

as a whole. Since its inception, the Commission's particular vocation had been to stimulate trade between countries with different economic and social systems and his delegation was convinced that it would remain faithful to that vocation. It would also no doubt be encouraged to develop and increase that trade by the political will of the Governments which would be expressed in the closing statements at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

79. He was convinced that the activities of ECE would converge with the efforts of the other regional commissions to give practical effect to the important directives upon which consensus had been reached at the recent world conferences on food and industrialization and to those which would be adopted at the seventh special session of the General Assembly.

80. It was obvious that States should show increasing solidarity in order to confront the grave dangers threatening the world economy; the regional commissions formed a

network through which that solidarity could and should best be expressed. To that end, the commissions should not interpret their mandate too narrowly and should be careful not to become self-centred. It was therefore desirable that the commissions should strengthen the links between them and increase the exchange of information and the number of joint undertakings. In that connexion, the decision of the executive secretaries to hold one of their two annual meetings at the headquarters of each regional commission in turn seemed a step in the right direction. United Nations Headquarters, UNCTAD, UNDP and the specialized agencies should also show their willingness to decentralize and in return the commissions should take account of the decisions adopted by the United Nations at the world level and be careful not to go beyond the measures adopted by the competent central organ. As the regional commissions' action should be subject to a certain unity of vision, it was the responsibility of the Economic and Social Council to provide doctrinal direction.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

1970th meeting

Tuesday, 15 July 1975, at 3.10 p.m.

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

E/SR.1970

AGENDA ITEM 4

Regional co-operation (*continued*) (E/5608/Rev.1, E/5608/Add.1, E/5619, E/5651, E/5656, E/5657 and Corr.1 and 2, E/5658, E/5700, E/5721, E/5722 and Corr.1, E/5723; E/L.1665)

1. Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic) said that the reports of the regional commissions and the statements by their executive secretaries had shown that the progress of *détente* had brought about an improvement in the conditions in which the commissions worked. Much nevertheless remained to be done, and the regional commissions should make greater efforts to promote arms limitation and disarmament, since the policy of the armament monopolies was aggravating the prevailing crisis, absorbing vast resources and hampering the development of harmonious economic relations. He was therefore convinced that the coming conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe would represent a decisive step towards peace and the activities of ECE would take on new life as a result.

2. His country attached great importance to co-operation through ECE, whose thirtieth session had been fruitful. A high level of priority had been assigned to certain activities – in the fields of trade, scientific and technological co-operation, long-term projections and planning and the protection of the environment – which could promote peaceful co-existence among countries with different social systems. That applied particularly to projects such as those for the rational utilization of energy and raw materials or

the unification of electricity networks in eastern and western Europe. Mention should also be made of the study on measures to effect economy in the use of energy¹ in which there were a number of suggestions that could promote scientific and technical co-operation through ECE. Lastly, the development of long-term economic forecasts for the ECE region was a highly important task.

3. His delegation considered that ECE would be distinctly more effective if the activities of its subsidiary bodies – for example, those relating to scientific co-operation or environmental protection – were better co-ordinated: the implementation of Commission resolutions 1 (XXX) and 2 (XXX) would help in that direction.

4. The executive secretaries had emphasized the harmful effects on regional co-operation of the acute crisis affecting the capitalist countries: his delegation shared their concern and considered that the time had come to remove the many obstacles to east-west trade, particularly by applying the most-favoured-nation principle. With regard to the economic crisis, it should be noted that the industrial production of the CMEA member countries represented more than 33 per cent of world industrial production and that they were not suffering from any recession in industrial production or from inflation, speculation or unemployment.

¹ ECE, "Study on measures taken, or which might be taken, to achieve increased economy and efficiency in the extraction, conversion, transport and use of energy in the ECE region" (E/ECE/883 and Add.1).

5. Co-operation among the regional commissions and development of their relations with other United Nations bodies were essential for the establishment of a more just economic system; his Government therefore supported the proposals submitted by the Executive Secretary of ECE, in his report on the future activities of the Commission,² with a view to developing such co-operation. The experience acquired by ECE should benefit other regional commissions; joint studies could be undertaken on subjects of common interest and more experts from developing countries could participate in ECE projects.

6. Regional co-operation among developing countries could only mean faster economic and social progress, and it should be remembered that the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixth special session were designed to promote such co-operation. His country had participated as an observer in the sessions of a number of regional commissions and desired to collaborate more and more closely with them in a spirit of co-operation and on an equal footing.

7. Mr. ASHTAL (Democratic Yemen) said that there was a tendency to neglect regional co-operation in favour of relations between developing and developed countries, which perpetuated the unequal relations that had existed until recently between colonies and colonial Powers. The regional commissions were the bodies best suited to deal with regional problems; the member countries themselves directed their policy and selected their projects according to the region's possibilities and real needs. The regional commissions should be the focal point for United Nations action and even for government assistance.

8. As the Executive Secretary of ECWA had emphasized (1967th meeting), the Western Asian region was one in which there were great disparities in some respects and the countries belonging to it differed greatly in their levels of development; that was an additional reason why they should give high priority to regional co-operation and encourage projects designed to benefit the people.

9. The ECWA countries with a high *per capita* income tended to assist their neighbours essentially in the services sector (education, health, etc.); such assistance was naturally welcomed, but more emphasis should be given to projects designed to promote capital accumulation in recipient countries. Two kinds of aid could be distinguished: that designed to meet the most basic needs, such as humanitarian assistance in the event of a disaster, and that aimed at development and economic and social progress. Neither type should be neglected in regional co-operation.

10. Lastly, he emphasized that economic and political stability should not be assessed solely according to the state of the economies of developed countries but rather according to the economic growth of all countries, large and small. Viewed in that light, regional co-operation was the cornerstone of international co-operation and should also form the basis for the new international economic order.

11. Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands) congratulated the executive secretaries and the secretariats of the regional commissions on their excellent work.

12. He drew attention to the decisions taken by the Council at its fifty-seventh session on decentralization and the delegation of functions to the regional commissions (resolution 1896 (LVII)), and he endorsed the wish expressed by the executive secretaries in paragraph 39 of the report on their meetings (E/5700) that the transfer of executing agency functions for UNDP projects should be carried out expeditiously, and with a complete delegation of authority. He considered that the executive secretaries should take part in the work of the Advisory Committee on Economic Co-operation and Development, which the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System had recommended should be set up (see E/AC.62/9, para. 77). The new approach would add to the workload of the regional commissions and would have an impact on the regional co-operation system. His Government therefore intended to increase its extra-budgetary contribution to the activities of certain commissions in 1976. His delegation looked forward with interest to the Joint Inspection Unit's report on regional structures and the comments of ACC thereon, which would come up for discussion the following year.

13. Referring to the Secretary-General's report on United Nations export promotion and development efforts (E/5619), he noted the growing importance of good co-operation between the regional commission and the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre. His delegation wished to stress the valuable contribution made by UNDP to training activities on export promotion. The Netherlands had made substantial contributions to the export promotions undertaken by ESCAP, ECA and ECLA.

14. Reviewing the activities of the various regional commissions, he welcomed the granting of consultative status to the Netherlands by ECWA.

15. With regard to the activities of ECE, he expressed support for any action aimed at strengthening East-West relations, which for obvious reasons were the central theme in its work, but that should not mean neglecting the contribution it could make to solving world-wide problems.

16. Turning to ESCAP, he said that the Netherlands approved of the new programme of work and priorities drawn up after the thirtieth session (E/5656, chap. IV) and adopted at the thirty-first session. The recommendations emanating from a mission established to review the structure of the regional training institutions had been discussed at the thirty-first session; those among them which were accepted were likely to lead to closer co-operation between several institutions in the economic and social field (see Commission resolution 158 (XXXI)). His delegation agreed with the two recommendations currently before the Council (resolutions 156 (XXXI) and 159 (XXXI)), that two new institutions should be set up, one for agricultural machinery and the other for technology transfer, but on the understanding that co-ordination would be established between those ESCAP bodies and other organizations inside and outside the region.

² ECE, document E/ECE/875.

17. As far as the American continent was concerned, his Government enjoyed excellent relationships with ECLA and he hoped that Surinam, at present an autonomous part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands but scheduled to become independent during the year, would establish an equally fruitful relationship with the Commission.

18. In Africa, the situation was dominated by the severe drought that had afflicted a large part of the continent. ECA had an important part to play in the preparation and execution of projects to remedy that state of affairs, especially at the sub-regional level.

19. On the whole, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions were to be congratulated on the competence and dynamic leadership they had displayed in fulfilling their mandates. His Government was pleased that it had excellent relationships with the various regional commissions, which, in its opinion, had an important contribution to make to the establishment of a more just economic and social order in the world.

20. Mr. SADI (Jordan) said that the reports and statements by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions fully confirmed that the economies of the different regions of the world were interdependent, and he welcomed the close co-operation which had been established between the regional commissions and UNCTAD, UNIDO and UNEP.

21. His delegation was especially interested in the report of ECWA. Two major developments dominated the situation in the region: the impact of the 1973 war and the newly acquired wealth of the petroleum exporting countries. Those countries had provided substantial public bilateral and multilateral aid, which, in percentage terms, was more than that of the industrialized countries, and their aid would have been even greater if tension in the Middle East had not compelled them to allocate large funds for defence purposes.

22. Jordan especially valued the action taken by ECWA to promote co-ordination and co-operation, as it supported economic co-operation and even economic integration in the region.

23. In its economic development plans, his Government had made major efforts to modernize the country's agriculture and industry, without neglecting the social aspects essential for well-balanced development. It was endeavouring in particular to develop the Jordan Valley and to slow down migration from the countryside to the towns. Its economic plans and strategy were in line with the guidelines of ECWA and Jordan was pleased to co-operate with the Commission and its various member countries.

24. Mr. KASSOV (Bulgaria) referred to the contribution made by ECE toward improving East-West relations. Considering that the results of the Conference on Security and Co-operation would strengthen peaceful co-existence in Europe, his delegation was of the opinion that, at its thirty-first session, the Commission should study its programme of work and that of its subsidiary organs in the light of the results of the Conference.

25. Turning to the future work of ECE, his delegation believed that the most important task was to eliminate the remaining anachronisms in east-west trade, to apply the most-favoured-nation principle, and to press for industrial co-operation on the basis of a rational international division of labour. ECE should direct its efforts towards the study of regional and sub-regional projects, especially those concerning agriculture, the environment and transport. His delegation endorsed the Executive Secretary's intention to strengthen co-operation between ECE and the other regional commissions. Bulgaria valued the work of ECE highly and would continue to play an active part in it, as it had done in the past.

26. Mr. DINU (Romania) noted with satisfaction that the member countries and secretariats of the regional commissions were engaged in developing fruitful co-operation on the regional level. The commissions were also trying to help establish a new international economic order; for example, ESCAP had adopted the New Delhi Declaration on the regional contribution to the establishment of the new order (resolution 154 (XXXI)). The other regional commissions should follow that example.

27. Referring more particularly to the work of ECE, he said that its members had not exhausted all the opportunities for co-operation available to them. In his opinion, ECE's role and effectiveness should be strengthened along four main lines.

28. In the first place, ECE should always have as its main objective to encourage the economic development of all its member States. The Commission should therefore be able to adapt itself more quickly and flexibly to the present or future needs of the region, including those of the region's developing countries.

29. Secondly, ECE should promote action to solve the current problems which were of growing importance for its member countries, particularly in the field of energy and raw materials, European trade, science and technology, industrial co-operation and the environment.

30. Thirdly, it would be desirable to improve the working methods and procedures of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, provided, of course, that the sovereignty, independence and equality of all member countries were strictly respected.

31. Lastly, ECE should promote economic progress throughout the world by stimulating co-operation between the European countries and all other countries. As the Secretary-General had emphasized in his message to the Commission at its last session, the problems of the European region should not be considered in isolation. Because of the position occupied by the European countries in international economic relations, and also because of their economic, scientific and technical capacity, ECE's activities carried weight beyond the bounds of the European continent. ECE, therefore, should determine what matters were of common concern to European and other countries, with a view to facilitating fruitful co-operation for all. For its part, Romania would not fail to work in that spirit, together with other member countries, in order to make ECE more effective.

32. Mr. KOCH (Federal Republic of Germany) said he was convinced that the regional commissions could make a decisive contribution to the development of their respective regions. Much still remained to be done, however – for example, in the field of export promotion and development. He regretted the fact that UNCTAD had not reported on that type of activity and that the results of the study carried out by the Joint Advisory Group of the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre, which had been requested by the Council at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 1819 (LV)), were not to be communicated to the Trade and Development Board until its fifteenth session. It was to be hoped that at its resumed fifty-ninth session the Council would finally have before it complete documentation on the question.

33. In paragraph 10 of his report on United Nations export promotion and development efforts, the Secretary-General noted that it was encouraging that the organizations and agencies concerned were aware of the need to move away from jurisdictional conflicts to a more rewarding approach of meeting each other half-way. However, no difficulty of that kind was mentioned in the report. The Council, whose task was to co-ordinate the work of the United Nations organizations, should be told whether there really were any such conflicts, since it could then give the necessary directives.

34. In paragraph 58 of the same report, it was stated that the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre had accorded priority to requests for assistance from groups of developing countries desirous of promoting trade among themselves. Pointing out that trade between developing countries and industrialized countries was four times greater than trade between countries themselves, he very strongly supported that trend in the Centre's activities.

35. Mr. YILDIRIM (Turkey) said that his Government, which was convinced of the importance of regional and sub-regional co-operation, had always taken an active part in the work of ECE and RCD. Because of its geographical situation, Turkey was also closely interested in the activities of ECWA and ESCAP. As the representative of Pakistan had observed (1969th meeting), RCD was a sort of bridge between ECE, ECWA and ESCAP.

36. He wished to congratulate the Executive Secretary of ECE for having established three essential trends in European economic co-operation: co-operation among countries with different economic systems; co-operation among countries at different levels of economic development; co-operation among the different regions of the world.

37. Mr. STANOVNIK (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe) thanked the members of the Council for the support which they were giving to ECE. He would take due account of the observations which had been made concerning the need for greater co-ordination within the Commission itself and for the attention which should be paid to the needs of the least privileged countries in the European region.

38. On the whole, the members of the Council wanted the work of ECE to become more and more firmly integrated into a global approach; he and the Commission were convinced of the soundness of that idea.

39. Mr. MARAMIS (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) thanked the members of the Council for the support which they were giving to the work of the Commission in its region, and in particular to its new integrated work programme. He assured the members of the Council that ESCAP, in conformity with their wishes, was endeavouring to co-ordinate its activities with those undertaken on a global level.

40. Mr. IGLESIAS (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America) also thanked the members of the Council for encouraging the five regional commissions to continue along their present paths. Obviously, the members of the Council were unanimous in thinking that the present world economic crisis constituted an unprecedented test for the United Nations, and that the establishment of a new international economic order and the implementation of the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States were also tasks of unprecedented scope, from which, however, the Organization should not shrink. Obviously, too, member States were now attaching great importance to the idea of regionalism, which called for greater efforts on the part of the regional commissions.

41. Mr. ADEDEJI (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa) said that he was encouraged by the observations of members of the Council and assured them that he would endeavour to make ECA more effective. It should of course be clearly realized that the solution of Africa's problems did not depend solely on efforts at the national and regional level. He looked forward to closer co-operation between ECA and the other regional commissions.

42. Mr. AL-ATTAR (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Western Asia) thanked the member States which had encouraged ECWA to continue its work along the lines it had set for itself.

43. The representative of Yemen had referred (1967th meeting) to the need for ECWA to study possible applications of solar energy in the region. The Commission was going to try to collect all the necessary technical information, and would, for example, get in touch with the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport and with UNESCO.

44. The representative of Yemen had also pointed out that industrialization efforts in Western Asia should not remain concentrated in a few countries alone. The Commission shared that desire, as shown by its programme of work for 1976.

45. Like the representative of Egypt (1969th meeting), he was convinced that the regional commissions needed to launch a very big information campaign so that the work of the United Nations, the Council and its subsidiary bodies and the specialized agencies in economic matters would be

appreciated by the public at large. ECWA intended to work along those lines.

was convinced that only decentralization would enable the regional commissions to achieve positive results.

46. He was glad that member States seemed to be convinced of the desirability of decentralization: he himself

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

1971 st meeting

Tuesday, 22 July 1975, at 3.40 p.m.

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

E/SR.1971

AGENDA ITEM 8

Economic, financial and technical assistance to the Government of Guinea-Bissau and to the Territories still under Portuguese domination (A/10105 and Add.1, A/10106 Corr.1 and Add.1)

1. Mr. BURNS (Director, Office of Technical Co-operation) said that agenda item 8 concerned, first, economic, financial and technical assistance to the Government of Guinea-Bissau and, secondly, assistance to the territories which at the time of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly had still been under Portuguese domination: Angola, the Cape Verde Islands, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe. In pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session (resolutions 3339 (XXIX) and 3340 (XXIX)), the Secretary-General had prepared two reports concerning the assistance given by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to Guinea-Bissau (A/10105 and Add.1) and to the territories under Portuguese domination (A/10106 and Corr.1 and Add.1). He had not received enough information to report on the measures taken by Governments pursuant to the resolutions in question. Much still remained to be done to assist the States that had just become or were soon to be independent in their efforts for reconstruction and development, and he urged those countries which had not yet done so to furnish information about their assistance activities, since the inventory of the measures taken by Member States would serve as a starting-point for the General Assembly's discussion at its thirtieth session.

2. Mr. BARREIROS MARTINS (Observer for Portugal), speaking at the invitation of the President, said he would give some information about the assistance and aid furnished by his Government to the States of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe and the territory of Timor.

3. His Government had concluded several agreements with Guinea-Bissau, including one on a loan; even before the conclusion of the agreement, medical teams and teachers had been sent to Guinea-Bissau.

4. With regard to Mozambique, his Government had supplied more than \$100 million to the Transitional Government between September 1974 and June 1975, in addition to the loans contracted on the responsibility of the

Portuguese Government, a contribution for the Cabora Bassa dam, subsidies for solving the problems of decolonization and the taking over of budget items relating to commitments to Portugal entered into by the State of Mozambique. Before Mozambique had become independent in June 1975, Portugal had signed several agreements of both a general and a special nature with the Transitional Government.

5. As far as Cape Verde was concerned, Portugal had supplied over \$35 million in 1974, including emergency assistance of almost \$19 million and commitments of more than \$6 million under the fourth development plan. The two States had signed a general agreement of co-operation and friendship and a scientific and technical agreement.

6. With regard to São Tomé and Príncipe, Portuguese assistance amounted to more than \$5 million in 1974 and more than \$3 million in 1975; it was likely that the latter sum would be increased still further. On independence day, the two States had also concluded an agreement on co-operation and friendship and an agreement on scientific and technical co-operation.

7. His Government's economic assistance to the territory of Timor had amounted to more than £12.5 million in 1974. For the first half of 1975, its contribution amounted to nearly \$7 million, according to estimates which might in actual fact be exceeded.

8. That was Portugal's contribution to the States of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe and the territory of Timor. It represented an enormous effort on the part of his country, which, in view of the magnitude of the needs, would deeply appreciate any economic, financial and technical contribution which the United Nations and its associated organizations could consider.

9. Mr. SAKALA (Zambia) said that the phase of national reconstruction and consolidation of the former Portuguese territories which had now become independent would be full of difficulties. It was necessary, therefore, for the international community to contribute assistance as a matter of urgency, while respecting the sovereignty of the new States, especially since some of them might assume international responsibility with regard to territories still under the domination of racist régimes. His country would