

in August 1975, would also be crucial to the attainment of those objectives.

34. At the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly no effort must be spared to build on those achievements with practical action, for if it was to reaffirm the aims and usefulness of the United Nations, the seventh special session must show specific results. The formal and informal discussions during the current session of the Council should contribute significantly to that end: there was no better way for member States to express their determination to strengthen the role of the Council.

35. The capability of the United Nations to fulfil its special role in promoting international economic and social co-operation and in harmonizing the actions of States had been called into question. Although no one doubted that the United Nations was an essential feature of the world political and economic scene, it had to be admitted that its achievements in mapping out and implementing policies and programmes of multilateral co-operation had been limited. While the main remedy for that state of affairs rested in the determination of Governments, there was clearly a need to revitalize the United Nations system after 30 years' existence so that it could make a more significant contribution.

36. The Group of Experts which had recently presented its report entitled "A new United Nations structure for global economic co-operation" (E/AC.62/9) deserved great credit for having undertaken the first comprehensive review of the United Nations institutional framework since the adoption of the Charter. It was essential that the various intergovernmental bodies concerned and, in particular, the special session of the General Assembly, taking into account the expert advice available, should initiate the reforms which were necessary at both the intergovernmental and the secretariat levels to make the United Nations system fully capable of dealing with problems of international co-operation in a comprehensive manner.

37. Finally, reference must be made to one other important issue which the Council would have before it at the

current session when it considered the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (E/5725), held at Mexico City, which he had recently attended. A look round the Council's Conference Room demonstrated the distance to be traversed before an equitable participation of women in international and in economic relations was achieved. Such an achievement would signal not only the end to an indefensible discrimination, but also the fuller utilization of a reservoir of human ability which was indispensable for the economic and social development of the international community.

38. He was confident that all present would endeavour to make the fifty-ninth session a success and thereby facilitate the task of the seventh special session of the General Assembly. He extended to all his best wishes for a fruitful outcome.

39. The PRESIDENT thanked the Secretary-General for his address.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (E/5685; E/L.1668 and Corr.1)

40. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to adopt the provisional agenda in document E/5685, as approved by the Council at its fifty-eighth session.

The provisional agenda was adopted.

41. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Bureau (E/L.1668 and Corr.1), which dealt with the allocation of agenda items and included a proposed time-table of work. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the organization of work outlined therein.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

1954th meeting

Thursday, 3 July 1975, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. I. A. AKHUND (Pakistan)

E/SR.1954

Implementation of rule 73 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

1. The PRESIDENT announced that he had received from a national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly a letter requesting that he should, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, allow that movement to participate without the right of vote in the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council on all matters of particular concern to it.

2. It appeared to him that the request was in order under rule 73 of the rules of procedure relating to the participation of national liberation movements. If there were no objections, the request would therefore be granted.

It was so decided.

3. M. FERGUSON (United States of America) pointed out that the decision had not been put to the vote and said that his delegation had express reservations in regard to invitations of that kind.

4. M. TARCICI (Yemen) said that the Council had just taken a correct and equitable decision. On behalf of his own delegation and of those of all the Arab countries, he welcomed the Palestine Liberation Organization.

5. The decision was taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, entitled "Observer status for the Palestine Liberation Organization", which contained a paragraph stating that the General Assembly "considers that the Palestine Liberation Organization is entitled to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under the auspices of other organs of the United Nations". The resolution was therefore clear and precise, and the Palestine Liberation Organization had already been able to attend, as an observer, several international conferences, in which it had always participated with competence, dignity and responsibility. They included the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law, the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Congress of WMO, the World Health Assembly and the International Labour Conference. It had also been invited by ECWA to participate, as a permanent observer, in its meetings.

6. The countries of the whole world, particularly the hundred or so countries which had voted for the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX), were satisfied with that participation. The Palestine Liberation Organization would play its part in the Council with the competence and sense of responsibility which it had already shown at other meetings and conferences.

7. Mr. CHANG Ping-t sien (China) said that his delegation approved of the Council's decision and considered it legitimate to invite the representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in the discussions. His delegation was convinced that the representatives in question would make a useful contribution to the Council's work.

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral development (E/5654, E/5665, E/5681 and Add.1-4, E/5682, E/5692, E/5699, E/5713)

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take up agenda item 3. He reminded members of the Bureau's suggestion that, in accordance with past practice, the general debate should focus on the subject-matter of item 9 (Mid-term review and appraisal of progress in implementing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade; Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order) and item 10 (Special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and economic co-operation), so as to enable the Economic Committee to dispense with general statements on those two items and concentrate on the consideration of specific proposals (E/L.1668 and Corr.1, para. 2).

9. Mr. EKLUND (Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency) said that he wished to draw attention, as

he had recently had occasion to do at the joint meetings of PPCC and ACC, to the importance of energy for development, which had been the subject of the sixth special session of the General Assembly. It was partly owing to nuclear energy that the developed and developing countries would be able to meet their energy requirements, first of all during the coming decade.

10. That development, however, was influenced by two trends: on the one hand, public opposition to the use of nuclear reactors had sometimes hampered the realization of already approved projects; on the other hand, changes in the conventional energy situation had drawn renewed attention to nuclear power. Those two factors had led to a world-wide re-evaluation of energy problems, from which it could already be concluded that electricity would take a steadily increasing share of total energy production and that demand would exceed the conventional resources available, even if conservation measures were adopted or there was a change in attitude towards energy growth.

11. Nuclear energy was the only immediately available technical solution, even though certain problems associated with it remained to be solved. Its development throughout the world would be faster or slower according to the effects of the economic recession, public opposition or the emergence of new markets. It was noteworthy that even the oil-exporting countries were planning to introduce nuclear power.

12. In those circumstances the Agency's main concerns were to ensure that the safety record of nuclear power was maintained and that the necessary manpower was available, while taking care to prevent the diversion of nuclear materials. At the very time when its work was assuming greater importance and pressures for expansion were strong, the Agency was experiencing acute financial difficulties, due, in particular, to the severe economic problems facing several of its member States.

13. The Agency's regular budget for 1975 - \$29,675,000 - represented an increase of 18.4 per cent over 1974, but that increase was almost wholly accounted for by inflation and monetary fluctuation. On the other hand, the funds approved for the Agency's technical assistance programme had increased substantially. The target for voluntary contributions had risen from \$3 million in 1974 to \$4.5 million in 1975, and the Agency's Board had recommended that the figure should be raised to \$5.5 million in 1976. It was also encouraging to note that the 1975 target would probably be 94 per cent fulfilled. As a result of that increase in contributions and in the number of UNDP projects executed by the Agency, some activities - fellowships, training courses and procurement of equipment - had increased by 40 to 80 per cent over the past two years.

14. Two matters of primary concern to the General Assembly might also interest members of the Economic and Social Council. Firstly, the Agency had, at the request of the Secretary-General, extended its full support to preparations for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which had taken place in May 1975 at Geneva. In the Declaration adopted by the Conference, the Parties to the Treaty had

emphasized the need to conclude safeguard agreements with the Agency. Since he had last addressed the Council at the fifty-seventh session (1904th meeting), the Agency's Board had approved 13 additional safeguard agreements, 9 of them under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Agency had also established a standing advisory group on safeguards implementation, an action which had been favourably received by the Conference of the Parties.

15. Secondly, in response to the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Agency's Board, in January 1975, a unit had been established in the secretariat to centralize and supply information relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear explosions. At its June meeting the Board had established an *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, which was open to participation by all Agency members and to which interested non-member States could be invited.

16. The trends in the Agency's programmes could be summarized in the following way: firstly, in regard to the nuclear power industry, the Agency had given high priority to programmes relating to nuclear safety, nuclear power advisory services and related training. To help developing countries to endow themselves with nuclear energy, and having regard for forecasts indicating that nuclear power should be economic for some 30 developing countries by the end of the 1980s, the Agency was assisting those countries at all stages of planning, construction and operation - without neglecting their trained manpower requirements - through seminars financed by UNDP and training courses. In regard to the use of nuclear power in maximum conditions of safety, IAEA had undertaken an extensive environment protection programme under which the Agency and experts from member States were preparing a comprehensive system of internationally acceptable codes and guides for the use of regulatory bodies, utilities and plant manufacturers. Those safety guides might help to reassure the public about nuclear power production.

17. In the longer term, the Agency was interested in the critical problem posed by waste management. In particular, consideration was being given to the possibility of establishing, at the regional level, nuclear-fuel reprocessing and disposal units which might lead to a solution of the problem. After a difficult start, the Agency's International Nuclear Information System was now being supported by member States, and the publication, for instance, of a printed abstracts journal from 1976 onwards was being considered.

18. Finally, a start had already been made with preparations for the large international conference on nuclear power and its fuel cycle to be held early in May 1977 at Salzburg, Austria. Particular attention would be given to the nuclear fuel cycle and the importance of international, regional or national arrangements for solving the problems it raised, as well as to the need for bearing such arrangements in mind in planning national nuclear programmes. The conference would also deal with radio-activity management, technical aspects of nuclear safety and factors involved in the introduction of nuclear power in developing countries.

19. PPCC would be provided with additional information on the Agency's work, particularly that done in co-ordination with other organizations, when the Committee came to the in-depth review it was to carry out.

20. Mr. PETERSON (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that a year before he had expressed the hope that at the 1975 summer session of the UNDP Governing Council (twentieth session) there would be a high-level discussion or proposals relating to the future role of UNDP in world development, in the context of preparations for the seventh special session of the General Assembly. Such discussions had been held as planned with ministers, directors-general of development planning and technical co-operation and other high officials. The proposals of the Governing Council for "new dimensions" in technical co-operation (see E/5703) had been wholeheartedly endorsed. The members of the Governing Council had also stressed the role of UNDP as the operational centrepiece in the United Nations development system.

21. He recalled that it was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the birth of United Nations technical co-operation. On 1 July 1950, a United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was launched that was destined to become the largest effort in multilateral technical co-operation. Full credit must be given to all those who had devoted much of their working lives to building what was now UNDP. In the first year, \$6.5 million had been committed to the projects. By the end of 1974 project expenditures over the 25 years had amounted to some \$2,500 million, and more than \$17,000 million had been spent on follow-up investment.

22. In 1951 there had been some 800 experts in the field and by December 1974 the total was 120,000. To give statistics on the number of experts employed was not of course as important as paying a tribute to the millions of unknown men and women in the civil services of the developing countries who had always been the backbone of the development struggle and had long been curiously designated under the anonymous term "counterparts". The agriculturalists, health workers, teachers, civil engineers and all those on whom the enterprise depended deserved to receive new encouragement.

23. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly had realized that the wide framework of development was in urgent need of revision. The outcome of efforts in development was deeply affected by the world's systems and mechanisms of economic and technical power, of distribution of resources and of pricing and movements in world trade. The two bodies had therefore been prompted to focus attention on the world situation in the 1974 Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.¹ Never before had so many Governments been challenged to do better for the unprivileged of the earth. Never before had the needs and the rights of the poor been so clearly stated in terms not only of development assistance flows but of a redesigning of the very economic and resource systems of

¹ General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), of 1 May 1974.

society. Never before had it been so evident that such a redesigning was in the interests of all humanity.

24. At the twentieth session of the UNDP Governing Council, the representative of Canada had said that UNDP had been anticipating, within the limitations of its special mandate, some of the thinking that had since resulted in the broader concept of the new international economic order. UNDP was now ready and capable of delivering all the resources it received. Over the last few years it had made efforts to improve its management capabilities, to decentralize programming and to resolve difficulties in timely implementation. Several of its agency partners had also taken decisive streamlining action. In the context of the forthcoming seventh special session of the General Assembly, UNDP could help Governments to design and carry out a wider and more innovative range of projects to match the spirit and urgency of the Programme of Action.

25. Drawing on the experience acquired in 25 years and particularly during the first cycle of country programming, he had put before the Governing Council a series of proposals on new dimensions in technical co-operation, and UNDP was prepared to meet the challenges now facing United Nations technical co-operation.

26. He asked the Economic and Social Council to approve UNDP's wish to liberate its joint planning exercises with Governments from the traditional "package" of foreign experts, fellowships, equipment and government personnel, and to allow the programming process to range wider and more boldly on the basis of needed results. UNDP had sought broad authority for Governments and field staff to determine what type of input should be made, and where and when along the development spectrum. The Governing Council realized that UNDP must move decisively and in new ways in support of the Declaration and the Programme of Action. The words "flexibility", "innovativeness" and "adaptability" recurred in statement after statement.

27. UNDP welcomed the assurance that IBRD saw no objection to that new flexibility in drawing the line between capital and technical assistance, and the Governing Council in its turn assured the Economic and Social Council that it would exercise its expanded mandate with discretion. The United Nations Capital Development Fund, whose present slender resources were already fully committed, was to be expanded. The role it would play was quite distinct from that of any other international lending institution. Since the "new thinking" had been supported by the Governing Council, there was reason to hope that global development could be approached with the judgement of experience, and that the approach would be backed by political will. The present period of new initiatives in United Nations economic and social endeavours demanded a sense of renewal and re-dedication from all. To quote the Director-General of WHO, UNDP now had the right tools in programming policy as well as in management and could bring the right solution to the right problems, with the right quantity and quality of resources at the right time and place. Those tools came at exactly the right hour. UNDP was therefore ready to take its share in the work of bringing substance to the new international economic order.

28. With reference to the question what the new tasks imposed by development assistance were, he said that the Programme of Action was global in scope and would extend over several years. It required many refinements and detailed definitions. Huge tasks lay ahead for UNDP. Governments would define each specific task under the joint programming system at the country, multinational, world and inter-country levels. He would try to indicate the nature of those tasks as far as they concerned UNDP.

29. UNDP should first of all use its new flexibility to reach points of rapid impact and multiplier effect more directly. It should be ready to design and implement new multidisciplinary programmes in order to mobilize the poorest sections of the population in projects that could quickly improve their lives.

30. That approach might entail risks, but at a time when millions of people were living precariously UNDP should be ready to take even greater risks to come to their help. The Governing Council had also proposed that UNDP should be ready to consider supporting high-risk projects which could achieve technological breakthroughs, appropriate to a country's needs, in a comparatively short time. If that meant financing the costs of local experts and of building up local institutions, UNDP should be prepared to do so. Where its work reached the poorest sections of the population through integrated rural development, UNDP should consider limited investments in plant and infrastructures for pilot-area projects.

31. New attitudes must be adopted towards technical co-operation, and especially towards capabilities existing within the developing countries themselves. Behind the concept of transfer of technology there had been the picture of a technological desert to which all the skills had to be transferred. Even the more recent concept of adapted technology transfers implied something that came from outside. UNDP should do much more work with Governments in identifying and fostering the growth of local skills and capabilities, often centuries old, and in building on that a local technology with the help of appropriate transfer of skills. It must think and act in terms of assisting the technical progress of the developing world rather than of merely arranging the traditional kind of transfer.

32. A local institution that declared a wish to receive direct assistance in working out its own technological applications could be one of the best bulwarks of national sovereignty over resources. There was, however, a second and much newer category of technical co-operation helping to lay the technical foundations of the new order and to accelerate intellectual and technical mastery of resources. The projects that would help to build up indigenous capability included those concerned with negotiating skills and data support for dealing with foreign investment, the improvement of national ability to assist and plan the wisest exploitation of natural resources, improvement of the skills needed by developing countries for competing in world trade, assistance to countries in the training of specialists in the selection and promotion of the best export options, and the bringing of technical assistance to bear on the growth points for raw-materials processing and for manufacturing that would make such options feasible.

33. That was a newer category of work in the sense that in each country it would be part of the drive towards a new international economic order. Otherwise, however, it was part of the same indivisible fabric of world and national development. It was newer for UNDP only in quantitative terms, since UNDP was already engaged in many multi-national and national projects, including those being carried out with UNCTAD.

34. In the United Nations development system as a whole, however, better mechanisms were still needed to make possible the design and delivery of truly integrated, self-reinforcing and synchronized streams of development. That was a very complicated task. The question might be put, for example, whether an improvement in grain storage and protection against avoidable waste was automatically planned at the same time as the introduction of agricultural innovations that would produce more grain to the acre; whether it was the usual practice, in embarking on an applied research programme with a time-table for producing usable results, to ask whether plans and resources were in hand to make ready the personnel and other infrastructure that would be needed to put the results to rapid use; whether, in countries launching birth control programmes, a check was made to see how quite separate projects like agricultural innovations might affect the size of family thought desirable; and whether — what in many cases was more crucial — a check was made to see whether the basic health services sufficiently increased the life-expectancy of children to enable families to consider having fewer. Such questions were of paramount importance in low-income countries, and, in the establishment of the new international economic order, those integrated planning and synchronization factors were tremendously complex.

35. A considerable part of the necessary improvements in the integration of planning and operations was embodied in the proposals for restructuring now included in the agenda of the seventh special session. Those proposals were of central concern to UNDP, which was about to embark on its second programming cycle with Governments. UNDP was ready, but it was itself only part of a larger edifice. Proposals for a more cohesive system, amalgamating the objectives of efficiency and flexibility for the benefit of recipients and donors alike, would certainly meet with broad support.

36. The representative of Chad had spoken in the UNDP Governing Council of the revolt against poverty as a revolution unprecedented in human history. That revolution had already begun 25 years earlier, when a small band of men and women in the United Nations and national services set off along the road towards multilateral development co-operation, but its full dimensions had not been visible. To-day it was realized that the work to be continued represented the greatest transformation in the human condition ever contemplated. It was gratifying that the world had entrusted those negotiations and activities to the United Nations. The provisions of the United Nations Charter covering economic and social aims, responsibilities and machinery had been expanded in resolutions that testified to the unwearying search for justice and dignity. He hoped that the Economic and Social Council would be able so to improve and use the economic and social

machinery of the United Nations that future historians would say of the present months that there indeed was the turning-point.

37. Mr. BOERMA (Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said he would first say something about the present world food and agricultural situation and the efforts being made by his organization to cope with the great challenge it presented. From the standpoint of action by the United Nations family, the most important event of the past twelve months had been the World Food Conference,² at which Governments had decided that the world food situation had become so grave that it required international intervention at a high political level. The success of that Conference would depend on the results of the follow-up action. So far as its main objective was concerned — to increase food and agricultural production in developing countries — it remained to be seen whether Governments would be ready to make the major policy changes that were needed. The positive reaction to the idea of an International Fund for Agricultural Development was one hopeful sign. That Fund would bring about the necessary increase in the flow of external resources to developing countries to enable them to increase their agricultural growth rates. Follow-up action had also been taken on other recommendations of the Conference, notably with regard to fertilizers and the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries. There had been an increase in the total amount of food that was expected to be available in 1975-1976, which was already close to the minimum target set by the Conference, namely, ten million tons of grain a year. But that target fell far short of actual requirements. As for the World Food Council, it had yet to prove whether it could make the effective contribution that was expected of it. It was premature to say whether the fine intentions of the World Food Conference would bring about the changes in the world food situation that were long overdue.

38. He recalled that, at the time the Conference had met, large areas of the most seriously affected countries had been threatened with famine. That danger had now been overcome, due partly to the expansion of food aid and increased purchases of food with external financial assistance, and partly to the fall in world grain prices. But it was estimated that those same countries would be faced with a food shortage in 1975-1976. Their imports of fertilizers and pesticides were going to cost more than in the past, while the fall in world commodity prices would have an adverse effect on their foreign exchange earnings. Consequently, they might find themselves in an even worse economic situation than before.

39. The prospects for world food production were more encouraging than in 1974. But even if grain production was to increase by as much as 8 per cent, as compared with that year, stocks would still be below the minimum security level. Most of the expected increase in output would be in developed countries, so that uncertainty would persist in regard to supplies in developing countries, particularly in Asia. Thus the world food situation only served to

² For the report of the Conference, see document E/5587 and Add.1-4.

underline the necessity for rapid action, in particular by implementing the Conference recommendations. A vast co-operative effort would be necessary, not just to increase food production sufficiently to satisfy market demand, but — even more important — to bring about a general economic and social development which would enable the poor in developing countries to earn enough to buy the food they needed. If the world food problem was to be solved, that was the change which the United Nations must strive to bring about.

40. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on development and international co-operation (E/AC.62/8), concerning appropriate changes in the over-all pattern of international economic relations, he outlined the main constraints on the agricultural sector, the poor performance of which in developing countries was itself a major constraint on economic development and the reduction of poverty.

41. The first constraint was the climate. But though drought and floods had been widespread in 1972 and 1974, causing a drop in production, bad weather could not be blamed for the longer-term shortages of agricultural production in developing countries. Too many Governments had failed to accord sufficient priority to agriculture, and it was disturbing to see that, in developing countries, investment in agriculture was about half of what was required for production to keep pace with demand.

42. In some constraints in the agricultural sector were of a technical nature. In many developing countries, especially those which were densely populated, the small amount and poor quality of land and water resources were a serious constraint on production. The cost of clearing and reclaiming land was very high. In many cases, existing irrigation facilities were inadequately utilized. Developing countries needed agricultural technologies which would increase production and maximize employment, not technologies which were suited to conditions in developed countries, where labour was scarcer than capital. Fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural machinery were produced in developed countries, so that when there was a shortage of fertilizers and pesticides, as in recent years, developing countries were the last in the queue to be supplied. Moreover, prices of fertilizers on the world market had been higher than domestic prices in the producing countries. The energy crisis had compromised irrigation. There had, however, been some neglect of the possibilities of using organic fertilizers, and credit for the purchase of inputs had often been inadequate.

43. There were also economic and social constraints on agricultural development. Rural institutions, especially land tenure systems, were generally out-dated. Those institutions and systems needed to be changes, not only in the interests of social justice, but also to bring about a fuller use of human and land resources for increasing production and making small farms economically viable. Those changes were essential if the agriculture of most developing countries was to move forward into the modern age. The question of income distribution was connected with that problem. Rural poverty was the main constraint on the elimination of hunger and malnutrition. It was therefore

necessary to redistribute income by creating income-earning employment opportunities.

44. An increase in production presupposed incentives. But marketing and price policies in developing countries had often aimed at obtaining cheap food for urban consumers, and had not provided a sufficient incentive to farmers to increase their production. Marketing systems were generally costly and incapable of meeting the requirements of rapid urbanization, or of transmitting the necessary demand signals to producers. The scattered, small-scale nature of production was one of the main constraints in the agricultural sector. It was accentuated by the shortage of trained manpower in government agricultural services, and by the inadequate infrastructure. There was a need for farmers' organizations and for an expansion and reorientation of technical services to farmers. Lastly, there had been a tendency for rural institutions and services to neglect the role of women in agricultural development.

45. Other constraints arose from the attitudes of developed countries, which controlled the conditions of international trade — except that in oil — in their own favour. Trade liberalization had been even slower for agricultural products than for others. The developed countries must recognize that the interests of the developing world should be central and not peripheral in all approaches to the stabilization of world markets.

46. There were also the question of development aid. It was worth noting not only that international development assistance had failed to meet the targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade, but also that less than 10 per cent of official development assistance was allocated to agriculture. Linked with aid to agriculture was the need for a new system of stock building for world food security, in which the burdens would be shared among all countries according to their means. Many developing countries would require special assistance in building up adequate storage facilities and in financing the necessary stocks.

47. It was also necessary to take into account the question of food production in developed countries, where there was a general absence of policies, especially price policies, for ensuring that food production was increased sufficiently to meet a fourfold need: domestic consumption, exports, the replenishment of stocks and the provision of an adequate level of food aid. If harvests in 1975 proved to be as good as expected and prices fell, farmers might be discouraged and reduce their sowings, thus creating difficulties in 1976.

48. The attitude toward food aid must change. Food aid must cease to be a by-product of the agriculture of the rich nations, as in recent years, when it had been available in abundance in periods when stocks had been high and prices low — when least needed — and curtailed in times of shortages and soaring prices, when it would have been most useful. The target set by the World Food Conference (10 million tons of grain a year) and the reconstitution of the Intergovernmental Committee of WFP as a Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes provided the instrument for bringing about that change. He trusted that

all would recognize the need for an evolution of their policies and actions. The developing countries for their part must recognize that food aid was merely a bridging measure that would tide them over until their efforts to increase their agricultural growth rate began to pay off, and that would help them to cope with emergency situations.

49. The last constraint he would mention was lack of information, which prevented impoverished rural societies from benefiting from development measures and nutrition intervention programmes more specifically designed for them. There was also a need to disseminate information on impending food shortages. The lack of such information would impose a general constraint on the implementation of a coherent world food policy designed to benefit developing countries.

50. With reference to the report of the Group of Experts entitled "A new United Nations structure for global economic co-operation" (E/AC.62/9), he said that the opinions expressed in the report accorded with his own, as he had always believed that the system as a whole was more important than any of its individual parts. He attached special importance to the recommendation concerning the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, particularly in so far as that involved increased political backing for action on technical matters. His own organization had good reason to appreciate the political support it had received from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It had long been aware of the technical, economic and social answers to the world food problem, but its activities had been circumscribed by the lack of any concerted political will on the part of Governments. It was to be hoped, however, that that would now change. A striking example was provided by the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, which had been set up by the FAO Council in response to a request by the Economic and Social Council. Twice before, FAO had attempted to establish multilateral arrangements for the supply of fertilizers to developing countries. Before it could succeed, the will of the international community had had to be expressed through the Economic and Social Council.

51. He believed that the forthcoming seventh special session of the General Assembly might open up a new era for the United Nations system and hence for the millions of people whom it served. If that came to pass, he would be proud to have taken an active part in the formative years.

52. The PRESIDENT paid a tribute to Mr. Boerma, who was leaving FAO at the end of the year, for his important part in strengthening the idea of international co-operation. He was sure that the Council would wish him to express its appreciation and best wishes to Mr. Boerma.

53. Mr. SRIVASTAVA (Secretary-General, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization) recalled that in two successive years the General Assembly had decided to hold special sessions to deal with the world economic situation. As the representative of a technical organization, he could hardly enter into the causes of the crises or the merits and demerits of the various solutions that had been proposed, and he would therefore confine his remarks to some of IMCO's activities which contributed to

implementation of the resolutions adopted by the sixth special session of the General Assembly and to the efforts to meet the challenges of the new situation.

54. Two main developments had occurred in IMCO during the past twelve months. First, the fifth extraordinary session of the IMCO Assembly had adopted certain amendments to the IMCO Convention which, when they entered into force, would increase the number of States represented on the IMCO Council from 18 and 24 and open membership of the Maritime Safety Committee to all member States. In taking those measures, IMCO was trying to develop and adapt its structure to meet the requirements of a circle of States which was much wider than that which had participated in IMCO in the past. Secondly, IMCO had expanded its programme of technical assistance to developing countries. In response to General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI), relating to the establishment of a new international economic order, IMCO had examined its role in the maritime sector and the part it could play in implementing the new Programme of Action. It had noted that one of the main obstacles faced by developing countries in their efforts to participate effectively and equitably in maritime activities and in world shipping was the acute shortage of maritime expertise.

55. After studying the ways and means of meeting demands for assistance from developing countries, and following negotiations with UNDP, IMCO and UNDP had reached agreement on ways of improving and strengthening IMCO's technical assistance programme, and the IMCO Council had also decided to strengthen backstopping facilities at headquarters. Of course, the appointment of a few advisers on maritime questions in the regions and at headquarters would not be sufficient to deal with a problem which affected a large number of countries; but those measures did constitute an advance, and they enabled IMCO, in association with the member States and the other organizations in the United Nations system, to lay a viable foundation for a programme which should continually develop and be adapted to the developing countries' needs.

56. There was no country in the world, and certainly none among the developing countries, whose development did not in some way depend on the success of world trade and commerce. The success of world trade and commerce and the ability of the developing countries to participate in that trade, depended in turn on the availability of shipping services and of the trained personnel and expertise without which those services could not be provided with the necessary safety, efficiency and economy. The realization that what it did in the field of shipping was of such crucial importance to economic development gave IMCO impetus and motivation in its work and provided its governing bodies and member Governments with the rationale and justification for the Technical Co-operation Programme and its continuous improvement and enlargement.

57. Although the changes in IMCO's Constitution and working methods and the strengthening of its programme of technical assistance were, the highlights, mention should also be made of other IMCO activities. In 1974 two international conferences had been convened, one of which had adopted a new convention revising and bringing up to

date the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, and the other the Athens Convention of 1974 relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their luggage by Sea, 1974. A third international conference had been convened by IMCO in April 1975, the Conference on the Establishment of an International Maritime Satellite System, a second session of which was to be held in 1976.

58. With reference to agenda item 18, on marine questions, he said that the comprehensive documents E/5650 and Corr.1 (study prepared by the Secretary-General on uses of the sea) and E/5676 (report of ACC on marine science and its applications: spheres of competence and work programmes of United Nations organizations and agencies contained fairly clear information on activities of the various agencies in that field. He drew particular attention to work on the preservation of the maritime environment and the transfer of technology in the maritime field. IMCO had been concerned with the prevention of marine pollution from the very beginning, and in 1973 the IMCO Assembly had established the Marine Environment Protection Committee, whose main function was to administer and co-ordinate all aspects of IMCO's work relating to the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships. In addition to considering and formulating techniques,

procedures and arrangements for preventing marine pollution from ships and dealing with incidents in that sphere, the Committee also served as a forum for exchange of views and information and helped in the transfer of technology from the developed to the developing countries. It had already played and would continue to play a significant part in the efforts of the United Nations system to preserve and enhance the quality of the world's seas and oceans.

59. As part of its continuing activities, IMCO co-operated closely with other United Nations bodies and agencies. For example, it co-operated with UNEP and had participated in the Inter-Governmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean convened by UNEP early in 1975; again, UNEP had agreed in principle to contribute \$60,000 towards the cost of a symposium on the prevention of marine pollution from ships, to be held in 1976 under the joint sponsorship of IMCO and the Government of Mexico.

60. The annual report of IMCO had already been circulated and was to be the subject of an in-depth examination at the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council. He was ready to answer any questions delegations might wish to ask.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

1955th meeting

Thursday, 3 July 1975, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. I. A. AKHUND (Pakistan)

E/SR.1955

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectorial developments (*continued*) (E/5654, E/5665, E/5681 and Add.1-4, E/5682, E/5692, E/5699, E/5713)

1. Mr. BINACHI (International Civil Aviation Organization) said that air transport, which was an indispensable tool of economic development, was sensitive to fluctuations in the world economic situation. In that sector, the results for 1974 could have been better. Scheduled traffic had increased, but its growth had been considerably less than the average for the preceding years although the rate of increase remained satisfactory in a number of regions. Non-scheduled traffic had declined. The airlines' difficulties were partly due to the increase in operating expenses, which had been greater than that in operating revenues despite increases in fares. To that had to be added other problems, in particular the tourist industry which had been affected by inflation.

2. In view of the seriousness of the situation, the ICAO Assembly had decided at its last session to examine some of the major issues on a world-wide basis. The ICAO Council had been directed to consult the Contracting States and the appropriate world-wide and regional bodies about the major

economic problems confronting air transport which were not already being dealt with through ICAO bodies and to draw up a plan for consideration of those matters by a special conference or session of the ICAO Assembly. In 1974, ICAO had continued to foster the solution of many technical, economic and legal issues civil aviation had to face, including problems of the environment. The Council had decided in favour of stricter control of aircraft noise, and the secretariat had set up a study group on aircraft engine emissions as part of the ICAO Action Programme regarding the environment. Also, the preliminary work had been completed for the commercial operation of the Concorde and the Tupolev 144 supersonic aircraft which were planned to enter into service in 1976.

3. ICAO was continuing to concern itself with questions of safety. The number of aircraft accidents in scheduled services had declined from 1973 to 1974. The organization had also concerned itself with technical measures aimed at preventing acts of air piracy. In 1974, it had adopted, for that purpose, a new annex to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, and had updated its Security Manual. The three ICAO conventions dealing with offences involving unlawful interference had recently been ratified by many countries. Thanks to the action taken by States and the vigilance of the airlines, the number of aircraft hijackings and cases of sabotage had significantly decreased.