attached considerable importance to the process, or, again, that the United Nations intended to make a special effort to help those governments; but it was clear that the United Nations could not regard community development in every country concerned as anything but a national matter.

40. The French delegation thought that, though the practical side of the United Nations' work on community development was important, major problems, such as that of the training of social service personnel, which had to work not only at the base and at the summit, but also at the intermediate levels, should not be lost sight of.

41. The French delegation was sorry that the Secretary-General's report did not state more clearly the extent to which the requests for assistance submitted by governments departed from the order of priorities established by the United Nations. That order would have to be reviewed one day, and it would be as well if, when the day came, the Council had all the information it needed for drawing up fresh directives.

42. The French delegation also wished the Secretary-General to give a clearer account of the difficulties met with.

43. It regretted that some of the social service seminars organized under the auspices of the United Nations were not entirely non-political. Such seminars ought to conform to the Council's instructions, and everything not strictly technical should be barred from their work.

44. Mrs. TSUKANOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that the Soviet delegation considered that the Secretary-General's report was of great importance and contained some positive theses which characterized the activity of the specialized agencies in the social field. Taking this into account, the Soviet delegation wished to limit itself to certain comments.

45. There was no doubt whatever that, as several speakers had pointed out, social progress was intimately bound up with economic progress and must be based on extensive economic measures taken by the governments concerned. In many countries one of the most far-reaching problems was the persistence of illiteracy. The Soviet delegation noted that the representative of Ecuador—at the 928th meeting—as well as those of other States, had referred to the large number of illiterates in certain countries. Almost one-half of the world's popu-

lation could neither read nor write. The main problem, therefore, was to eradicate that evil by promoting the universal introduction of primary education, which, all would agree, was the pre-requisite for any solution of social and economic problems.

46. The Soviet Union delegation would welcome every step taken by UNESCO and other interested agencies to promote primary education by co-ordinating their educational policies. Obviously, however, action could not be limited to the steps taken by international organizations; each government must make a special effort adapted to the particular circumstances of the local situation. The specialized agencies should try to work out recommendations that would bring home forcefully to governments the vital importance of general primary education, based not only on the situation as it was at present, but on future prospects.

47. The Soviet Union had long since introduced compulsory seven-year primary education, and had recently completed the introduction of the ten-year secondary course. In the school year 1955/56, thirty million children had attended school. The greatest importance was attached to training specialists in all fields through secondary and higher education. During the same period, nearly two million students had attended the universities and another two million had studied at specialized secondary schools. Fifty million—i.e., no less than one-quarter of the population of the Soviet Union—had been engaged in some form of study. A vast programme of social development of all kinds had been carried through by the Government, which had already spent 154,000 million roubles on meeting social and cultural needs, and would in all spend annually 210,000 million roubles for that purpose during the sixth Five-year Plan.

48. Some delegations had mentioned malaria control. Malaria had been prevalent in Russia under the Czars and at the beginning of the Soviet regime, but had long since been eradicated, together with similar scourges, as a result of her Government's unremitting efforts to improve the health and well-being of the Soviet people, to which purposes it devoted immense sums. The success achieved was strikingly illustrated by the fact that the 1955 mortality rate had been 3.6 less than the 1913 figure, and considerably less than that in France, the United Kingdom or the United States of America.

49. The seminar to be held in the autumn of 1956 was to discuss modern methods in the social field, such as social security and mother-and-child welfare. Undoubtedly those were very important, but other factors affecting the general condition and well-being of the family should also be considered, such as housing, education and improvement of working conditions. The Soviet Union Government was ready to do all it could to help the United Nations and specialized agencies to solve the world's social problems, especially those of the under-developed countries.

50. Mr. EUSTATHIADES (Greece) said that the Greek delegation agreed with the observations made by several representatives, including those of France and the United States of America at the current meeting and the 928th meeting respectively. It approved in particular the Ne-

therlands representative's comments on priorities at the 927th meeting, since it must not be forgotten that emergencies were usually unforeseeable, and that there were many problems affecting various parts of the world which demanded attention regardless of the priorities established by the Council. While it was true that the provisions of the constitutions of the specialized agencies seemed to be another restrictive factor, they were at least constant, whereas emergencies were by their very nature unpredictable. The Greek delegation therefore attached great importance to the French representative's remark concerning the possible review of the priorities established in 1953.

51. His delegation entirely agreed with those representatives who had stressed the importance of education. Greece—where education had for long been compulsory—had made a considerable effort in that field, although during the previous ten years her resources had been eaten up by wars and natural catastrophes, such as earthquakes. For instance, in the academic year 1953/54, more than 600 teachers had been appointed and 700 new educational establishments had been built or old ones repaired; in 1954/55, 836 schools had been built and 966 repaired. That being so, the Greek delegation could not refrain from exposing the entirely different situation obtaining in Cyprus, an island which had been inhabited by Greeks for thousands of years and in which the schools had recently been closed and the teachers thrown out. The problem might be considered a political one, but the Council ought not to ignore its social repercussions, the more so since the Secretary-General's report showed that the benefits of the social programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies had been extended to vast areas of the world, and in particular to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

52. The Greek delegation had certain objections to raise in regard to the terminology used in the Secretary-General's report. For example, it considered the terms "community development" and "under-developed countries" unduly vague. But it was nevertheless highly gratified with the document, which, despite certain gaps, gave a glimpse of the difficulties and thereby served as an exhortation to further efforts.

53. Those efforts must be directed along the lines indicated by the Charter of the United Nations, even if the aims therein defined could never be fully attained. If they were to be constructive, the efforts must be not only co-ordinated but also completely apolitical.

54. Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia) said that the uneven development as between one area and another that characterized contemporary social conditions was an urgent reason why the Council should survey and assess the activities being carried on internationally in the social field and lay down the principle by which the work of the United Nations should be governed in the future. The Czechoslovak delegation had already described, in the General Assembly, its country's social institutions and social development programmes, which had substantially bettered the social position of the Czechoslovak working class, especially in recent years.

55. The statement in the Secretary-General's report that since 1953 the United Nations and the specialized agencies

had developed their social programmes along the lines laid down in resolution 496 (XVI) was substantially correct. Such widespread activities could not be disregarded, but the resolution itself omitted essential specific measures, such as the improvement and extension of social welfare services and social security, free medical care and the access of all to free education without discrimination. That shortcoming had naturally been reflected in the social work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

56. It was generally recognized today, and had repeatedly been stated in the discussion, that social and economic questions were closely linked. The Indonesian representative, for instance, at the 927th meeting, had stressed that his country had set as the main goal of its first Five-year Plan the raising of the living standards of broad sections of the population. That showed that the improvement of economic conditions was a prerequisite of the improvement of social conditions. Hence, the guarantee of lasting social progress lay in economic development, especially industrialization—a principle which ought to be universally recognized.

57. The beneficial influence of economic conditions on social conditions raised organizational questions. The United Nations and its specialized agencies laid great stress on mutual help, the development of local action, the inception of demonstration centres and the like. It could not be denied that such action was useful, but it must be realized that mutual help and demonstration centres could never lead to anything but temporary and partial improvement unless broad-scale systematic action was taken simultaneously to promote both economic and social progress generally. Local action could be successful and lasting only when integrated into the national effort to achieve economic and social progress. But that certainly did not debar the Council from dealing with specific social problems, in addition to the more general programmes for improving the situation of the broad mass of the population in the economically under-developed countries and in Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories.

58. Emphasis should be placed on the real urgency of the problem of social security at the same time as on the basic problem of raising the workers' living standards. Czechoslovakia had long experience in the matter, and was ready to help the under-developed countries in establishing their own social security systems, either by sending experts, or by arranging seminars or exchanging expert delegations.

59. In his report, the Secretary-General rightly pointed out that the inadequacy of information on social conditions in economically under-developed countries remained a major problem for the international organizations. In the report on the world social situation now in preparation, the greatest possible attention should undoubtedly be paid to social conditions in all parts of the world, and especially to those obtaining in the under-developed countries. Hundreds of millions of people were still living in poverty and distress, suffering from unemployment, famine and under-nourishment, exposed to the devastating effects of epidemics and lacking any prospect of becoming literate and any security against illness or old age.

60. As to the proposal for drawing up a model programme of social development, he agreed with those delegations which thought that to theorize on social problems was dangerous. The correct course would be to exchange experience and to work out basic principles which could effectively be put into practice in accordance with local conditions.
61. The Council should focus its attention on a logical and positive study of the main social problems, and on devising effective steps to fill gaps and remedy defects.
62. The social work which the Council was called upon to supervise and co-ordinate must necessarily be very complex and difficult, if the social aims set forth in the Charter were to be achieved. The United Nations programmes in the social field ought accordingly to be reconsidered and a more practical course of action drawn up.
63. Mr. EGGERMANN (International Federation of Christian Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the PRESIDENT, pointed out that, so far as the steps taken by the United Nations to promote economic development in the under-developed countries were concerned, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU) had always stressed the point that such development must go hand-in-hand with social progress, to ensure that the countries affected did not find themselves in the shocking situation of nineteenth-century Europe. Although it was not imminent, the seeds of that danger were to be found in the technical assistance activities of the United Nations, which were all directed towards economic development. Moreover, the *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation* (E/CN.5/267/Rev.1) had not proved reassuring, and fully justified the launching of a programme of concerted practical action in the social field.
64. It was of course too early to judge the programme as a whole, and the report before the Council (E/2890) did not attempt to evaluate its various aspects; but it gave a very useful general picture.
65. IFCTU considered that the nine fields of activity listed in resolution 496 (XVI) had lost none of their topicality, and hence that there was no need to modify the basic objectives of the programme in their broad lines.
66. With regard to actual methods, the most effective would appear to be the promotion and implementation of community development projects; but the Secretary-General seemed to have certain misgivings about the role of demonstration centres in that field. In IFCTU's view, it would be better to begin by encouraging the establishment of organizations to facilitate the integration of peoples in their new economic and social environments. Such organizations would group the population at the base and provide the necessary link between the masses and the authorities responsible for community development. Demonstration centres would be much more effective once the population had been organized at the base.
67. Similarly, in the development of training programmes for technical personnel, it should be the leaders of such organizations who received more advanced training.
68. IFCTU was convinced that the success of the programme of concerted practical action would be governed by the extent to which the peoples themselves could be interested in the project. The best way to achieve that end would probably be to encourage the creation of basic organizations of a private nature, such as consumer and credit co-operatives and the like.
69. IFCTU and other organizations were already very active in that field, and it would be desirable, in the interest of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, for the United Nations and the specialized agencies to join forces there with the non-governmental organizations.
70. Certain specialized agencies, in particular UNESCO, had, indeed, already called upon the services of the non-governmental organizations. IFCTU, which had co-operated with UNESCO in the preparation and implementation of certain projects, had observed that those taking part in the programmes had enthusiastically accepted international assistance offered to them through an organization which was familiar to them, and also that the programmes themselves were well adapted to the characteristics of those taking part, because of the close links which already existed between them and IFCTU.
71. His organization considered it regrettable that the United Nations had not yet been able to give closer attention to the third method recommended, which consisted in setting up and strengthening the national and local organizations necessary for the administration of social programmes. It was evident that the creation of such organizations was a pre-requisite of the lasting solution of social problems, but the importance of their co-operation with the international and inter-regional organizations established by the United Nations and the specialized agencies on the one hand, and the basic non-governmental organizations he had mentioned earlier on the other, ought also to be emphasized.
72. If the great social problems were to be solved, they must be thoroughly studied. Efforts had already been made in that direction; for example, UNESCO had set up at Calcutta a research centre on the social consequences of industrialization. But there were still many gaps to be filled; for instance, in the field of research into the social consequences of the peaceful application of atomic energy.
73. IFCTU realized that, as a rule, it was difficult to obtain adequate information on the social situation in the under-developed countries. In its view, it would be well for the Council to ask the Secretary-General to study the difficulties involved, in submitting his next report on the world social situation.
74. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) thanked the members of the Council for their favourable reception of the Secretary-General's report (E/2890). The preparation of such a report obviously raised difficulties both of form and of substance. Some of the points mentioned by the representative of Egypt were dealt with in the annexes.
75. He had noticed that the expression "long-term programme" had aroused some misgivings in the Council.

It certainly was not happily chosen, since the idea was simply to provide directives for future work. The reason why long-term planning had been so strongly stressed by the Secretary-General was that it answered to the organizational needs of the Secretariat and to those of co-ordination with the specialized agencies.

76. He had noted no contradiction between the various remarks made in the Council and the ideas put forward by the Secretariat regarding the application of the concept of long-term planning to community development. As many representatives had pointed out, the Secretariat recognized that any action taken towards community development would call for strenuous efforts at the national level. There was, however, a wide scope for international action, not so much in finding solutions but in comparing experience. He had noticed in India and Pakistan a definite desire that the United Nations should assist governments towards this end. The Secretariat thought that it might be possible to initiate a programme covering six years—for example, with regard to the training of personnel, the adaptation of techniques to the different projects and the evaluation of different techniques in one or more countries. As regards the terms used, the inadequacy of which had been emphasized by the representative of Greece, he thought the French expression “développement communautaire” might be more satisfactory, although not absolutely correct.

77. With regard to urbanization, the Secretariat's suggestion that a long-range programme should be drawn up had been criticized by the representative of the United States of America at the 928th meeting, but basically there was nothing in his statement that was inconsistent with the ideas of the Secretariat and the specialized agencies. The latter recognized the complexity of the problem, but thought that discussion on the actual concept of urbanization might be useful. It would merely be a matter of concentrating attention on the problem. Moreover, at the present stage, the Secretariat was confining itself mainly to collecting facts and defining the problems. However, there had perhaps been a misunderstanding: the Secretariat was not, of course, opposed to urbanization; it was merely anxious to eliminate the social dangers which might accompany that phenomenon.

78. It seemed that the Secretary-General's report and his own comments on the integration of economic and social development plans has caused some anxiety, which he would like to dispel. The Secretariat realized the dangers of such a study better than anyone, but the idea had been put forward because very often countries showed a keen desire to be informed of what was being done elsewhere and to be given guidance. What was considered at the present stage was only a preliminary study with regard to defining problems and methods, and the Secretariat had no wish to go further than suggested in the draft resolution on the subject (E/L.728) submitted jointly by the delegations of Ecuador, Egypt, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan and the United States of America.

79. In reply to the representative of China (927th meeting) he explained that the reason why the *Ad Hoc* Inter-Agency Meeting on International Social Programmes met in Geneva immediately before the opening of the Council's summer session was that in that way it was able to discuss the problems raised in the Secretary-General's annual report on the subject and other questions and establish practical methods of co-ordination. There was no question of specific technical assistance projects being discussed at those meetings.

80. In answer to the comments of the Netherlands representative (927th meeting), he said that no project of common interest was undertaken without prior consultation between all the organizations concerned.

81. The problem of the de-population accompanying urbanization was being studied by the Population Commission in connexion with internal migrations. The other problems raised would be dealt with more effectively in connexion with the community development programmes.

82. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had completed its general debate on item 10 of the agenda.

83. That item, together with the draft resolution thereon (E/L.728), would be referred to the Social Committee.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.