

ments would follow the course suggested by the present wording, and the future should not be prejudged.

123. He assured the Council that, if the draft resolutions to which he had referred were adopted, his organization would co-operate to the fullest extent possible in their implementation.

124. Mr. THATCHER (United Nations Environment Programme) said that the Governing Council of UNEP considered the situation in the drought-stricken Sudano-Sahelian region to be a matter of high priority. At its second session at Nairobi it had, in decision 8 (II) (E/5485, annex I), decided to treat "land, water and desertification" as an area for priority action; and had requested the Executive Director to devote special attention under UNEP programmes to the Sudano-Sahelian region, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3054 (XXVIII). The Governing Council of UNEP had decided to give the Executive Director discretion to select the areas on which efforts should be concentrated in 1975, but it had suggested a short list of subjects, including management of arid and semi-arid lands and tropical forest ecosystems, and problems of desertification.

125. Not being an executing agency, UNEP acted in liaison with executing agencies within the system of

co-ordination set up by ACC. He confirmed that UNEP would support the work of WMO on climatic variations to which the representative of that organization had referred. He also drew attention to a report¹ prepared by UNEP as part of its co-ordinating functions, in which *inter alia* the activities of the organizations in the United Nations system relating to arid zones, especially the activities of UNESCO, FAO and WMO, were described in detail.

126. During the preceding week (689th meeting), the Economic Committee of the Council had taken a decision requesting the Secretary-General to set up an *ad hoc* inter-agency task force on the arid areas. That was an idea originally put forward by ACASTD. UNEP hoped that when it took part with other organizations in the meeting which the Secretary-General would convene for that purpose, it would be able, in the exercise of its co-ordinating functions, to contribute to an agreement on the distribution of work.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

¹ UNEP/GC/14/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

1915th meeting

Tuesday, 16 July 1974, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. A. KARHILO (Finland)

E/SR.1915

AGENDA ITEMS 10, 11, 12 AND 22

Consideration of the economic and social situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures to be taken for the benefit of that region (*concluded*) (E/5554; E/L.1605/Rev.1, E/L.1607)

Economic assistance to Zambia (*concluded*) (E/L.1603)

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (*concluded*) (E/5560; E/L.1606, E/L.1607)

Assistance to southern Sudanese returnees and displaced persons (*concluded*) (E/5483; E/L.1604/Rev.1)

1. Mr. CABRIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that it was important to continue assistance in all the cases under consideration, but that the two different reasons justifying its continuation should be borne in mind. In assisting Zambia, the international community was discharging its obligations under Security Council resolution 329 (1973), just as Zambia was discharging its obligations by closing its southern border. He hoped that all countries would reaffirm the need to continue assistance to Zambia, in accordance with the provisions of the Security Council resolution. As the

Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance for Zambia had pointed out (1913th meeting), Zambia had so far received assistance worth about \$62.4 million, whereas the closure of its southern border had cost it \$154.6 million. It would also be dangerous to assume that the present high price of copper would be maintained and that the political situation in neighbouring countries would soon improve. The assistance should therefore be continued on an even greater scale, for that would help to speed up the elimination of the root causes of the present situation in southern Africa and would be in accordance with the principles underlying the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session. Yugoslavia had recently allocated \$1 million for assistance to Zambia in cash and kind.

2. His Government supported the short-term and long-term programmes of assistance to countries in the drought-stricken Sudano-Sahelian region, whose economic difficulties were so graphically described in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/5554). The purpose of the assistance should be, not only to meet those countries' basic needs at a difficult time, but to enable them to play their part in the establishment of a new economic order.

Yugoslavia would provide an additional \$100,000 in cash for assistance to those countries.

3. The drought had also affected large areas of Ethiopia, where there was a danger of large-scale population displacement. Such displacement could be prevented by timely assistance on a scale that would permit the resumption of economic development in the affected provinces. He had noted with satisfaction the contribution already made by UNDP and the medium- and long-term assistance programmes envisaged. Yugoslavia had recently given the Ethiopian Government \$100,000 in cash for relief work.

4. The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on assistance to southern Sudanese returnees and displaced persons (E/5483) showed that, although much remained to be done there, the operation would soon be successfully completed. He hoped that the joint efforts of international organizations in the three other areas under consideration would be equally effective. He endorsed the comments made by the speakers introducing the draft resolutions before the Council and expressed his support for draft resolution E/L.1607 on the drought problem in Africa.

5. Mr. BERLIS (Canada) reaffirmed his Government's support for the efforts being made to alleviate the sufferings of people in the drought-stricken African countries. Canada's assistance to those countries had been increasing in the past two years and was mainly concerned with relief measures. Its assistance to Ethiopia was recorded in annex II to the relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/5560). In 1973 Canada had supplied \$6.8 million worth of food aid and transport services to the Sudano-Sahelian region under bilateral assistance programmes and had also channelled assistance through the FAO Sahelian Trust Fund, UNICEF, WFP, the International Red Cross and Canadian voluntary organizations. In 1974-75, assistance programmes would continue to concentrate on emergency relief in the form of food aid, medical supplies and the installation of storage capacity. Of \$100 million of assistance pledged by Canada in response to the appeal for support for the Special Programme adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly, about \$32 million would go to countries in the drought-stricken region of Africa. A task force had been established in Canada's International Development Agency to plan its contribution to medium-term and long-term rehabilitation programmes for the Sudano-Sahelian region up to 1980.

6. Canada appreciated the economic difficulties faced by Zambia as a result of the closure of its southern border and was placing increasing emphasis on the transport sector in its assistance to that country. It had contributed to the relief work so effectively carried out by the High Commissioner for Refugees in the southern Sudan.

7. His delegation would support draft resolutions E/L.1603, E/L.1604/Rev.1, E/L.1605/Rev.1 and E/L.1606, submitted in connexion with the items under discussion, but would be interested to hear the reaction of their sponsors to the suggestions made at the previous meeting by the representatives of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom concerning the last two. He had not yet had time to study draft resolution E/L.1607.

8. Mr. BOOTHE (Jamaica) stressed his Government's serious concern about the situation in the drought-stricken African countries. Jamaica endorsed draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1 and wished to be included among the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1606. He had not had time to study draft resolution E/L.1607.

9. Operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1 and operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution E/L.1606 prepared the ground for a long-term approach to the situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region, which was necessary concomitant of the present short-term and medium-term assistance and relief work. It would have to be established whether the present disaster was the result of climatic factors alone, or whether the present system of land and water use was a contributory factor and therefore required detailed study and possibly modification. It might be appropriate, for example, to combine modern land and water resources development and management with the traditional nomadic practices which had served the region well in the past. Countries had demonstrated their political will to finance short-term assistance to those regions, and he was sure that the need for long-term, co-ordinated international action would meet with a similar response.

10. Jamaica appreciated the valuable work accomplished by the High Commissioner for Refugees in southern Sudan and expected UNDP to assume the role of focal point for long-term international rehabilitation efforts in that area. It wholeheartedly supported Zambia in its efforts to pursue a policy of economic independence vis-à-vis the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia. Jamaica wished to be included among the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1603.

11. Mr. AISSA (Algeria) said that the report of the Secretary-General (E/5554) had revealed the fragility of the economies of the six countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region and the precarious situation of their populations. It would be premature at the present stage to attribute the ecological imbalance to any specific factor, but the magnitude and urgency of the problems facing the Governments of those countries was obvious. The extreme south of Algeria was in the Sudano-Sahelian zone and had been affected by the drought. His Government therefore appreciated the position of the other six countries affected and had given them assistance to the value of \$8 million under bilateral programmes. It treated nomads from Mali and Niger now in the Algerian Sahara as Algerian nationals. In 1973 it had appropriated \$17 million for land improvement and hydraulic works for the benefit of Algerian nomads. The Hoggar and Adrar areas had been given department status.

12. The response of the international community and the United Nations system to appeals for assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian region had been most welcome, but present programmes were totally inadequate for the attainment of the objectives outlined in the Secretary-General's report, owing to the scale of the problems facing all seven countries affected by the drought. They estimated the long-term development assistance needs of that region to be about \$1,000 million. The international community was not yet providing assistance on the scale that could reasonably be expected of it. One-twentieth of the wheat

used in OECD countries annually to feed livestock would be sufficient to meet the wheat needs of the entire Sudano-Sahelian region.

13. The situation might well become worse in the near future. The United Nations should therefore draw up programmes of immediate action based on the abundant information already available and concentrate its efforts in sectors where they were likely to produce the best short-term and medium-term results. The programmes should be flexible to permit efficient, co-ordinated use of resources. He would have liked more details of the timing of the various projects listed in part II of the report of the Secretary-General. The success of the strategy would depend largely on the way in which the Governments concerned would be associated with the preparation of the programmes through the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, and on the harmonization and integration of those programmes with the national economic plans of the recipient countries. The High Commissioner for Refugees had shown his capacity for dealing successfully with large-scale emergency situations in southern Sudan and the Indian sub-continent and should be associated more closely with the short-term relief programmes for the Sudano-Sahelian region, since they were essentially of a humanitarian character.

14. The report of the High Commissioner for Refugees on assistance to southern Sudanese returnees and displaced persons showed that the mission had been accomplished with devotion and excellent management. The High Commissioner had speedily mobilized the necessary resources and obtained the co-operation of the Governments concerned. The Sudanese Government had collaborated effectively in the operation. He hoped that UNDP and the other agencies concerned would now deal as effectively with the long-term aspects of the situation in southern Sudan.

15. Zambia had acted with commendable courage in closing its southern border and had made an important contribution to international efforts to eliminate colonialism and racial discrimination in southern Africa. It therefore deserved the continuing, effective support of the international community. Operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution on assistance to Zambia (E/L.1603) rightly urged Member States to share with Zambia the economic burden arising from the implementation of the sanctions policy they had endorsed.

16. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed satisfaction at the timely and energetic efforts made bilaterally and through the United Nations to alleviate the sufferings of the population of the drought-stricken areas in Africa, whose plight was due to ecological causes and economic and political ineptitude. The report of the Secretary-General (E/5554) rightly stated that the disastrous effects of the present cyclical drought in the Sudano-Sahelian zone had been so profound because of the ecological imbalance resulting from the slow and unbalanced economic and social development of the region, and that the agro-meteorological factor was only one aspect of the problem. The report also rightly emphasized that the solution lay in concentrating on the creation and development of a viable economic production base and develop-

ment of the agricultural and industrial sectors to overcome the constraints which had prevented agriculture from keeping pace with national demand. In other words, the legacy of colonialism, which was still in evidence, should be eliminated. He was therefore glad to note the efforts being made to find ways of eradicating the causes of the present situation through the rehabilitation and improvement of the economies of the affected countries by government action and appropriate United Nations assistance programmes.

17. The decisive factors, however, would be the national plans of the countries themselves, a proper understanding of the problems and willingness to overcome them. The Ethiopian representative's account at the 1914th meeting of his Government's plans for technical, social and economic action in its drought-stricken provinces had been most interesting. Only by adopting a determined over-all approach, with international assistance, could effective results be obtained within a reasonable time. Indeed, the solution to such problems lay in radical social and economic changes, the creation and reinforcement of State and co-operative sectors of the economy, specialist training, State control over capital outflow and other similar measures. He was glad to see that some of the drought-stricken countries were considering proposals for immediate land reform, including the limitation of private land ownership and the distribution of land among the peasants. In response to their appeals, the Soviet Union had assisted Upper Volta, Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal, Chad and Ethiopia by supplying foodstuffs, medicaments, transport equipment and the services of experts.

18. He expressed his Government's support for Zambia's just struggle for its political and economic independence and against colonialism and racism. The present situation in Zambia was the consequence of the colonialist-imperialist policy pursued by the racist South African Government with the support of certain western Powers. As had been pointed out in the discussion, unless Zambia was helped to regain its rights, it would be difficult for its people to solve its complex social, economic and political problems. The Soviet Union had granted Zambia a loan and was furnishing material and technical assistance.

19. The USSR Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his letter¹ to the Secretary-General about the Soviet Union's proposal that the States permanent members of the Security Council should reduce their military budgets by 10 per cent and devote part of the resulting savings to assistance to developing countries, had suggested that such assistance should go primarily to Asian, African and Latin American countries whose urgent economic and social projects were held up by natural disasters, including drought. The Soviet Union was prepared to support the draft resolutions submitted in connexion with the items under discussion.

20. Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution E/L.1607 on the drought problem in Africa, announced that Canada, India, Pakistan, Uganda and

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Annexes, agenda item 102, document A/9191.*

Yugoslavia wished to be added to the list of sponsors. The intention of the draft resolution was simple: he had referred at the previous meeting to the need for a well co-ordinated multidisciplinary approach to the problems of the drought-stricken areas in the Sudano-Sahelian region and Ethiopia. On behalf of the sponsors, he accepted the proposal to include a reference to ECA and WHO in the second preambular paragraph; the degree of involvement of the various United Nations bodies listed in that paragraph naturally varied, but ECA clearly had an important role to play and WHO would deal with health aspects of the problem. In operative paragraph 2, the Secretary-General was requested to submit an interim report. His attention had been drawn to the fact that the contents of such a report had not been specifically defined. That would clearly depend on the way in which the "broad, system-wide attack" on the problem, mentioned in operative paragraph 1, was conducted, but the report should include the elements proposed in the other draft resolutions for inclusion in reports by the Secretary-General. He hoped that draft resolution E/L.1607 would be adopted unanimously by the Council.

21. Mr. GEBRU (Ethiopia) said that his delegation was sponsoring draft resolution E/L.1607 because operative paragraph 5 had been deleted from draft resolution E/L.1606 on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia. He thanked the representatives of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and WMO for their constructive comments on that draft resolution. The representative of WMO had pointed out that the phrase "is continually spreading" in the fifth preambular paragraph was scientifically incorrect; he therefore agreed that it should be deleted. The representative of the United Kingdom, whose assistance to Ethiopia was deeply appreciated, had commented on the references in the second preambular paragraph and in operative paragraphs 3 and 7 to section X of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, which called for emergency measures in a different sense. As he had already stated, the present economic crisis had substantially decreased the Ethiopian Government's capacity to combat the effects of the drought. The references to the Programme of Action had been inserted to remind Member States of the need to take into account basic economic difficulties in formulating plans for medium- and long-term assistance, since the draft resolution was not concerned only with emergency relief measures. The mandate of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator covered not only natural but also man-made disasters and was therefore applicable to the distress caused by economic policies. He would therefore like the present text to be retained.

22. Mr. ISLAM (Pakistan) said that, in addition to the impressive measures undertaken by international organizations in the Sudano-Sahelian region, the situation there called for an objective appraisal of the causes of such tragedies, so that plans could be made for preventing them, or at least reducing their impact. Several independent studies showed that the natural causes which had led to the calamity had been compounded by the mistakes of experts not fully aware of the region's past history and delicate ecological balance. The application of techniques unsuited to local conditions and to the capacity of the local population to absorb their impact had caused great hard-

ship and misery. The report of the Secretary-General (E/5554) recognized that the disastrous effects of the present cyclical drought in the Sudano-Sahelian zone had been so profound because of the ecological imbalance resulting from the slow and unbalanced economic and social development of the region relative to the rapid growth of its human and animal populations. The establishment of the proposed research institute referred to in draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1, operative paragraph 5, should help to prevent a recurrence of the present situation.

23. The lack of progress in the Sahelian countries, despite large-scale foreign assistance, showed that their problems should be tackled in a planned co-ordinated manner, on the basis of a coherent and integrated programme for the development of vital economic sectors to enable those countries to withstand future natural calamities. They should be helped, not only to survive the present crisis, but to build a durable economy. Poor countries, which had more than their fair share of natural calamities, always seemed to be unprepared for them and unable to withstand their consequences. That was because hardly any effort was made in the periods between disasters to develop the resistance of the country or help it to re-orientate its economy to withstand future disasters. As a small token of its sympathy for the peoples of the Sudano-Sahelian region, Pakistan had offered bilateral assistance to the value of \$200,000 to the affected countries.

24. He expressed support for all the measures suggested by the Secretary-General to relieve the hardships faced by the people of Zambia as a result of their heroic action against the racist régime beyond its southern frontier. Zambia had had the courage to act in accordance with its convictions and the international community should ensure that its action did not fail. Its success would perhaps discourage the racist régimes from pursuing their inhuman policies.

25. The untiring efforts of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the co-operation and wisdom of the Governments of the countries concerned had made possible the return of the southern Sudanese refugees to their homeland. Pakistan would support every measure taken to complete that process. The Office of the High Commissioner had helped to solve a great humanitarian problem in the south-Asian region by successfully repatriating almost a quarter of a million nationals of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

26. He urged the Council to adopt unanimously all the draft resolutions submitted in connexion with the items under consideration.

27. Mr. SCHEGGIA (Chile) said that he considered that the Council had been well advised to take agenda items 10, 11, 12 and 22 together, since they gave an over-all view of the problems confronting the African continent. At first sight, the problems of the drought appeared to have been caused by the destruction of the climatic and ecological balance, but the real underlying source of the disaster was under-development, which had caused that imbalance. The excellent reports from the different United Nations organs showed that human suffering had been temporarily miti-

gated, but efforts must be made to deal with the root causes of the disease of under-development affecting two-thirds of the populations in the third world, if similar disasters were not to occur in other continents. A greater will to co-operation was required on the part of the international community. It was plain that the emergency relief measures had been successful owing to co-ordinated action on the part of United Nations bodies – an example which he hoped would continue to be followed.

28. Chile had always upheld the principle of international co-operation and regarded humanitarian assistance as one of the duties of the international community. His delegation therefore fully supported draft resolutions E/L.1603, E/L.1604/Rev.1, E/L.1605/Rev.1 and E/L.1606. With regard to draft resolution E/L.1607, his delegation would require time to examine the text, although there appeared to be nothing, in principle, to prevent its acceptance.

29. Mr. W. RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that his delegation fully endorsed draft resolutions E/L.1604/Rev.1, E/L.1605/Rev.1, E/L.1606 and E/L.1607. If Bangladesh had been a Member of the United Nations, it would have co-sponsored them all. He hoped that they would be adopted unanimously so that effective steps could be taken without delay to alleviate the sufferings of millions.

30. In particular, he wished to refer to the part of the statement made by the High Commissioner for Refugees (1913th meeting) which, to quote the latter's own words, dealt with "a human airlift of unprecedented dimensions". At the twenty-fourth session of the Executive Committee of UNHCR, he had expressed his Government's appreciation of the part played by the High Commissioner in solving the problem of 10 million refugees who had fled to India as a result of the happenings in Bangladesh in 1971. He now wished to express his Government's appreciation of the efficient way in which UNHCR had handled tripartite repatriation in the sub-continent, thereby also helping to defuse the political situation, created mainly by failure to solve the humanitarian problems.

31. Although UNHCR had repatriated some 240,000 people. Bangladesh was still burdened with the problem of about 400,000 people who had opted for transfer to Pakistan and who had registered with the International Committee of the Red Cross. The matter had been discussed at the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Bangladesh, but without tangible results. As a fledgling nation, Bangladesh was grateful to the international community for assistance with its difficulties. The problem of the 400,000 would-be emigrants was, however, desperate and it was to be hoped that they would be allowed to go to the country to which they had pledged their allegiance.

32. Mr. TEMBOURY (Spain) said that the agenda items under consideration related to one of the most urgent tasks facing the international community. Human solidarity dictated that a response must be made to the tragedy being enacted in the Sudano-Sahelian region and Ethiopia. The time had come to work out an effective and co-ordinated policy to deal with the consequences of the drought. The

Council must stress the gravity of the situation and the urgency and magnitude of the assistance required; it must then co-ordinate the various activities, which might well prove inadequate if undertaken in isolation.

33. It was necessary to determine whether it was a matter of temporary climatic changes, or of changes which would lead to the region becoming a total desert, before deciding upon the type of assistance required. If the climatic changes were temporary, it would be a matter of stepping up current relief measures. If, however the situation was so serious that it might become difficult to support life in the area, it would be necessary to consider more far-reaching plans since present-day technology might prove inadequate to cope with the situation. The first requisite, therefore, was to carry out the necessary scientific studies on the nature of the drought affecting the Sudano-Sahelian and Ethiopian regions. His delegation accordingly supported the proposals to that end in draft resolutions E/L.1605/Rev.1 and E/L.1606.

34. Spain had answered the appeal for assistance. The Spanish Government had established an airlift between the Canary Islands and one of the Sudano-Sahelian countries for the transport of supplies. It was hoped to expand that operation within the limits of Spanish resources. A number of experts from the Institute for Agrarian Reform and Development, coming under the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, had been sent to the Chad basin to carry out soundings in connexion with the digging of wells and the location of subterranean water supplies. The Spanish experts were using the Institute's experience of the arid regions of Spain and were working in close contact with the local FAO representative. The requisite material and equipment would be sent when it had been decided where to carry out the soundings.

35. Private assistance had been channelled through voluntary organizations, which had recently approved a plan for medium-term assistance to three countries in the Sahelian area and continued aid to the other countries in 1975.

36. A start had been made on the implementation of 19 projects, in the following order of priority: firstly, projects to locate or conserve water supplies; secondly, projects to make use of such supplies for human beings, livestock and agriculture; thirdly, training of personnel in each country to assume direction of such projects as soon as possible.

37. He regretted that Spanish assistance to Ethiopia, which although modest in amount indicated Spain's feeling for Ethiopia, was not listed in the Secretary-General's report (E/5560).

38. His delegation looked to the Council to promote adequate measures to solve the problem. In a century which had witnessed great technological progress and effective co-ordination in other fields, it was unthinkable that aid to the stricken regions of Africa should be delayed.

39. He appreciated the statement made by the Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance for Zambia about the situation in Zambia, a country which through its contribution to the effective implementation of United

Nations resolutions was suffering the effects of the closure of its southern frontier, to the great detriment of its economy. The burden should be shared and Zambia should be helped to overcome its present difficulties.

40. He congratulated the High Commissioner for Refugees on the successful solution of the problem of the southern Sudanese refugees and on his work to help the victims of the conflict in the Indian sub-continent.

41. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that it was clear that the United Nations had rightly placed the main emphasis of emergency relief measures in the disaster areas. The first priority had been to save human life and the Polish Red Cross and trade unions had contributed to that work. His delegation also supported long-term measures, including action by UNDP, to eliminate the causes of the disaster. It had appreciated the information given by the WMO representative about scientific studies and it endorsed the proposals in draft resolution E/L.1607 for an interdisciplinary approach. The effectiveness of long-term plans would depend on a combination of internal measures, external assistance and the obliteration of the last traces of colonialism in Africa.

42. His delegation supported all the draft resolutions under consideration. The amendment proposed by the sponsors to operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution E/L.1603 was along the right lines. It should be made clear that the responsibility for Zambia's difficulties lay with the illegal racist régime of Southern Rhodesia and those who had been instrumental in fostering it, and not with States Members of the United Nations which had supported sanctions.

43. Mr. KASASA (Zaire) said that the reports on the emergency relief operations showed clearly the extent of the drought in North Africa and Ethiopia and the magnitude of the efforts already made and still to be made to rescue the population, estimated by the League of Red Cross Societies to stand at over 28 million, from famine. The reports had also demonstrated the will of the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian countries to play their part in seeking means to alleviate the distress of their people and to provide the region with a viable economy.

44. Although a number of Member States had made generous emergency contributions of foodstuffs and medical supplies, the attitude of the international community to the long-term solution suggested by the Secretariat seem to be less encouraging, since only about one-quarter of the required total of \$150 million had so far been made available. The countries of Africa, concerned lest entire States should disappear from the map had mobilized their manpower, within the framework of OAU, to find a solution to the problems of drought in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

45. The United Nations system could provide only technical skills and the material resources which the financial means at its disposal permitted. The international community must give the United Nations those means. Although inflation and balance-of-payments deficits had affected the economies of a number of countries, there

were differences of degree and an extra effort must be made to save the inhabitants of the Sahelian region and Ethiopia. For that reason the delegation of Zaire had sponsored draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1.

46. With regard to draft resolution E/L.1603, relating to economic assistance to Zambia, the Government of Zaire was anxious that the international community should support Zambia in its praiseworthy efforts to respect United Nations resolutions directed against the racist régime of Ian Smith, which continued to receive covert support. The President of Zambia and his heroic people deserved a generous and positive return for the sacrifices which they were making in order to honour their obligations towards the international community. He saluted the people of China for their assistance in putting an end to Zambia's geographical isolation by constructing the Tanzania-Zambia railway and he reaffirmed to the people of Zambia the whole-hearted support of Zaire and its leader Mr. Mobutu. In conclusion, he wished to stress the distinction between the case of Zambia and that of the Sudano-Sahelian region.

47. Mr. YAMADA (Japan) said that his delegation supported the draft resolutions before the Council, as amended. His Government had provided assistance amounting to \$2.8 million to the Sudano-Sahelian countries to date. Furthermore, in conformity with the terms of Security Council resolution 329 (1973), Japan had provided assistance to the value of over \$8 million to Zambia, including trucks to help with the transport problem. It was his Government's intention to give Zambia as much further assistance as possible, as its contribution towards a just solution of the problem of southern Africa.

48. He regretted that Japan's contribution of \$1 million to Ethiopia had not been reported by the United Nations Disaster Relief Office. He was glad to note from the High Commissioner's report that the southern Sudanese refugees had returned home and that repatriation to and from Bangladesh, to which his Government had made a substantial contribution, had been successfully concluded, thus paving the way for normal relations in the Indian sub-continent.

49. Mr. KRUTZSCH (German Democratic Republic) said that his Government had been providing direct assistance to the drought-stricken countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region. Ethiopia, too, had received emergency assistance through the Red Cross Society of the German Democratic Republic.

50. The aid given by his country in response to the urgent requests of United Nations officials and interested Governments was chiefly in the form of flour, infant foods, milk powder, medicines and clothing.

51. Everything possible should be done without delay to improve the situation of the people in the drought-stricken countries. Present emergency measures could do no more than relieve the worst suffering. It was essential to find ways and means of accelerating the economic development of the States concerned so that the effects of possible future disasters would be less severe. Considerable financial resources would be needed to enable the necessary long-

term steps for the development and modernization of agriculture and industry to be taken. The necessary funds could be made available rapidly if the five permanent Members of the Security Council would heed the General Assembly's call for a reduction in their military expenditure.

52. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that the draft resolutions before the Council had received wide support. It hoped that the steps taken by the United Nations system, in conjunction with those of individual countries, would bring about a considerable improvement in the economic and social situation of the area.

53. Mr. CHANG Ping-t sien (China) said that his delegation supported draft resolution E/L.1607. Its view on the other draft resolutions under discussion had been explained at an earlier meeting.

54. Miss HERRÁN (Colombia) said that her delegation supported the various draft resolutions before the Council. Assistance should be given to the drought-stricken countries to alleviate the sufferings of their people.

55. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that his delegation supported all the draft resolutions under discussion and wished to co-sponsor them. He welcomed the assistance given to the drought-stricken area by the United Nations system and appealed for even greater help. Uganda would continue to contribute to efforts to build a happier world.

56. Mr. PREVOST (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) gave a brief description of his organization's programmes within the collective United Nations effort to solve the problems of the Sudano-Sahelian region. A number of current programmes stemmed from activities which dated back nearly 20 years, in particular a major study of the scientific problems of the arid zone conducted between 1956 and 1962 within the framework of the International Hydrological Decade. The sequel to that study had been two of the 13 projects in the Man and the Biosphere Programme launched in 1971, namely, project 3, Impact of Human activities and methods of using land for grazing, and project 4, Impact of human activities on the dynamism of ecosystems in arid and semi-arid zones. The programmes had given rise to the publication of some ten scientific works. They had been supplemented by field work, such as the study of water resources in the Lake Chad basin and assistance to programmes on the arid zone conducted by the Research Centre at the University of Tunis.

57. The programmes had from the outset been envisaged as multidisciplinary. Not only the international scientific community but other relevant organizations of the United Nations family, in particular FAO and WMO, had been associated with their formulation and implementation. UNDP and more recently UNEP had helped to finance a number of the projects. As the Director-General of UNESCO had stressed in his statement before the Council (1903rd meeting), the contribution of UNESCO would be greater as emergency relief measures gave way to more or less long-term in-depth activities. Such projects were viewed within the context of medium- or long-term action.

58. More closely associated with the current situation had been the regional meeting on integrated research and training requirements in the Sahelian region, held at Niamey in March 1974 in collaboration with the African Institute of Economic Development and Planning, UNEP and FAO in consultation with WMO, WHO, and UNDP. The meeting had drawn attention to the importance of maintaining an up-to-date inventory of the Sahelian resources, and of developing national and regional research services, which would entail a training programme; the usefulness and urgency of conducting scientific analyses and studies on sources of energy, the evolution of fauna and the regeneration of ecosystems; the value of carrying out pilot projects based on multidisciplinary studies in the following fields: water resources, grazing, rational utilization of agricultural and grazing land, techniques of stock-breeding, veterinary and human problems. The Documentation Centre for the Niger Basin Commission, which had been financed by UNDP since 1970, would participate in the development of some of those activities. It had also been proposed to establish in 1974 a centre for the documentation and co-ordination of research in social sciences for Africa south of the Sahara. The research institute for the arid Sahelian zone, referred to in operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1, should be considered in that context. The project had been first proposed by UNESCO in conjunction with the Government of Niger in 1962 but at that time it had not been regarded as having high priority; UNDP had recently renewed its interest in the project and the institute might undertake part of the supporting research programme associated with the internationally financed drought control programme proposed by the Permanent Inter-State Committee. The agricultural aspects of the project had already been studied by a joint FAO/Swedish International Development Authority mission and the institute would extend its activities to research connected with the environment, climatology, erosion, and ecology in addition to the problems of water resources and social problems. Preliminary discussions about financing the institute were in progress and an inter-agency mission would meet in the coming months to prepare for the establishment of the institute.

59. It was the aim of UNESCO to establish, with the full collaboration of all the organizations concerned and having due regard to the existing infrastructure, a centre to co-ordinate and integrate research connected with the development of priority areas identified by Governments; the centre would supplement and reinforce the network of scientific centres which were already functioning or which would be established in certain research sectors where coverage was inadequate. UNESCO was therefore following the discussion on draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1 with great interest and was prepared to assist the Secretary-General in its implementation.

60. Mr. BOURGOIS (United Nations Development Programme) said that, since January 1974, the UNDP Governing Council had been giving urgent consideration to the question of assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia. Two decisions had been taken. Firstly, the Administrator had been requested to prepare without delay a comprehensive report to be used as a basis for the formulation of a medium- and long-term programme. The

report, which assessed the present situation, had been prepared in constant contact with the Ethiopian authorities and with representatives of appropriate United Nations bodies. The programme was co-ordinated with the emergency assistance organized by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. Such co-ordination had been facilitated by the fact that the Regional Representative of UNDP acted in liaison with the Co-ordinator at the local level. The Governing Council had authorized the utilization of up to \$2 million for the programme before the end of 1976. UNDP had from the outset made intensive efforts, as called for in operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution E/L.1606. Its representative at Addis Ababa would pursue the matter energetically. The Governing Council had also requested the Administrator to assess the effects on neighbouring countries, in particular the problem of refugees crossing the Sudanese frontier, and to respond to the maximum extent that resources permitted to requests for emergency assistance.

61. Secondly, in January 1974, the Governing Council had requested the Administrator to investigate the extent of the drought and its medium- and long-term implications in Africa and neighbouring areas and to submit corresponding action programmes at its session in January 1975. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, who was in charge of that report, had already made a number of contacts and was at present holding consultations in West Africa. An inter-agency meeting would be held in the near future at which the Governing Council's request would be considered in the General framework of action by the United Nations system concerning arid areas.

62. The personnel and administrative structures of UNDP in individual countries were essential elements in the smooth operation of the various assistance programmes of the United Nations system. The role of UNDP was to facilitate practical and effective co-ordination at the local level, in close contact with the Governments concerned. It would therefore wholeheartedly support concerted activities and interdisciplinary action on the part of the United Nations system to deal with the drought problem, which had already called for considerable governmental readjustment of development priorities.

63. Mr. ISLAM (Pakistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation could not accept the assumptions of the Observer for Bangladesh, who had claimed that there were 400,000 non-Bengalis who should be repatriated to Pakistan. The Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and Pakistan had taken cognizance of the question and it would be wise to leave it to them. To raise it in such a forum as the Council, and on the basis of assumptions which were not accepted by the parties concerned, would not help to solve the problem.

64. The PRESIDENT, noting that there were no further speakers, invited the Council to take up the draft resolutions before it. The Brazilian delegation had expressed a wish to co-sponsor draft resolution E/L.1603 and the delegations of Egypt, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden wished to co-sponsor draft resolution E/L.1607.

65. Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom), explaining his delegation's position on draft resolutions E/L.1605/Rev.1 and E/L.1606, said that he welcomed the information given by the representatives of WMO and UNEP. If the two draft resolutions had been acted upon in their original form there would have been a gap and a danger of overlapping. Draft resolution E/L.1607 had remedied the situation and he was therefore in a position to support all three drafts.

66. He welcomed the withdrawal of operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution E/L.1606 and would have wished operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1 to be withdrawn too, but he had found reassurance in the fact that Senegal, as a sponsor both of draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1 and of draft resolution E/L.1607, would no doubt help to ensure that the partial study provided for in operative paragraph 5 of the first draft would not get out of step with the over-all study provided for in the second. It was on that understanding that his delegation supported draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1.

67. The importance of the long-term work was not in doubt. He had no desire to press the comments he had made on operative paragraphs 3 and 7 of draft resolution E/L.1606. Ethiopia deserved all the help it could be given. He had been concerned only about the danger of wandering beyond the subject of the agenda item under discussion.

68. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1 on the economic and social situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures to be taken for the benefit of that region.

Draft resolution E/L.1605/Rev.1 was adopted.

69. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution E/L.1603 on assistance to Zambia, as amended by the sponsors in operative paragraph 3.

70. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland), supported by Mr. ADUNDO (Kenya), said that, although his delegation's difficulties on operative paragraph 3 had been somewhat alleviated by the amended wording, they could be met still further if the concept of sharing could be replaced by the concept of helping.

71. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) suggested the following wording "Urges Member States to provide more and greater assistance to Zambia, thereby helping Zambia to bear the financial and economic burden . . .".

72. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) and Mr. ADUNDO (Kenya) said that they would accept that wording.

Operative paragraph 3, as thus amended, was adopted.

Draft resolution E/L.1603, as amended, was adopted.

73. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that two oral amendments had been made to draft resolution E/L.1606 on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia. Firstly, the beginning of the last preambular paragraph should read: "Realizing that the drought-stricken area extends to eight of the four provinces . . .";

secondly, operative paragraph 5 should be deleted and the subsequent operative paragraphs should be renumbered accordingly.

74. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said that the report of the Administrator of UNDP to the Economic and Social Council referred to in operative paragraph 7 (renumbered operative paragraph 6) should be made through the Governing Council. An insertion to that effect should be made in the paragraph.

75. The PRESIDENT suggested that the words "through it" should be inserted between the word "and" and the words "to the Economic and Social Council".

It was so agreed.

Draft resolution E/L.1606, as amended, was adopted.

76. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution E/L.1604/Rev.1, on assistance to southern Sudanese returnees and displaced persons.

Draft resolution E/L.1604/Rev.1 was adopted.

77. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution E/L.1607 on the drought problem in Africa, as amended by the sponsors in the second preambular paragraph.

Draft resolution E/L.1607, as amended, was adopted.

78. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had now concluded its consideration of agenda items 10, 11, 12 and 22. He wished, on behalf of the Council, to express appreciation to the representatives of the various organizations of the United Nations system for their introductory statements and for their participation in the Council's discussion.

Organization of work

79. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the Bureau had decided to recommend, in the light of the fact that the item was closely linked with other matters allocated to the Economic Committee, that agenda item 4 (Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order) should also be referred to the Economic Committee for action, on the understanding that the general debate on the item had been completed and that the two pending reports would be introduced in plenary.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

1916th meeting

Friday, 19 July 1974, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Mr. A. KARHILO (Finland)

E/SR.1916

AGENDA ITEM 9

World Food Conference (E/5533; E/L.1609; E/NGO/18;

1. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Food Conference on its second session (E/5533) and, in particular, to paragraph 1, in which the issues requiring action by the Council were set forth.

2. Mr. RYDBECK (Sweden), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, introducing the report in question said that, in accordance with Council resolution 1840 (LVI), the Preparatory Committee had been required to conclude its action on the documentation on the assessment of the world food situation, on the draft provisional rules of procedure and draft provisional agenda for the World Food Conference and on the duration and dates of its third session.

3. It had proved impossible for the Preparatory Committee to extend its second session as provided for in that resolution but it had managed to discharge its duties and to

reach agreement on the recommendations to be made to the Council in a five-day session, with an additional night meeting. Its recommendations were to be found in chapter I of the report.

4. The active participation of 66 Members of the United Nations including 38 members of the Council, together with that of a large number of other participants, had contributed greatly to the successful results of the session. The consultations had taken place in a friendly spirit, and the Secretary-General of the World Food Conference and his staff had provided invaluable support.

5. Since the Conference would be similar in many respects to other United Nations conferences, the Preparatory Committee had been able to base its consideration of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference on precedent and had therefore been able to conclude its consideration of the subject without protracted debate. He commended the draft provisional rules set out in annex I to the report to the Council for adoption and for onward transmission to the World Food Conference.