



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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**President:** Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

**Present:**

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Cuba, Egypt, France, India, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Dominican Republic, Italy, Libya, Netherlands, Syria.

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

**Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations  
International Children's Emergency Fund (E/2337,  
E/2409, E/2430, E/2437 and E/L.542) (concluded)**

[Agenda item 12]

1. Mr. REYES (Philippines) expressed approval of the Social Commission's recommendation that the work of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) should be continued. UNICEF was doing supremely important work, particularly in the under-developed countries, and the Executive Director and his staff were to be complimented on their able administration.

2. His delegation had been a co-sponsor of draft resolution A adopted and submitted by the Social Commission for the Council's consideration (E/2437),<sup>1</sup> and was also a co-sponsor of the joint draft amendments (E/L.542) thereto. Those amendments did not affect either the substance of the draft resolution or the status of UNICEF as the only United Nations body working exclusively in the field of child welfare. UNICEF had achieved notable success through the operational methods it had evolved under its existing terms of reference, which neither resolution nor amendment were intended to modify.

3. The symbol "UNICEF" was associated with an enterprise that brought health and new life to millions of needy children, and which had helped to mend the broken threads of mankind's inherent solidarity. It was therefore to be retained, although the official title would

no longer contain the word "emergency", the deletion of which was intended as a recognition of UNICEF's increasing participation in projects of permanent benefit, not only to mothers and children, but to the whole fabric of health services in the recipient countries. The disappearance of the word "emergency" might also make it easier for governments to contribute to UNICEF regularly, a development that would be acclaimed by the Philippines.

4. The change of name would in no way diminish the element of urgency in the organization's work or affect the high priority given to the needs of the under-developed countries, particularly in Asia where disease among children was in the nature of a continuing emergency.

5. Sub-paragraph (b) in the joint amendment was not intended to limit UNICEF's existence. It imposed the duty on the Council of undertaking a special review of UNICEF's work and of making appropriate recommendations—in addition to its annual routine review—whenever this might be necessitated by unusual circumstances such as, for example, a falling off in contributions, ineffectiveness or inefficiency in the administration, or an increase in its funds that was large enough to warrant an extension of its field of activities.

6. Sub-paragraphs (c) and (d) of the joint amendment implied no criticism of UNICEF or its administration. Indeed, it commended the co-ordination UNICEF had already achieved, and expressed the desire to see it continued. UNICEF had many features desirable in a United Nations undertaking in the social field: practical and effective, it yet achieved maximum results with modest means; efficiently administered, it reached masses of people to whom the United Nations was virtually unknown; mindful of the sovereignty of each country, it associated governments, specialized agencies and voluntary societies in a collective effort to bring about decisive improvements in under-developed areas. In co-operation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), it had already recorded significant progress in the control of disease, and in nutrition and child welfare, particularly in south and south-east Asia.

7. It was interesting to speculate on what UNICEF might achieve were its resources doubled or trebled; it might conceivably revolutionize the social situation in the under-developed countries. Its continuation would undoubtedly hasten this revolution, and the Philippine delegation would support it as long as the generosity of free men sustained it.

8. Mr. TUNCEL (Turkey) said his delegation had studied with interest the reports of the Executive Board

<sup>1</sup> See: *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 7, page 19.*

of UNICEF, from which it was clear that UNICEF was satisfactorily carrying out in its own field the work undertaken by the United Nations for the improvement of living conditions in under-developed countries. Obviously, UNICEF aid did not cover all the needs of children; it provided international assistance with the object of encouraging or setting on foot national long-term programmes. Thus, the Turkish Government had opened a credit of \$1,189,000 to supplement the UNICEF grant of \$115,000. In the programme thus established the assistance from UNICEF would take the form of transportation, goods and miscellaneous supplies for maternal and child welfare centres, the Turkish Government, for its part, undertaking long-term programmes to a total of \$1,200,000. To another programme UNICEF was contributing a sum of \$160,000, to which his Government was proposing to add \$800,000.

9. That was a fine example of international solidarity and effective co-ordination between national and international enterprise. His delegation felt sure that such co-operation undertaken by the United Nations would become still more active in the future. It was therefore desirable that contributions to UNICEF should reach such proportions as to enable it to achieve its praiseworthy aims even more effectively.

10. His delegation would support the proposal to continue UNICEF's work. It also associated itself with the admiration expressed for the administration of UNICEF.

11. Mr. AZMI (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to pay tribute to the eminently humanitarian work of UNICEF, which did honour to its administrators.

12. UNICEF's activities in his country had been particularly effective. In the past two years it had taken part in the BCG campaign, which had been brought to a successful close in December 1952. It had supplied maternal and child welfare centres with \$180,000 worth of powdered milk, vitamins A and B and penicillin, and had provided 180 tons of DDT to combat malaria and epidemic diseases. It had also supplied machinery worth \$165,000 for a DDT factory which would come into operation in 1954. It had contributed \$125,000 towards the construction of a milk processing factory. Lastly, it had assisted in the construction of an anti-tuberculosis vaccines factory which would also serve the needs of neighbouring countries.

13. Public opinion and the Press followed the relations between his Government and UNICEF very closely; he quoted an article which had appeared on 18 July 1953 in a prominent position in an Egyptian newspaper, announcing that £E 1,200,000 would be earmarked for child welfare work. Despite the financial stringency, Egypt's contribution to UNICEF would be the same for the financial year 1953-1954 as for the previous year.

14. His delegation would therefore vote for the continuance of UNICEF and for the joint amendment (E/L.542) to draft resolution A (E/2437).

15. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) had listened with pleasure to the lucid explanations given by the representatives of UNICEF, WHO and FAO concerning the co-ordina-

tion of UNICEF's activities with those of the specialized agencies. Although Venezuela had no need of assistance from UNICEF, he was fully aware of the excellent work it was doing in Central America. He would therefore support the Social Commission's draft resolution A (E/2437) as amended by the joint draft amendment (E/L.542).

16. Mr. AMANRICH (France) said that his delegation had nothing to add to the very full account of UNICEF's activity in the past given by the Chairman of its Executive Board at the previous meeting. His delegation was highly satisfied with UNICEF's work, and approved in particular of the direction given to its programmes.

17. It was in consideration of UNICEF's past achievements that his delegation desired that it should carry on its most effective work, which was both practical and philanthropic, and was based on a sound structural organization. The work of UNICEF's international secretariat and of its intergovernmental bodies was very efficiently co-ordinated.

18. Subject to Parliamentary approval, the French Government had therefore decided to continue to contribute to UNICEF. His delegation would accordingly support the Social Commission's draft resolution A (E/2437) and the joint amendment (E/L.542), which laid special stress on the importance of co-ordinating the work of UNICEF with that of other United Nations bodies. That co-ordination was already excellent, and, in that connexion, he quoted a passage from document E/C.2/359, in which the non-governmental organizations stressed that collaboration between UNICEF and other organs of the United Nations and the appropriate specialized agencies was such that the work of UNICEF was an effective part of the total international effort to improve child health and welfare. At various sessions of UNICEF organs, his delegation had had an opportunity of observing the extent to which the specialized agencies participated in the work of its Executive Board.

19. With regard to the proposed change of title, he moved that to bring the French text of the joint amendment (E/L.542) into line with the English text paragraph 3 (a) should read: *de changer le nom de l'organisation en Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance, le symbole FISE étant maintenu.*

20. Finally, he associated himself with the tribute paid to the administrators of UNICEF for the work they had done, and to the Chairmen of the Executive Board and of the Programme Committee.

21. Mr. MICHANEK (Sweden), after recalling that the Swedish delegation to the fifth session of the General Assembly had spoken in favour of continuing UNICEF and its most useful activity, said that the joint draft amendment (E/L.542) was acceptable to his delegation, which would therefore vote for the draft resolution with that amendment.

22. Mr. MORENO (Uruguay) associated himself with the tributes paid to the work of UNICEF and to the Chairman of the Executive Board and the Executive Director. There should be no interruption in UNICEF's work, since the life and well-being of millions of mothers and children depended upon its continuance. It had

been instrumental in bringing about a notable demonstration of international solidarity.

23. Uruguay, which had always been closely concerned with the problem of necessitous children, had contributed \$1,000,000 to UNICEF, no mean sum having regard to the small size of the population. The *per capita* contribution amounted to 42½ cents. The Government was studying the possibility of making an additional donation to UNICEF. Although the problem of necessitous, undernourished children could scarcely be said to exist in Uruguay, his delegation, mindful of the important work that lay ahead of UNICEF, would vote in favour of the draft resolution as amended.

24. The PRESIDENT declared closed the general debate on item 12 of the agenda, and, after consulting Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) and Mr. AMANRICH (France), put the joint amendment (E/L.542) to the vote, the French and Spanish versions being amended in paragraph 3 (a) so as to bring them into line with the English text.

*The joint draft amendment was adopted unanimously.*

*Draft resolution A, as amended, was adopted unanimously.*

25. Mr. PATE (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) speaking at the invitation of the PRESIDENT, said that the practical work of UNICEF would continue under the new resolution in much the same way as heretofore. The Council's resolution and the action to be taken subsequently by the General Assembly represented only the starting-point. What would count would be the quality of the work done, and whether contributions would be available to allow that work to be done.

26. To obtain the necessary funds, an unending educational drive had been needed and he deeply appreciated the help given over the years by representatives on the Council and on the UNICEF Executive Board in explaining UNICEF's work, enlisting government support and sympathy, and encouraging voluntary contributions and aid in their own countries.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.