

menting the Declaration and the Programme of Action. For it to do otherwise could only be seen as an attempt to perpetuate indefinitely the traditional attitude of the rich countries to development problems. His delegation shared the view that the United Nations and its institutions should participate in the Development Committee and considered that the Economic and Social Council could do much to co-ordinate their efforts in that respect and avoid duplication.

73. While his delegation had reservations concerning some of the comments made at the current meeting concerning the relationship between oil prices and inflation, it was willing to increase its co-operation with the World Bank and supported the efforts of its President in behalf of the developing countries.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

1925th meeting

Friday, 18 October 1974, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Aarno KARHILO (Finland).

E/SR.1925

AGENDA ITEM 3

Reports of the World Bank Group (*concluded*) (E/5583)

1. Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation had outlined its position on some of the substantive matters dealt with in the reports of the World Bank Group during the general debate and would explain its position on other issues when the reports were considered by the Second Committee of the General Assembly. He drew the attention of the Council to the fact that the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany were two independent, sovereign States and should be so designated in World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports.
2. Mr. LASCARRO (Colombia) said that, in his statement to the Council at the preceding meeting, the President of the World Bank had given a dramatic description of the situation in developing countries, the widening gap between industrialized countries and poor countries, and the urgent need to end the waste of economic resources which was the root cause of inflation and of the current world economic crisis.
3. He endorsed the views expressed by the representatives of Iran and Algeria at the preceding meeting concerning the item under consideration.
4. His delegation attached great importance to the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session, in its resolution 3202 (S-VI), and to emergency and long-term measures in favour of developing countries. He wished to ask the President of the World Bank how the Bank proposed to implement the measures envisaged in the Programme of Action with a view to providing solutions to the alarming decline in official development assistance as a percentage of gross national product and to the apocalyptic situation he had so dramatically described.
5. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that, as a low-income country, Pakistan was seriously affected by the current world economic crisis. As it had received substantial economic assistance through the World Bank in recent years, the future policies and activities of the Bank were of great interest to his country. The President of the Bank had referred to the recent im-

provement in commodity prices which had benefited some developing countries, but had forecast a decline in the terms of trade of most of those countries in the future that would erode any quantitative improvement in exports achieved through increased production. He had further stated that the reduction of the growth rate of developed countries as a result of their current external payments difficulties would create great problems for developing countries, since there was a one-to-one relationship between that and a reduction in their own growth rate. The answer to the payments problems of the developed countries did not lie in a recycling of surpluses into short-term securities and bank deposits in those countries. Such measures could provide only short-term palliatives. Urgent, enlightened concrete measures were required to tackle the serious problems facing the international community, and in particular the developing countries. Development assistance was not a luxury affordable only when times were easy; on the contrary, it was a social and moral responsibility and indeed an economic necessity.

6. The process of recycling surplus oil revenues could help in solving the dual problems of inflation and recession in the developed countries, if it led to the creation of expanding markets for their exports. Low-income developing countries had potentially large markets for the capital goods produced in developed countries. That potential could be exploited through enlightened trade policies allowing free access to the markets of developed countries for the products of developing countries. A link must be established between the need to recycle surplus funds and expand markets for the products of both developed and developing countries on the one hand, and development assistance, on the other.

7. In the view of his delegation, the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session provided a framework for such a process. The Special Fund established under the terms of Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI), for emergency relief and development assistance was of vital importance in that connexion.

8. His delegation hoped that the work of the joint Development Committee established by the Bank and IMF would complement the efforts of the Council to solve the current economic and social problems of the international community.

9. Mr. PERCY (United States of America) commended the President of the World Bank for his accurate assessment of the international economic situation. Solutions to the current complex economic problems would not be achieved by a simplistic analysis of the situation as a struggle between the rich countries and the poorer countries. Realistic and accurate appraisal of world economic conditions would be a contribution to agreement in essence on the world economic situation and would facilitate solution of the problems facing the international community.

10. His delegation agreed that the situation in the poorest developing countries was desperate and called for additional assistance. He commended and encouraged offers of financial assistance by the countries members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and would welcome any help from the World Bank in expediting the utilization of such funds, since time was of the essence. Oil-consuming developed countries were at a disadvantage, in that it was impossible for them to change their entrenched reliance on oil overnight. The World Bank should emphasize the importance of conservation of all natural resources including oil, for the benefit of both producer and consumer countries. In that connexion, he commended the measures adopted by certain countries to reduce their oil consumption and to find alternative sources of energy. As the President of the United States had indicated, drastic reduction of oil consumption and conservation of energy were essential in the battle against inflation.

11. Referring to food problems and famine conditions in the world, he said that it was necessary to provide fertilizers and share scientific and technological knowledge in order to improve agricultural yield.

12. In conclusion, he expressed regret that it had not yet been possible to achieve a consensus on the text of the proposed Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and requested the World Bank to look into the problems with a view to bringing its good offices and expertise to bear in an effort to resolve outstanding difficulties.

13. Mr. McNAMARA (President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association and the International Finance Corporation) said that the World Bank Group would give careful consideration to the many important issues raised by members of the Council and would reply to them in detail in due course.

14. Several delegations had referred to the establishment of the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF. The Ministerial Committee had been formed at the instigation of developing countries. Its purpose was to advise the Governors of the Bank and the Fund concerning the transfer of real resources to developing countries. The Committee had held one meeting to date. It was encouraging that Ministers were prepared to devote time to seeking solutions to development problems. The resolution establishing the Committee had referred to the need to co-ordinate its activities with those of the United Nations, and representatives of the Organization were invited to meetings of the Committee with a view to avoiding duplication or conflict of efforts.

15. With regard to the possibility of arranging more frequent meetings between representatives of the World Bank and the Council, he stated that the Bank was

anxious to provide any technical expertise it could to the United Nations, and particularly to the Council.

16. Referring to the allocation of voting power in the Boards of Governors of the Bank and IMF, he said that both institutions were reassessing their capital structure. He would welcome an increase in the voting power of developing countries through larger subscriptions from the OPEC countries, which had indicated their interest in increasing their voting power in that way. The voice of the developing countries in the World Bank Group had increased dramatically in recent years, as was demonstrated by the emphasis on development in the Group's activities.

17. The agreement concerning the Fourth Replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association (IDA) had not yet been ratified. Since the voluntary contributions which had made it possible to continue operations would be fully committed by the end of the year, IDA would cease to operate early in 1975 unless the replenishment agreement was ratified or additional voluntary contributions were forthcoming.

18. Replying to the question put by the representative of France concerning the five-year programme of the Bank, he said that the first fiscal year of that programme would run until 30 June 1976. Because of the length of the lead time, it was necessary to commit funds beyond that date. It was his intention to proceed on the basis of the programme as drawn up for the next four years while the Board of Directors of the Bank considered the situation.

19. With regard to the question of the representation of China, as had been indicated the previous year, at the resumed fifty-fifth session of the Council (1882nd meeting), the Bank had received a communication from the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning this matter and it had been distributed to the Executive Directors for consideration. Discussions had taken place with the Ambassador of China, who had agreed to transmit the Bank's request for clarification on certain matters to his Government and to inform the Bank of its response. No reply had been received to date. Representatives of the Bank were prepared to meet Chinese officials at any time, anywhere and at any level.

20. With regard to conservation, he expressed the personal view that action to conserve resources was one of the few activities which could be undertaken without cost to developed countries and which would benefit developing countries.

21. In response to the request by the representative of the United States, he said that, if the United Nations asked the Bank to provide assistance with a view to achieving agreement on the proposed Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, he would be prepared to make recommendations to the Board of the Bank to that end.

22. Referring to the concern expressed by delegations concerning the proliferation of development funds, he agreed that existing institutions should be able to adapt to meet new circumstances and so avoid unnecessary proliferation of funds.

23. Concerning the world food situation, the Bank would assist in the implementation of any action agreed at the forthcoming World Food Conference to be held in November in order to expand food production.

24. As to the possibility of the Bank's acting as an executing agency for the United Nations Special Fund,

he would wish to discuss that with the Board of Directors, but he was sure, as he had already indicated to various United Nations officials, that the Bank would be unreservedly prepared to assume that role.

25. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council decided to take note with appreciation of the reports of the World Bank Group (E/5583).

The decision was adopted [decision 54 (LVII)].

AGENDA ITEM 11

Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on its first special session (E/5589)

26. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) recalled that the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) had informed the Council at its fifty-seventh session that the Commission would hold a special session to consider the question of the site of its permanent headquarters. At the special session, held on 9 and 10 September 1974, the Commission had adopted resolution 6 (S-I) on the site of its headquarters, which was reproduced in chapter III of its report (E/5589). The Secretary-General was ready to make the necessary arrangements to enable the Government of Lebanon to implement the resolution, which required endorsement by the Council before being submitted for appropriate action to the Assembly and to the authorities concerned.

27. The PRESIDENT invited the observer for Lebanon to address the Council.

28. Mr. GHORRA (Observer for Lebanon) said that he wished to make a brief statement on the report of ECWA on its first special session, which dealt mainly with two questions, namely, the site of the headquarters of the Commission and the role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in regional development.

29. During the debate on resolution 6 (S-I), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon had declared that the Government of Lebanon would offer to the Commission all the necessary facilities, material and moral, to enable it to function properly. The Executive Secretary of ECWA had submitted to the Government a memorandum detailing the Commission's requirements. Substantial progress had already been achieved regarding the legal aspects of a "headquarters agreement", in accordance with the practices of the United Nations, which it was hoped could be signed in the not too distant future. The Government of Lebanon had appointed a committee to study the physical aspects of the requirements; the committee was looking most favourably into those requirements, and it was hoped that a final decision would be taken on the basis of the Foreign Minister's commitment to the Commission as soon as a new Government was formed.

30. The Government of Lebanon had embarked on a scheme to establish a United Nations centre at Beirut. It had already bought sufficient land on which to erect buildings to house several agencies which had national or regional offices at Beirut and other prospective agencies, and had also taken decisions to provide the United Nations with long-term interest-free loans to finance their construction. A centre for international conferences would be built. The Government hoped that ECWA would in due course decide to make its permanent headquarters at Beirut, and arrangements were being made with that prospect in mind.

31. Lebanon had steadfastly supported the United Nations since its inception and had faithfully adhered to the principles of the Charter. Its initiative to reactivate an old proposal to establish an economic commission for the Middle East region had stemmed from its desire to serve that region and to promote the role of the United Nations. It was convinced that ECWA would play a significant role in the acceleration of the development process in the countries covered by its activities and would provide an added impetus to the United Nations global development programmes. The establishment of the Commission coincided with a financial and economic boom in those countries, and its programme of action, approved by the Council at its fifty-seventh session, although modest in comparison to available potentialities, nevertheless marked a step forward in involving the region more effectively in the over-all activities of regional and international co-operation under the auspices of the United Nations.

32. Resolution 7 (S-I) dealt with UNDP regional and intercountry projects. At the seventeenth session of the Governing Council of UNDP, in January 1974, some delegations, including his own, had stressed the need for UNDP to give more importance to the regional aspects of development. Only 11 per cent of the funds for regional projects had been allocated to the whole Europe, Mediterranean and Middle East region embracing developed, less developed and developing countries.

33. The resolution stressed another need, that of establishing a special UNDP office to serve the Arab States as a group. The new opportunities offered in the Middle East made regional planning and development attractive. UNDP might therefore have to find new criteria in order to make the necessary adjustment both in allocation of funds and in servicing regional or sub-regional planning and development. It had been one of the main contentions of the countries of that region, when proposing the establishment of ECWA, that the region had long been underprivileged within the framework of the United Nations. Everyone could recognize the importance of the region and the role it could play in the global development effort, if given an opportunity to develop in conditions of peace and stability. The role to be played by the Commission in regional co-operation would therefore be viewed with particular interest. The peoples and Governments of the area had at long last reached an era of financial abundance. Their attention was directed principally to satisfying their legitimate development needs and to sharing in the developmental activities of the developing countries. The United Nations agencies, especially UNDP and ECWA, had a unique opportunity to help to turn that financial abundance into concrete development projects which would contribute to raising the standard of living of the people of the area.

34. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council decide to take note of the report of ECWA on its first special session (E/5589) and to endorse Commission resolution 6 (S-I), entitled "Site of the headquarters of the Commission".

The decision was adopted [decision 55 (LVII)].

Human rights questions: allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights (E/5588)

35. The PRESIDENT drew attention to a note by the Secretary-General on allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in Bahrain (E/5588), which

had been submitted to the Council in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions. He therefore suggested that the Council should decide to transmit the communication from the World Federation of Trade Unions, which was annexed to the Secretary-General's note, to the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts estab-

lished under resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights and to request the *Ad Hoc* Working Group to include its findings on the matter in its report to the Council at its fifty-eighth session.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

1926th meeting

Tuesday, 19 November 1974, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Aarno KARHILO (Finland).

E/SR.1926

AGENDA ITEM 5

World Population Conference (E/5585 and Corr.1)

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that at its 1890th meeting, held on 10 January 1974, the Council had decided to include the report of the World Population Conference as an item in the agenda of the Council's resumed fifty-seventh session in order that the report might be considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session and be given further consideration in depth by the Council at its fifty-eighth session. He therefore suggested that the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference should be asked to make an introductory statement, that the Council should take note of the report (E/5585 and Corr.1) and transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration at the current session, on the understanding that the report would be considered in depth by the Council in 1975.

2. Mr. CARRILLO FLORES (Secretary-General of the World Population Conference) said that the World Population Conference, held in Bucharest from 19 to 30 August 1974, had been attended by representatives of the organizations of the United Nations concerned with population and related matters, representatives of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, and representatives of 137 States and four national liberation movements. The participants had thus represented 98 per cent of the world population.

3. A summary of the general debate of the plenary Conference was to be found in chapter IV of the report (E/5585 and Corr.1). He wished to make the following general comments.

4. First, there had been general recognition of the great diversity of situations from country to country and region to region and at the same time a feeling of world solidarity, although all States had energetically defended the sovereign right of States to define their own population policies. Secondly, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (resolution 3201 (S-VI)), adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session, had had a strong impact on the Conference. At the same time, the strongest divergences of views that had appeared had related precisely to the new economic order, as was clear from the statements made by developed countries after the adoption by consensus of the World Population Plan of Action. Thirdly, the problem of popula-

tion growth was felt with differing degrees of urgency in different developing countries. Fourthly all the participants had agreed that population policies must be supported by vigorous and balanced economic and social development. All the specific recommendations on population policy had been adopted by a consensus of all the participants except for the Holy See. Fifthly, there had been general agreement that the fundamental rights and freedoms of the human being must be respected, although there had been wide differences of view as to what that entailed. Sixthly, the industrialized countries also had population problems, mainly connected with the emergence of enormous urban centres, and they had expressed concern about the effects of unskilled labour and technology on the environment and traditional values of their countries.

5. The Conference had divided its work between three main committees, dealing with the following agenda items respectively: population change and economic and social development; population, resources and the environment; and population and the family. It had also established a working group to consider the World Population Plan of Action on the basis of the draft submitted by the Secretary-General. The Conference had adopted 21 resolutions and 4 recommendations, which were to be found in chapter II of the report. The World Population Plan of action itself, which was set out in chapter I, combined the results of all the work done in the Committees and in plenary meetings. The original draft of the Plan had been prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in collaboration with a group of experts, and it had been discussed at five regional meetings before the Conference had opened. In the form in which it had been adopted by the Conference, the Plan retained its original structure and much of the original content, but a new section on socio-economic policies had been added, thus significantly extending the scope of the Plan.

6. It had been recognized in all the documentation of the Conference that population policy could be viable and beneficial only if it fitted into a framework of social and economic policies to improve standards of living and the quality of life of the people. Perhaps the main message of the Conference had been to emphasize that interrelationship. From personal observation he could say that the representatives of Governments had not confined themselves to the areas which scientists and experts had defined as proper to population policy. Nevertheless, population policy had been recognized as a legitimate area for Government action.