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President : Sir Ronald WALKER (Australia)

Present :

Representatives of the following States, members of the Council: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, India, Iraq, Japan, Luxembourg, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Representatives of the following States, additional members of the sessional committees: Cameroon, Ghana, Iran, Italy, Mexico, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Observers for the following Member States: Brazil, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, China, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Poland, Romania, Spain, Venezuela.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Holy See, Switzerland.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, Universal Postal Union.

The representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 17

Reports of the regional economic commissions (E/3857/Rev.2, E/3864/Rev.1, E/3876/Rev.1, E/3887, E/3929, E/3937) (*continued*)

1. Mr. KAKITSUBO (Japan) thanked the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions for their statements (1315th meeting) and annual reports, which showed that the commissions had accomplished much constructive work in their respective regions. His delegation supported their ambitious programmes for the coming year, as well as the priorities attached to the various projects concerned.

2. At the same time, it was disappointing that all the developing regions were confronted with serious pro-

blems which prevented them from attaining the growth rate aimed at in the United Nations Development Decade. Those problems were widely divergent in their nature and scope. In the industrialized economies of Western Europe, a shortage of manpower appeared to constitute a major bottle-neck, whereas in Asia and the Far East the rise of living standards was held back by demographic pressures. In the ECAFE region, as elsewhere, the more effective utilization of idle manpower through training was a most urgent problem. In view of the rapid population growth in that region, his delegation agreed with the Executive Secretary of ECAFE on the urgent need to increase food production and to devise suitable policies to cope with the alarming rate of population growth.

3. When a country drew up its long-term economic plans, it had to take into account the demographic factor, as his country had done. It was significant that the first Asian Population Conference held at New Delhi in December 1963 had adopted a resolution inviting the governments of ECAFE countries to adopt a positive population policy related to their individual needs, and that the ECAFE secretariat planned to provide demographic advisers for member States of that body. While the population problem was not so serious in the ECA and ECLA countries, they too would have to take it into account before long.

4. Since the obstacles to economic development varied from region to region, it was the economic commissions which were in the best position to devise ways and means of implementing the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. It was in that sense that his delegation had supported the decentralization of United Nations economic activities and the strengthening of the commissions, provided that control from Headquarters was not thereby impaired. He was therefore glad to note that the strengthening of the regional secretariats and the delegation of responsibility from Headquarters had been smoothly and progressively carried out.

5. The summer session gave the Council an opportunity to review the activities of the commissions and examine their future work programmes with the personal participation of their executive secretaries; through such annual review and examination, the Council was able to evaluate their past achievements and control and harmonize their future activities.

6. As a country lying in the ECAFE region, Japan particularly appreciated the work of the ECAFE secretariat. His country attached great importance to regional projects such as the Mekong basin development project and the

Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning, as they contributed to the efficient use of limited resources and to greater international understanding and solidarity among countries in the region. Japan would therefore continue to co-operate in regional projects of that kind.

7. His delegation shared the concern expressed by the Executive Secretary of ECAFE about that region's declining share in over-all aid under the United Nations technical assistance programmes, and hoped that in future ECAFE would receive a fair share of such assistance.

8. He looked forward to the Conference of African Finance Ministers which was to be held at Tokyo in September, for it would help to strengthen the ties between African countries and his own.

9. Mr. KURKA (Czechoslovakia) said that in view of the complexity and diversity of the problems facing the regional economic commissions, he would confine himself to reviewing some of the principal factors bearing on their activities. Firstly, as a result of the internationalization of productive forces, both production and production specialization were progressively outgrowing the framework of individual States; that in turn was stimulating the further development of the international division of labour and bringing about an unprecedented growth in regional and sub-regional trade.

10. Happily, the regional economic commissions were actively promoting those trends, and their reports revealed a common preoccupation with the need for economic integration and regional co-operation among the countries of each region. The internationalization of productive forces was particularly noticeable in the activities of ECE, under whose auspices the industrialized countries of Western Europe had undertaken a close co-ordination of their intra-regional trade and had established a division of labour among their large monopolistic industries. The socialist countries, too, were systematically introducing the international division of labour, but for a different purpose: by eliminating the differences between the members of the Council for Mutual Economic Aid (CMEA) it was intended to make possible their participation, on the basis of equal rights, in a comprehensive regional co-operation while at the same time developing their economic links with other countries in Europe and elsewhere.

11. In an age of rapid technological advance, closer regional economic co-operation was an obvious need and the regional commissions must do their utmost to encourage its development. Thus, ECE played a vital role in bringing together States with different socio-economic systems and levels of development, and had adopted various resolutions concerning East-West trade and other vital questions aimed at making the Commission a clearing house for experts from all over Europe. His delegation had repeatedly stressed the need for the further extension of regional co-operation based on decentralization of the economic activities of the United Nations, particularly in the case of ECE. At the same time, it favoured the development of inter-regional co-operation on the basis of contacts among the secretariats and subsidiary bodies of the various commissions. There was little substance in objections that ECE had already

reached the limits of its activities, or that it cherished a desire to be placed above the other commissions. Indeed, the support for ECE expressed at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development by many Western delegations, and the growing recognition of the need for regional co-operation which that implied, promised well for the future. If his delegation had certain constructive criticisms to make regarding the ECE secretariat, their sole purpose was to help the Executive Secretary to perform his task more effectively.

12. The decentralization of United Nations economic activities initiated under General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) could be successful only if it stimulated regional co-operation with a view to the joint mobilization of all resources available in a given region. It must likewise be accompanied by inter-regional economic and trade co-operation, appropriate to the scale of modern production methods.

13. The reports showed that the regional economic commissions understood how decentralization should be carried out, and that they realized the importance of joint efforts to overcome the obstacles. Meanwhile, it was the Council's business to give continued attention to the objective factors which were tending inexorably to co-operation on a world-wide scale. The regional economic commissions should be given financial support commensurate with their responsibilities.

14. Regional economic co-operation naturally implied universality. In that connexion, it was both illogical and harmful that the German Democratic Republic, whose policies were wholly in accord with the United Nations Charter and which had repeatedly demonstrated its readiness to help solve European economic problems, should continue to be barred from participation in ECE. Indeed, there were some general problems which could not be settled in its absence. However, he was convinced that good sense would ultimately prevail over political prejudice, and that representatives of the German Democratic Republic would take their rightful place in the Commission.

15. Mr. KOPCOK (Yugoslavia) thanked the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions for their succinct statements. As a member of ECE, Yugoslavia had always taken a lively interest in the work of the other commissions, particularly since they served the developing countries, with which it enjoyed very friendly relations. He was glad to note from the reports that considerable progress had been made in the matter of co-operation among States in under-developed regions. The decentralization and strengthening of the regional commissions under General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) had certainly contributed to that state of affairs, and its further application would doubtless continue to bear fruit. At the same time, he was glad to note that ECA, ECAFE and ECLA, while endeavouring to adapt their own future long-term objectives to the particular interests of the region concerned, were continuing to take into account their links with countries in other regions.

16. Turning to the role played by ECLA, ECAFE and ECA in preparing for the United Nations Conference

on Trade and Development, he said that the most recent sessions of those three commissions had enabled the participating countries not only to work out common regional views, but to transcend divergent regional interests for the sake of a joint trade and development policy on a world-wide scale. While the role to be played by the regional commissions in implementing the Trade Conference's recommendations was not yet clear, they would certainly have important supplementary tasks to carry out as a result of the Conference. He hoped there would be an opportunity to discuss those tasks under other agenda items at the present session.

17. The reports showed that co-operation within the regional commissions was being intensified. As far as the developing countries were concerned, however, such co-operation was limited by a number of structural factors, of which the low level of development and the inadequacy of financial and other resources were the most important. Such obstacles must be removed as rapidly as possible if the targets of the Development Decade were to be reached. In that connexion, it was of vital importance not only to implement the Trade Conference's recommendations, but also to meet certain of the developing countries' claims which were not yet generally accepted.

18. Turning to the main problems which ECE was trying to solve, he said that the Commission had a double task, namely, to encourage economic, technical and commercial co-operation between its members and to make an effective contribution to the United Nations programme for accelerating economic development in the countries in process of development. Those two tasks were closely linked and one could not progress without the other.

19. Unfortunately, owing to political factors which prevented the development of greater co-operation between countries with different social and economic systems, the ECE had not obtained the results that it was entitled to expect. If such co-operation could be realized, it would certainly contribute to an acceleration of economic development in general. However, in spite of those limitations, favourable developments were taking place within ECE, even in connexion with the solution of problems of economic co-operation at the European level. He had mentioned those developments at the thirty-sixth session (1268th meeting) and events since then had confirmed what he had said. Industrial co-operation between the countries members of ECE, particularly in certain key industries, left much to be desired. The adoption by ECE, of resolution 6 (XIX) on co-operation relating to the study of market trends and prospects for chemical products (see E/3887) was a promising sign; similar action should be undertaken in other fields.

20. The problem of European trade, in particular East-West trade, was at present being carefully studied by government experts, and there was reason to believe that more tangible results could be anticipated in that field. It was obvious that intensification of East-West trade, which was at present hampered by a strong movement towards sub-regional integration, would have a

favourable effect on the expansion of world trade, and especially on the increase of exports from the developing countries. The ECE should try to overcome the forces tending towards economic sub-regionalism; that would not only benefit Europe as a whole, but also the other regions of the world, including the under-developed regions.

21. His delegation believed that the recommendations of the Conference on Trade and Development would have an important influence on the work of ECE. A first step in that direction had been taken by the Commission when it had adopted resolution 3 (XIX) giving high priority to the activities of the Commission in relation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (*ibid*).

22. The Commission's future work should, even more than in the past, have the two aspects which were laid down in its terms of reference. The Commission should be the instrument not only of intensified co-operation between its members, but also of co-operation between its members and the members of other regional commissions. Those two aspects of ECE's work were all the more significant as it was composed of the most highly industrialized countries in the world.

23. It was a matter of satisfaction that in a number of cases the countries members of ECE, when examining problems of mutual co-operation, were taking into account the usefulness of such co-operation to, and its repercussions on, the developing countries. Thus, the extension and integration of technical assistance had resulted in initiatives which had directly benefited developing countries. The seminar on the application of modern techniques in the steel industry was a case in point. Furthermore, the many meetings taking place within ECE during the year which dealt with subjects affecting European co-operation were also important for the developing countries because those subjects related to development.

24. In connexion with ECE's activities, he paid a tribute to the excellent work done by its secretariat and particularly by the Executive Secretary and his immediate collaborators.

25. Mr. WEBER (Luxembourg) shared the feelings of admiration expressed by some other delegations for what had been achieved by the regional economic commissions and the feelings of apprehension at the size of the tasks which had still to be accomplished. His Government was prepared to do all it could to help accomplish those tasks. An economic union, which extended in many instances to the social sector, had existed for many years between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, and his delegation's attitude in the Council would often reflect the common interests of Benelux.

26. Luxembourg was a member of ECE, and his delegation wished to express its satisfaction with the quality of documents prepared by the Commission's secretariat. As the Executive Secretary had stressed, the immediate concern of the Commission was to study problems of East-West trade. In that connexion his delegation continued to be interested in the work of the *ad hoc* group appointed to study those problems. The purchases made

by the Benelux countries in the countries of Eastern Europe were proof of the fact that their market was to a large extent open to competition. His delegation was in favour of extending trade on a reciprocal basis between the countries with planned economies and those with market economies. It hoped that the *ad hoc* group would meet before the end of the current year and that it would submit a constructive report either to the Committee on the Development of Trade at its next session or to the Commission at its twentieth session.

27. His delegation had listened attentively to the statement made by the Executive Secretary of ECAFE, who had given such a clear picture of the enormous size of that region, its many needs and the differences in the levels of development which were to be found in the various countries. The Executive Secretary had stressed the spirit of co-operation and the feeling of common responsibility which had grown up between the Commission's Asian members and in their relationship with industrialized countries throughout the world. That was one proof that the Commission had become a valuable instrument of international co-operation which was benefiting the developing countries in the region.

28. One of ECAFE's most spectacular activities had been in the field of water resources: the Mekong basin development project was an example of what could be done on a multilateral basis. The considerable progress made in the transport sector was also worthy of particular mention. The Commission was also doing extremely useful work in connexion with industrial development and would have an important role to play at the proposed symposium relating to the problems of industrialization of the developing countries. Up to the present, its activities in the agricultural sector had been less extensive, and in view of the fact that *per capita* agricultural production in many Asian countries was now lower than before the Second World War, increased attention to that sector might be extremely useful.

29. The difficult problem of the constant deterioration in the balance-of-payments situation of the countries in the region had been highlighted by the studies undertaken by the Commission's secretariat. The Teheran resolution on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (see E/3876/Rev. 1, p. 121), which addressed an appeal for co-operation to the industrialized countries, emphasized the importance of the problem.

30. His delegation wished to stress the importance of the Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning, which would not only help to encourage the preparation of integrated development plans but would also throw light on the special problems of the countries of the region.

31. He had greatly appreciated the statement made by the Executive Secretary of ECLA. The research undertaken by the secretariat of ECLA and the independent way in which ECLA had on several occasions drawn attention to the structural and financial problems of the region were matters for admiration. The recent studies relating to the industrial integration of Latin America and the plans for co-operation with the Inter-American Development Bank were also important.

32. All the reports before the Council demonstrated the increasing importance of systematic planning with a view to accelerating economic and social development. ECLA, in close collaboration with the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, would certainly play a vital part in that field with the help of the Alliance for Progress, which also based its activities on the need for planning. Those co-ordinated efforts might be expected to lead to an intensification of the economic and social development of the regions concerned.

33. His delegation had welcomed the determination shown by all the countries participating in the sixth session of ECA to find solutions for the problems of that region. It was particularly pleased that the social questions which were so important for economic development had given particular attention at Addis Ababa.

34. Two aspects of the Commission's report (E/3864/Rev. 1) were of particular importance. In the first place, stress should be laid on the importance of co-ordination in the field of assistance in order that the African countries should obtain the maximum benefit from the various types of assistance available. Secondly, although Luxembourg was in favour of multilateral aid, his delegation had been interested to note that United Nations technical assistance could stimulate and amplify all other forms of external aid, particularly in the sectors of training and transport. The development of a network of communications adapted to the needs of rational industrialization was of the utmost importance for the economic expansion of Africa. To attain such an objective, a continuous effort of planning at a pan-African level would be required.

35. The creation of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning by ECA answered a vital need, and his delegation welcomed the initiative shown by the Commission in that connexion. Luxembourg and Benelux's economic associates were giving a special welcome to industrial missions sent by the Commission.

36. A crucial problem which should not be overlooked was that of the shortage of qualified staff, which remained one of the most serious obstacles to the development of Africa. The Benelux countries would continue to contribute as far as possible to the training of administrative and technical African staff. His delegation was satisfied that certain initiatives had already been taken in that field thanks to a constructive co-operation between Europe and Africa. No effort should be spared by any nation, however small, to help.

37. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that the Council's annual debate on the activities of the regional economic commissions gave the Council an opportunity not only to take note of their reports but also to hear statements from the executive secretaries and to have valuable personal contacts with them. The regional commissions were subsidiary organs of the Council, but a parallel could be drawn between the discussion of their activities and the discussion which would take place on the activities of the specialized agencies. It was the Council's task to take stock of regional or world-wide problems in the economic and social sectors and to ensure that the activities of the United Nations, its subsidiary bodies

and the specialized agencies should be co-ordinated. The fact that the Council's committees would, at the present session, have nine additional members was not only a step towards increasing the size of the Council itself — a step which his delegation believed to be desirable — but was also proof of the interest of the United Nations in the proper functioning of an irreplaceable organ.

38. The reports at present before the Council showed that besides matters of interest to each region, there were questions of more general import. The essential role of the United Nations in contributing to the economic and social progress of all its member States and in raising the standard of living of their peoples was thus clearly illustrated.

39. It was not by chance that the terms of reference of the different regional economic commissions were strikingly similar. That was because, even if their activities were not designed to meet the same needs, they were designed to fulfil a double objective which was common to all the commissions. In the first place, the commissions provided the countries of the region, and those other countries whose assistance would be useful, with a suitable framework for studying problems of economic development and regional co-operation. Secondly, they enabled the Council to co-ordinate activities and, under the guidance of the General Assembly, to direct the activities of the organs of the United Nations which were competent in the economic and social field.

40. A certain freedom of action was necessary to the regional economic commissions if they were to carry out properly a study of the problems in the regions they represented. Each one was a centre where the countries in question could meet to exchange opinions and explain their problems. But those organs were also part of a much larger body, and their role would be all the more effective if they tried to contribute, in liaison with the Council, to the common objective which he had mentioned earlier.

41. The regional economic commissions must have an acute sense of priorities. Too much stress could not be laid on the advantages of concentrating on subjects which were both the most important and the most urgent. Those subjects were international trade, industrialization, and the training of administrators and technical staff. The best results would be achieved if the necessarily limited means of regional economic commissions were used in the most rational manner.

42. The community of aims of the regional economic commissions did not exclude individual characteristics. The reports showed that each commission had specific situations to face.

43. The ECE, in contrast to the other regional economic commissions, had to deal with the complex problem of relationships between extremely varied economies. No matter what subject it studied, ECE was faced with difficulties. The extensive knowledge of the experts who participated in its work and the experience of the secretariat had enabled the Commission to undertake studies which were particularly useful to its members. Besides the studies of the European economic situation, the Commission might well interest itself in other problems the solution of which conditioned the expansion of the countries of the region.

44. The Commission might also play a new role in its relationships with the other regional economic commissions. The experience that it had gained since its establishment on the subject of industrialization was at the disposal of other regions to the extent that technical problems similar to those which had to be solved by the European countries arose in the developing countries. Co-ordinated industrial development in the countries of one region often gave rise to technical difficulties, which the many qualified experts of ECE might be able to help to solve.

45. Although ECLA had not met during the present year, its members had had frequent contacts, during which they had paid particular attention to problems of international trade. That had enabled the countries of the region to adopt a common attitude at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. A more thorough study might be undertaken of terms of trade from the point of view of the economic development of Latin America. The project for the creation of a centre for industrial development (which ECLA secretariat had been considering for a long time), regional economic integration and land reform were all points upon which ECLA could well concentrate attention in the coming years.

46. Regional economic co-operation was also a major preoccupation in Asia and the Far East. Even though it was more difficult to talk of economic integration in that vast region because of the diversity of situations that existed in it, it would be wise to develop a policy for strengthening the economic links between the States members of ECAFE. The Commission was well aware of that fact, as had been shown at the ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Co-operation, held at Manila in December 1963, during which the member countries had adopted a realistic programme of regional co-operation, the first stage of which was to be discussed shortly by a committee of experts.

47. The Commission had laid stress on the project for establishing a regional centre for planning and industrial development. His delegation was not anxious to dissuade the Commission from persevering in that direction, but it suggested that the activities of the future centre should be closely linked with those of the Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning which had been functioning for a year.

48. The objectives of growth were particularly difficult to define in Asia where population problems were so important. There could be no doubt that the expansion of trade with the rest of the world would give a new impetus to economic development, but care should be taken to see that efforts to expand international trade should not result in relegating to second place purely domestic aspects of development, particularly industrialization and the training of administrative and other staff.

49. The ECA was probably the Commission which had to face the most numerous and the most urgent problems. It was not surprising that it had met with difficulties in establishing its programme of work and in keeping to it. By concentrating its resources and possibilities on priority sectors, ECA would strengthen the effectiveness of an

organ which its member States believed to be indispensable. In that connexion, the French delegation believed that a comprehensive approach was preferable to an analytical one in studying different problems the solution of which depended on a small number of conditions of a human, social, economic or financial character.

50. The development of natural resources, industrial progress, the improvement of transport, and above all the training of administrators and technical personnel were, in his opinion, the priority fields for action by ECA. The desire of the African countries to encourage the creation of new industries was legitimate, but their planning would have to be supported by serious studies relating, in particular, to the technical problems of power and the social problems of manpower.

51. The needs of the region were so great that selectiveness was necessary. While it was right that the African countries should give the international institutions a large role in the study of their common problems, they should have recourse to the different forms of international co-operation, either multilateral or bilateral, which they considered most suitable for the implementation of their development plans.

52. International institutions, like governments, were continually obliged to adjust their undoubted needs to their limited funds, and the regional economic commissions did not escape that necessity. It was only by maintaining a proper equilibrium between the needs of their members and the possibilities of international economic co-operation, particularly at the financial level, that they could achieve substantial results.

53. Without prejudice to his delegation's position on draft resolutions concerning Council action on particular points, he was able to state that his delegation would be prepared to take note of the reports of the regional economic commissions and to approve their programmes of work.

54. Mr. CHANDERLI (Algeria) said that the regional economic commissions constituted effective instruments of the Economic and Social Council in promoting the ideals of the United Nations in an essential sector of human activity. Moreover, the commissions were able to provide the community of nations with information which was of inestimable value. They could also be a means whereby that community might one day close the tragic gap which separated the rich countries from the developing countries.

55. His delegation had been extremely interested in reading the admirable reports of the four regional commissions and in hearing the statements of their executive secretaries.

56. The Executive Secretary of ECE had provided valuable information on the economic prospects of the European region. The stress he had laid on the need to develop interregional co-operation had been much appreciated by the representatives of developing countries.

57. The Executive Secretary of ECAFE had given the Council an idea of the immense problems which faced the countries of Asia and the Far East. He had been right

in emphasizing the value to ECAFE of enlisting the assistance of highly developed countries like Australia and New Zealand in the Commission's work.

58. The Executive Secretary of ECLA had very clearly described the situation in his region, and had dealt courageously with the problems which faced the Latin American countries and the dangers to which those problems might give rise.

59. The Executive Secretary of ECA had enabled the Council to realize the extent of the task facing the African countries. He had been very frank and had left no room for false hopes.

60. His delegation hoped that the co-operation between the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions would be extended as far as possible, since the commissions were in the best position to know the importance of a situation which might at any moment become a matter of life or death. If the gulf which separated the industrialized countries from the developing countries continued to increase, it might well become more dangerous to humanity than all the destructive weapons which were still being piled up. His delegation was very concerned about the difficulties encountered by the commissions in accomplishing their task. The need to obtain material, financial and technical assistance from institutions and governments able to provide such assistance was common to all the regional commissions. It was only necessary to recall the infrastructure problems mentioned by the Executive Secretary of ECA to realize how extensive was the problem. A lack of action or selfishness at present could only bring about chaos in the future.

61. The Algerian delegation welcomed the progress made by the regional economic commissions during the past year and was pleased that the projects submitted for consideration by the Council offered prospects for the harmonious and relatively rapid development of the under-developed regions.

62. The executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions could rest assured that the African peoples were determined to work within the framework of ECA to accelerate their economic and social development. In that connexion, however, there was one matter of great concern to his delegation, namely the interests of those African territories still under colonial domination. He hoped that the peoples of those territories could at least be associated in one way or another with the progress the continent was being called upon to make. Their association with the work of ECA would enable them to accede to independence — which he hoped would take place very soon — under the best conditions. Experience had shown that preliminary studies of the problems of countries nearing independence and a prior analysis of their needs and potentialities were of great value. All that could be done to prepare those countries for national and international responsibility would be conducive to the ideals of peace and stability written into the Charter of the United Nations. If the still dependent African territories could be associated with the studies and activities of ECA, the interests of their peoples and the cause of peace and international security would be usefully served. His

delegation hoped that the question could be studied by the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations.

63. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had enabled the under-developed countries to make themselves heard. Their voices had been unanimous. He hoped the world would not forget what it had heard.

64. Mr. CISS (Senegal) said that examination of the work and achievements of the regional economic commissions showed that the stage of international co-operation had been reached. He congratulated the executive secretaries on the work undertaken by their commissions on the most diverse problems. The basic problem facing all regions was to secure a fast rate of economic growth in the developing countries and to improve the world economic situation. Each country was faced with its own difficulties; there was, however, a host of problems extending beyond national frontiers which the regional commissions had to list, study and solve.

65. His delegation's attention had been drawn in particular to the efforts of ECA on such matters as the training of administrative staff, the compilation of an inventory of the continent's resources, the co-ordination of economic development, and preparations for an African common market and the African Development Bank. All those problems had been seriously and thoroughly examined. It was essential however, that they be solved without delay because some of them, particularly the questions of an African common market, the African Development Bank, industrialization and economic planning and matters relating to the agricultural sector, were of fundamental importance. It was also essential that the studies, particularly those on matters of common interest, be made in close co-operation with the other regional economic commissions. It was a fact that the problems facing developing countries were identical: trade, financing and national or international development. Those problems were interrelated and could not be treated in isolation. The concerted effort of the regional economic commissions was therefore a matter for satisfaction. His delegation hoped that that liaison would continue and that the Commissions would also co-operate very closely with the proposed Trade and Development Board, the establishment of which had been recommended by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. All African countries had placed great hopes in the outcome of that Conference and on the increased assistance of organizations belonging to the United Nations family.

66. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar) said that his delegation intended to participate fully in all the proceedings of the Council because all African delegations were bound by the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity to press for the expansion of the Economic and Social Council in such a manner as would adequately accommodate and reflect Africa's appropriate and equitable representation in that body.

67. Unlike the United States delegation, his delegation found no cause to marvel at the wondrous complexity and variegated nature of the Council's agenda, which

was but a reflection of man's original and unfinished agenda and of man's own society. In his delegation's opinion the agenda was simply a reaffirmation of faith in the dignity and worth of the human person and an achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character.

68. His delegation had been deeply impressed by the degree of personal involvement and commitment with which the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions had presented the introductions to their reports. As the representative of Colombia had said, the perspicacity of the United Nations in realizing the wisdom and utility of creating the regional commissions, and their subsequent success, was sufficient to justify the foundation of the United Nations itself.

69. As was to be expected, the economic story of Europe differed from that of Latin America, Asia and the Far East and Africa. He congratulated the peoples of Europe and hoped they would proceed to even greater economic achievements, for he believed that in a world of interdependence, and because of the ultimate intervention of the law of diminishing marginal utility, the richer European nations would find it both economically sound and strategically correct to share some of their economic surpluses with the developing countries, which in any case were responsible for that super-abundance. His delegation did not agree with the Australian delegation that it was because of inevitable and unchangeable economic patterns that the industrialized countries of Europe had failed to be more materially sympathetic and helpful to the developing regions of the world. The economic and social system could and should be changed to one that would redound to the benefit of all mankind.

70. The reports of the Executive Secretaries of ECA, ECAFE and ECLA contained many similarities, but there were differences of emphasis. The Latin Americans seemed to be on the point of industrial take-off but needed the harmonization of unified continental objectives for the over-all strengthening of the economic life of the continent. The report (E/3876/Rev.1) introduced by the Executive Secretary of ECAFE had painted a picture of a steadily rising population with the simultaneous rapid reduction in the production of food. The picture was, however, also one of a continent on the move and the Executive Secretary had been right to appeal for assistance from the industrialized countries.

71. His delegation had drawn considerable encouragement from the report introduced by the Executive Secretary of ECA. The quiet and steel-like optimism of the Executive Secretary was also characteristic of the African continent, where self-help was the watchword and where the people were inspired by an enthusiasm to achieve their own advancement. It was apparent from the Executive Secretary's report that Africa was a continent on the move. In its economic and social aspirations it intended to remove all encumbrances and impediments that had been placed in its way for centuries. The prospectus the Executive Secretary had placed before the Council displayed a veritable panorama of the tools for

continental unification: the Conference of African Statisticians, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, and the move to establish an African payments union and an African common market. The ECA had also very properly adopted resolution 94 (VI) unanimously requesting that the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Angola, Mozambique and South West Africa be permitted to attend future sessions of the Commission as associate members. His delegation hoped the Council would have no difficulty in accepting that resolution without reservation.

72. His delegation was particularly pleased with the report of ECA because it revealed that Africa was determined to succeed at all costs, with or without external support. His own country, for example, had set itself the task of achieving in ten years what the colonial Powers had failed to do in fifty years. They would rely primarily on self-help, but would not spurn genuine aid from friends and well-wishers.

73. His delegation appreciated the offer of assistance to the African Development Bank made by the United Kingdom Government and hoped that all other former metropolitan Powers would follow its example of magnanimity. His delegation had also been encouraged by the remarks of the United States representative who had said that the Americans would stand side by side with the Africans, and hoped that they represented a reversal of the position taken by the United States Government at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

74. His delegation was convinced that there was a certain complementarity in the problems of the four economic regions. The answer did not lie in further polarization and insularity but in achieving international co-operation by employing international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.