



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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President: Mr. Akira MATSUI (Japan).

Present:

Representatives of the following States, members of the Council: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Iraq, Japan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Representatives of the following States, additional members of the sessional committees: Cameroon, Denmark, Ghana, India, Iran, Madagascar, Mexico, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

Observers for the following Member States: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda.

Observer for the following non-member State: 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; World Health Organization; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; International Monetary Fund.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Review and reappraisal of the Council's role and functions

1. The PRESIDENT invited preliminary comments.
2. Mr. TREMBLAY (Canada) said that the need for review and reappraisal had arisen not only because of the passage of time but because of the decision to establish the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as an organ of the General Assembly. UNCTAD was only the most recent of a long series of specialized bodies. There had also been a parallel development of the specialized agencies, which had been drawn into increasingly close contact with the United Nations proper. All those developments, with increasing emphasis on specialization, reflected the changing needs of a changing world. It was not surprising that they entailed changes in the role of the Council

itself, for the founders of the United Nations could hardly have foreseen the role it would be called upon to play twenty years after its creation. It was a pity that during those twenty years, reasoned debate on emerging economic and social trends had to give way to the pressing need for action to promote economic and social development. Whenever a new body had been created, it should have been possible for the Council to withdraw from the debate, leaving the responsibilities for detailed action to specialists. In the case of UNCTAD, the process had reached a new level; it would be absurd for the twenty-seven members of the enlarged Council to discuss the trade requirements of the developing countries when a better qualified and larger body had made those needs its special concern. The Council should be happy to delegate its responsibilities in that and other fields to specialized bodies.

3. That did not mean that the Council no longer had a useful role to play. On the contrary, its role had become more complex and more difficult. It had two major responsibilities. First, it had a legislative obligation towards its functional commissions and their subsidiary bodies, whose resolutions must be approved by it if they were to take effect at the international level. The Council should be circumspect when considering the texts recommended to it and members should resist the temptation of merely speaking for the record. Secondly, it must act in areas which did not fall within the terms of reference of any of the specialized bodies. In considering such matters, the Council should bear in mind the relative importance of the different activities. However, the Council's major role was to assess and co-ordinate the efforts of the international community to promote development.

4. In setting up specialized bodies to deal with specific problems, the Council had run into another difficulty, that of ensuring that those bodies worked smoothly within some generally approved pattern. But if the idea of joint action was to have any meaning, there must be some body to assess all the aspects of development; under the United Nations Charter, that was the role of the Economic and Social Council. None of what he had said was new. Indeed, the most significant developments in the Council's work over the past two years had been in the field of co-ordination. A definition of "co-ordination" was necessary. It was often conceived of as a restraining function to ensure that the limited resources were used for the most urgent activities, but it had a more vital aspect: that of appraising existing activities with a view to identifying gaps, shifting emphasis and indicating new directions. The Council should be not only a focus for international thinking on the problems and policies of development, but a catalyst which should give impetus to the action initiated by other United Nations bodies. Because of the very variety of the specialized agencies, there was a

danger of a haphazard approach to economic and social development. The Council should keep a watchful eye on the working of the complex international machinery and see that it ran smoothly.

5. Some members feared that a strengthened Council might intervene in the substantive work of the specialized bodies, particularly UNCTAD. In his delegation's view, the Council should not become involved in UNCTAD's operations, but ensure the smooth working of the machinery. The Governments represented on the Council were also represented in UNCTAD and other bodies; co-ordination within individual Governments should guarantee co-ordination at the international level. The Council should develop its role of co-ordination at the policy level. That would be no easy task but it was worth while. Some minor reforms of the Council's methods of work might be desirable and should be studied in detail at the thirty-ninth session. But the major concern should be, not to shore up the position of the Council at any price, but to use the Council to the advantage of all.

6. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) said that, under the Charter, the Council was responsible for the orderly development of the economic, social and human rights activities of the United Nations proper, and for co-ordinating the same activities of the United Nations family as a whole. Its functions were, first, to provide a forum for a high-level exchange of views on economic and social policy and development; secondly, to co-ordinate the programme and activities of the United Nations system of organizations; and thirdly, to provide policy guidance and assume over-all responsibility for the economic and social activities of the whole United Nations system.

7. Not only the enlargement but the change in the character of the Organization's membership over the last twenty years had necessitated a review of the membership of the main organs. Austria, fully aware of the need for adaptation, had been one of the first countries to ratify the Charter amendments enlarging the membership of the two Councils. A more balanced geographical distribution and greater representation of the new African and Asian countries would help to increase confidence in the Council.

8. Governments should be given time to study the problems involved and to make constructive proposals. The division of work between the Council and the newly constituted Trade and Development Board would be a major task, but until the terms of reference of the new bodies were defined, the Council could come to no decision. His delegation therefore agreed with previous speakers that the present item should be placed on the agenda of the thirty-ninth session and remain on the agenda of future sessions until an acceptable solution had been found. The Council was fully competent to undertake the reappraisal, but that did not affect the authority of the General Assembly to make the final decision on the future role and functions of the Council. The records of the discussions on the item at the current session and the previous session should prove helpful to the Assembly in its consideration of the matter.

9. Under Chapter X of the Charter, the Council was responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the

United Nations and the specialized agencies in the economic, social and human rights fields. With the expansion of United Nations activities into the fields of trade and development, the need for co-ordination was even greater than before. His Government did not wish to hamper the activities of the new trade organs in any way, particularly the efficient planning of their programme, but there was an imperative need for co-ordination of all United Nations economic activities at some point. He trusted that the reappraisal of the Council's functions would be approached in a spirit of open-mindedness and co-operation, and that prejudice and past disappointments would be disregarded so that the enlarged Council would become a forum in which economic and social development problems could find a satisfactory solution.

10. Mr. WURTH (Luxembourg) said that the present review and reappraisal of the Council's role and functions was particularly important because of the continuing growth of United Nations economic activities. Although that growth was being temporarily slowed down by the financial crisis, the creation of trade and development machinery marked the beginning of an enormous expansion of economic and social activities. The General Assembly's work in that field had become heavier and much more difficult over the last few years; it would therefore have an even greater need of the Council than in the past. The Council had three major responsibilities, as defined in the Charter. First, it was the directing body for all the economic and social programmes of the United Nations proper; in that field, the integration of the budget and the programme of work would facilitate the Council's work and make its action more effective. Secondly, it was the co-ordinator of the economic activities of the United Nations and specialized agencies. Thirdly, it was the body responsible for formulating world economic policy.

11. It was for Member States to ensure that the Council functioned effectively. There were two main ways in which that could be done. First, it must be sufficiently representative. The General Assembly had already taken action to enlarge the Council's membership to twenty-seven; the nine future new members were already participating in the Council's work. Secondly, the Council's machinery must be fully adapted for its work. The time for a re-evaluation had obviously come. Nevertheless, if the Council was to adapt smoothly to its new functions, over-hasty action must be avoided. His delegation was ready to participate in a discussion of the subject at the thirty-ninth session, but he did not think that any rigid schedule should be adopted.

12. Mr. THORMANN (International Federation of Christian Trade Unions) welcomed the fact that the need for a review and reappraisal of the Council's role and functions had been generally recognized. That need arose not only from the implementation of the recommendations of UNCTAD but from various continuing trends. Over the last decade, concern had repeatedly been expressed over the failure of the Organization as a whole, and of the Council in particular, to carry out its responsibilities under Chapters IX and X of the Charter. The need to achieve the goals laid down in Article 55 of the Charter was

universally recognized and the means to do so were available; but the measure of success had been disappointing. The International Federation of Christian Trade Unions trusted that the present discussion would mark the beginning of a break-through to better things.

13. In establishing consultative status for non-governmental organizations, the founders of the United Nations had wished to ensure that governmental and inter-governmental initiatives would always be adequately attuned to the hopes and aspirations of mankind. Such organizations were in a specially good position to help the United Nations to keep the social dimensions of economic progress in proper focus. At the thirty-seventh session of the Council, the Secretary-General himself had stressed that economic progress had no meaning if it was not closely related to social aspirations (1320th meeting, para. 8). And yet, as the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had stated to the Co-ordination Committee at the same session (E/AC.24/L.240), there was a tendency for economic and social questions to be dealt with outside the system of the Council. He trusted that the enlargement of the Council—which should become a fact in the near future—would correct that trend by making the Council more representative of the whole United Nations membership.

14. Mr. RAMOS (Argentina) said that his delegation had favoured the inclusion of the present item on the agenda of the current session because of the complexity of the problems involved. For the same reason, the item should be retained on the agenda of the thirty-ninth session, when it could be considered in the light of the decisions taken at the first session of the Trade and Development Board. In considering the relationship between the Council and the Trade and Development Board, the legal position should be borne in mind. Under Article 22 of the Charter, the General Assembly was entitled to establish such subsidiary organs as it deemed necessary for the performance of its functions. The Board was a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly which had been given highly important responsibilities, particularly with respect to the developing countries. On the other hand, under Article 7 of the Charter, the Council was established as one of the principal organs of the United Nations. The Council's two main responsibilities were to direct economic and social programmes of the United Nations and co-ordinate the work of the United Nations family in that field. As far as co-ordination was concerned, that point had been made clear in paragraphs 20 and 22 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX).

15. As to its future functions, the Council should give careful consideration to all points, particularly its relations with the trade and development machinery; in particular, it should decide what functions were subsidiary and what steps should be taken to avoid duplication. What was required was an over-all reappraisal of the Council's functions in relation to the principles of the Charter, the directives of the General Assembly and the decisions of the Trade and Development Board. It was clear that the Council was the body responsible for formulating economic and social policy.

16. It would be helpful if the Secretariat could prepare a document to facilitate the Council's considera-

tion of the item at the next session in the light of the present discussion, the decisions taken at the first session of the Trade and Development Board, and the legal provisions pertaining to the matter.

17. Mr. WILMOT (Ghana) said that his delegation still maintained the view it had expressed at the thirty-seventh session: that the present reappraisal was too important to be undertaken by any other body than the General Assembly. It was obvious that the matter could not be fruitfully discussed at the present time, as the situation would not be clear until the Trade and Development Board had met and taken its decisions. The earliest possible moment at which the Council could really begin its reappraisal was therefore its thirty-ninth session.

18. He welcomed the fact that the USSR had ratified the amendment to the Charter enlarging the membership of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. His delegation had always maintained that the membership of the principal organs of the United Nations should reflect the total membership of the Organization. It had therefore co-sponsored the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly enlarging the membership of the sessional committees and of the two Councils. Any reappraisal of the Council's role and functions should begin with a consideration of its composition: unless it was representative of the entire membership of the Organization, it could not function satisfactorily.

19. The developing countries were and always would be concerned with that matter. He supported the Argentine suggestion that the Secretariat should prepare a document to facilitate the Council's consideration of the item at its thirty-ninth session. In the meantime, the Secretary-General might be asked to ascertain the views of Member States, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency with a view to making their views available to the Council at that session.

20. Mr. DE GREGORIO (Chile) said that any comments made at the present stage must be preliminary and could not entail any commitment. In his delegation's view, the Council should become the executive agency, with full powers, for certain economic and social activities of the United Nations, but those activities should be strictly defined. The importance of the Council had inevitably declined somewhat as other members of the United Nations family had grown in strength and independence. Many international agencies, moreover, had only courtesy ties with the Council. Nevertheless, the Council had succeeded in focusing attention on economic problems of fundamental importance and it had become evident that their solution required the establishment of special machinery with full powers. As a result, UNCTAD had been convened and had become a permanent body. Chile would give the new machinery its full support. It should be as independent as possible and have the widest possible powers. It should be recognized as the world forum for settling trade and development questions, a view which had been expressed by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Latin American Co-ordination in a declaration adopted at Lima in December 1964.

21. It would be premature, however, to discuss in detail what the Council's new functions should be.

Although the Trade and Development Board was already in existence, its subsidiary organs had not yet been assigned their final terms of reference. The membership of the Council had not been modified sufficiently to give due representation to the newly independent countries of Africa and Asia. The only way they could make their views known would thus be through a regular meeting of the General Assembly. In these circumstances, Chile could not agree to any substantive discussion of the Council's future functions, but it would not be opposed to a preliminary exchange of views. Naturally, no discussion in the Council would prejudice decisions which only the General Assembly could take.

22. Mr. MWALUKO (United Republic of Tanzania) said that a review and reappraisal of the Council's role and functions could only be carried out by a truly representative body. The Council was not such a body. Only about 11 per cent of its members were African, whereas African States had about 30 per cent of the seats in the General Assembly. Although the General Assembly had sought to rectify the situation by adopting resolution 1991 (XVIII), the developed countries had so far failed to ratify the proposed amendment of the Charter. It was precisely those countries which had caused the decline in the Council's effectiveness by exploiting their dominant position to run it in accordance with their own wishes and which were now pressing for review and reappraisal. In that connexion, he welcomed the recent ratification of the Charter amendment by the Soviet Union. His delegation was in favour of a review and reappraisal, but in the right place. Since the constitutional crisis through which the Organization was passing affected all aspects of its activities, that place was the General Assembly and he hoped that it would be possible to take the matter up at its twentieth session.

23. Mr. CHIBA (Japan) said that a review of the Council's role could be undertaken without infringing the General Assembly's right to take the final decisions. The establishment of the new trade and development machinery would have a great impact on the structure of the United Nations and duplication of work must be avoided. There were aspects of economic affairs, however, which the new machinery would not cover and the Council would still bear important responsibilities under the Charter for social affairs and human rights. It would also still be responsible for co-ordinating all United Nations activities in the economic, social and human rights fields and its functions in that respect might well be expanded. It should also continue programme evaluation. A thorough study of its new role might be undertaken at the next or subsequent sessions.

24. Mr. ARCA PARRO (Peru) said that there seemed to be no disagreement about the need for a review and reappraisal of the Council's role and functions, but merely about the extent of that review. Some were pessimistic about the Council's future. In the course of his long association with the Council, he had frequently heard pessimism expressed with regard to proposals that had later proved very successful. For example, doubts had at first been expressed about the need for the Economic Commission for Latin America, which had since not only given much assistance to the countries of the region, but had established an entire new

philosophy of development, leading to the holding of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the movement towards economic integration in Latin America. Similarly, the Population Commission had proved a most valuable body despite the misgivings that had attended its creation. Since the Organization had achieved such successes in the economic and social fields, it might appear that the Council's original terms of reference were still adequate. But great changes had occurred in the world since the drafting of the Charter. Apart from the political evolution which had led to the great rise in United Nations membership, there had been unprecedented scientific advances; demographic trends had taken an unexpected turn; the harnessing of nuclear power and the investigation of outer space had opened up new prospects. However far-sighted the founders of the United Nations had been, they could not have foreseen all those developments. It was therefore natural that the Organization should take stock and see where it had achieved its original aims, where it had fallen short and where it had gone further. A study of the legal position might be advisable, as the representative of Argentina had suggested. The Council was obviously too small, but it was not clear on what principle it should be expanded. The reason why its membership had been originally fixed at eighteen was not evident. It might have been more sensible to make it a percentage of the Assembly's membership. At the same time it must be representative of all trends in the world community. That meant recognition of the fact that, while the world was divided into two main groups of countries, the developed and the developing, there were many subdivisions within those groups. The subject was one of great complexity. Before it could be discussed in detail, some documentary background would be needed and the Secretariat might be requested to prepare it.

25. Mr. HASEGANU (Romania) said that the number and importance of the problems before the Council increased every year, and a reappraisal of the Council's role and functions could establish what had been constructive and appropriate in its past work over many years and also what had impeded it. Such a reappraisal was all the more pertinent since a new economic organ, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, had been created. But, from a practical point of view, a useful discussion of the matter could be held only after the Trade and Development Board had been constituted and had organized its work. He shared the view that discussion in the Council should not prejudice the work and decisions of the first session of the Board. He would be in a better position to express an opinion at the thirty-ninth session.

26. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that the functions of the Council were clearly defined in Chapters IX and X of the Charter. Its main purpose was to stimulate joint action by Governments and by the international bodies concerned, aimed at the economic and social advancement of the developing countries. Any doubts which persisted about its role could only be resolved by a return to the Charter.

27. The Charter also gave the Council a dual function: to enable Member States to compare their views on the world's main economic problems, and to ensure co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the

specialized agencies in the economic and social fields. Some of those activities—labour, education, financial matters—already lay within the competence of the specialized agencies. But whenever a new activity had impelled the Organization to undertake specific action, the Economic and Social Council had not hesitated to establish the bodies it required for that purpose—as in the case of technical assistance, industrialization, etc. It had never been a practice of the Council to usurp the functions of the technical bodies it had set up, or to keep them under close control. The French delegation felt that an unreal problem had emerged from the controversy which had arisen as to the respective roles of the Council and UNCTAD. The Council was not equipped to deal with the technical problems of international trade. That was the responsibility of UNCTAD. On the other hand, at its own level the Council had the responsibility of bringing into focus the influence which trade could exert on the economic development of the under-developed countries. The Council's annual debates on the world economic situation and the problems of development could provide the necessary intellectual stimulus for the Governments and international organizations which took part in them to examine world economic problems within a world-wide framework.

28. Similarly, in the exercise of its co-ordinating functions, the Economic and Social Council should regard itself as the irreplaceable body within which the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies were fitted together and brought into line. That task could be properly accomplished only if the Council avoided becoming bogged down in details and restricted itself to the discussion of priority activities. In order to do so, it must take care that its work programme and its budget were continually adjusted to each other. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) was in a position to give the Council valuable assistance in that respect. The association of the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee with the work of ACC was likely to improve co-ordination between those two bodies considerably. The discussion and comparison of the work programme and the budget might be left to a body smaller than the Co-ordination Committee, such as the Special Committee on Co-ordination or any other organ that the Council might decide to set up.

29. The future role of the Economic and Social Council and the reappraisal of its activities depended to a large extent on a rational division of responsibility between the Council and the General Assembly. Some of the countries long represented on the Council felt that it could not do its work without relying on smaller subsidiary bodies to prepare its discussions. Other members, who had joined the Organization at a later date, felt that the Council was no longer representative and was not discharging its functions properly. There was some truth in both those views. If the Council was properly to carry out the duties laid upon it by the Charter, it must obviously be fully representative. The French delegation had expressed the view that it should be enlarged, when the question had come up for discussion; but the Council could play no really useful role in the Organization, even with a membership of twenty-seven, unless the countries now constituting the majority in the General Assembly attached real importance to its activities and were willing to regard it as

the organ competent to prepare the Assembly's debates and recommendations on the problems which were of concern to the Organization in the economic and social fields.

30. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) said that, while the economic and social activities of the United Nations had increased in importance over the years, the effectiveness of the Council in handling those matters had correspondingly declined. That paradox was at the root of all the Council's difficulties. He agreed with the representative of France that, according to the Charter, the Council had been clearly designated as the central United Nations organ responsible for economic and social development. He also welcomed the planned enlargement of the Council which would remedy the deficiencies in its composition.

31. The main problem, therefore, did not now lie in the provisions of the Charter or in the membership of the Council. It lay in the Council's methods of work. According to the Charter, the Council was responsible for the formulation of general economic and social policy and also for co-ordination. In both the Council had failed to live up to expectations, partly because its membership had not reflected the various currents of opinion in the international community and partly, as Mr. Viaud had pointed out, because it had become bogged down in detail. The Council had delegated co-ordination to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, but that body suffered from certain built-in weaknesses. It was a consultative rather than a co-ordinating committee and it reached its decisions only on the basis of general compromises. As long as the Council was satisfied with that kind of co-ordination, it could never fulfil its functions under the Charter. If it was to exert greater influence and power in the field of co-ordination, it must tighten up its co-ordinating machinery. There was nothing wrong with compromise but in the economic and social field it could be carried too far.

32. In order to strengthen its role as a policy-maker, the Council must concentrate on certain basic problems and not dissipate its energies on matters which could be far better handled by smaller bodies. To formulate policy, it must have all the necessary facts at its disposal and a clear order of priority drawn up in the light of budgetary limitations. At the moment, there was no adequate machinery for helping the Council achieve that objective. In short, the Council must overhaul its present co-ordinating machinery and develop new machinery for its policy-making role.

33. Mr. WILLIAMS (United States of America) said that there was already a considerable measure of agreement in the Council on the question of reappraisal. That realization showed that the Council was determined to reflect the world's changing needs. Change was the only alternative to stagnation.

34. It was therefore surprising that some members seemed to be reluctant to begin the reappraisal. They should remember that the Council was only starting a lengthy discussion of the subject and not reaching any firm conclusions at the present stage. The provision of assistance to millions in the developing countries who were grappling with hunger, illiteracy and disease lay at the very heart of the Council's functions. It was for that reason that the Secretary-

General had suggested at the thirty-seventh session (1320th meeting) that the time was ripe for a review. The task could not be done easily or quickly. Lengthy preparation would be required. In 1954, Governments had submitted their views on the reappraisal and a similar approach might be adopted in the present case. He was not making any formal proposal to that effect but stressed that new ideas should be sought from all possible sources.

35. It had been often charged that the composition of the Council was outdated and failed to reflect the present membership of the General Assembly. But recognition of that fact had already led to the election of nine additional members of the sessional committees who were participating fully in the discussions. It was unimaginative to suggest that the Council should await national parliamentary action on the Charter amendment before it began its own reappraisal. By taking up that question, the Council would not be prejudging any issues because it was not going to take a vote for the moment and, in any case, the General Assembly would have a chance to review and discuss the Council's actions. It would be extremely useful for the Council to identify the problems involved and the areas of agreement among its members, if only to avoid repetition of the same issues in the General Assembly.

36. It was also unrealistic to recommend no action by the Council until the Trade and Development Board had met in April. There would be no harm in beginning the discussion at the current session and continuing it at the summer session in the light of what the Board had decided. Before the thirty-ninth session the Secretariat might be asked to obtain the comments of the specialized agencies and of Member States, but in any case the Council should begin forthwith.

37. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom) agreed with the representative of France that, in order to solve its organizational problems, the Council must return to the Charter. There was nothing wrong with the Council's functions as defined therein, although it might be argued that they were not being properly carried out. The Council had moved from the path of discussion to the path of action. It might be accused of not being active enough but at least it had changed its approach. The Council had also been criticized for being small and unrepresentative, but those faults were being remedied; the twenty-seven countries present and taking part in the current session were already in a position to discuss the matter, to the extent that it

could be usefully discussed at the current and even the thirty-ninth sessions. No final decision could be reached during 1965 since the review was a lengthy and complicated matter. However, a considerable amount of preparation could and should be done, and in that respect he sympathized with the Argentine representative's proposal that the Secretariat could obtain the views of the specialized agencies and of Governments as a basis for discussion at the thirty-ninth session of the Council and at the twentieth session of the General Assembly. The Permanent Representative of Iraq had suggested that it was up to the Council to tackle its own problems, through its own methods and procedures. By 1966 the Council might be ready to consider specific proposals for adoption. He suggested that the report of the current session should contain a formal request that the Secretariat should assemble a preliminary body of facts and of ideas on the improvements necessary in the operation of the Council.

38. Mr. HAJEK (Czechoslovakia) said that the Council had not fully satisfied expectations, despite an increase in both the quantity and the quality of its work. It was therefore right that the functions and structure of the Council and its subordinate organs and its relations with UNCTAD should be examined, with a view to providing new impetus. The Council should concentrate in the future on implementing development programmes, assisting democratic social reforms and liquidating the economic and social consequences of colonialism. Many of the principles contained in the Final Act of UNCTAD could also be applied to activities concerned with such matters as economic and social planning, development co-operation and scientific progress. In all these activities, the experience and interests of all regions of the world would have to be taken into account.

39. In reappraising the Council's social work, greater account should be taken of the need for the intensified development and progress of the developing countries, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII). The experience of both industrialized and developing countries should be studied with a view to finding solutions to specific social problems of literacy, health, education, employment and housing. Social problems of a more general nature also had a particular bearing on economic development. All those activities would have to be properly co-ordinated with other United Nations organs.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.