



## CONTENTS

Agenda item 14:

Reports of the regional economic commissions (*continued*). 83

President: Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela).

## AGENDA ITEM 14

Reports of the regional economic commissions (E/4491, E/4493, E/4497, E/4498, E/4499, E/4560 and Corr.1; E/L.1218) (*continued*)

1. Mr. QUINTANA (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America), introducing the annual report of ECLA (E/4499), said that in 1967 gross output for Latin America as a whole had increased by 4.5 per cent while the population had increased by 3 per cent, so that the *per capita* increase had been only 1.5 per cent. Thus the modest target of 5 per cent set for the first United Nations Development Decade had not been reached, and an increasingly large proportion of the rural and urban population were living on the fringe of economic activity and below the minimum standard of living, which accounted for the tensions and social instability in the countries of the region.

2. At the Council's forty-third session (1491st meeting), he had spoken of major progress in the evolution of development policy in Latin America; improvement of the machinery and institutions for regional financial and technical co-operation, progress in planning, public administration and fiscal systems, initiation of land settlement and agrarian reform programmes, anti-inflationary policies by Governments and measures to increase and diversify exports, etc. But experience showed that there could be no substantial progress until specific measures, forming part of an international economic policy, were taken to increase the export earnings of the developing countries and satisfactory international financial and technical co-operation was instituted.

3. The situation of the Latin American countries in the external sector showed an unfavourable trend. In 1967 the value of exports from the region as a whole had remained static; in almost half the countries it had actually decreased. That was basically due to a fall in commodity prices and a worsening in the terms of trade. On the other hand, the cost of imports had increased for most Latin American countries. The volume of loans and investment for Latin America had substantially increased during the decade: between 1960 and 1966 the gross inflow of capital had amounted to nearly \$3,000 million annually on the average; but allowing for interest and profits and for repayment of principal, the net inflow into Latin America had not exceeded \$610 million annually, an average below that for the second half of

the previous decade. Between 1960 and 1966, while the export earnings of the region had increased by 35 per cent, the total amount of dividends and interest on foreign investments and loans had increased by nearly 70 per cent and repayment of independent loans by more than 40 per cent; those various financial charges absorbed a third of export earnings. Such a state of affairs was due especially to the rise in the rate of interest on private international capital and bank loans—recently up to 8 per cent; the interest rates of international and regional financial institutions had also risen.

4. Another cause of frustration for Latin America was the relative failure of the second session of UNCTAD. The Latin American countries had hoped that the New Delhi Conference would make it possible to do for the developing countries something similar to what the Kennedy Round had produced for the developed countries. Yet no progress had been made on the marketing of commodities in the developed countries, and the problems of preferences and financing were still a long way from solution.

5. Turning to the work of ECLA, he stated that in April 1968 the Committee of the Whole had considered the economic and social situation in Latin America on the basis of a summary of the *Economic Survey of Latin America, 1967* (E/CN.12/808 and Add.1) that was now before the Council.

6. In October 1967 the secretariat had convened a meeting of the economically lesser developed Latin American countries to consider the problems facing them as a result of the process of regional integration and the special treatment which they were to receive. The meeting had recommended that the secretariat should undertake studies on industrial integration, transport problems and tourism development in those countries.

7. In the field of social development, the ECLA secretariat's main concern had been the difficulties of urban and rural social services and the problems of groups not yet integrated into social life.

8. In the field of trade policy, it had endeavoured to improve the co-ordination of its work with that of the UNCTAD secretariat; a report on the development of Latin American trade had been submitted to the New Delhi Conference. It had also pursued its co-ordination efforts with regional bodies such as IDB and the Organization of American States.

9. To mark ECLA's twentieth anniversary the secretariat had produced a document entitled "ECLA and the analysis of Latin American development",<sup>1</sup> in which it had outlined the development of ECLA's thinking since its creation; particular mention should be made of the

<sup>1</sup> E/CN.12/AC.61/10.

influence on ECLA of the study produced by Mr. Prebisch, while Executive Secretary of the Commission, identifying the major economic and social problems of Latin America and planning a strategy for solving them.<sup>2</sup> The member Governments of ECLA in a special declaration (E/4499, para. 320) had recognized the Commission's significant contribution to the development of the region in its twenty years of existence.

10. The ECLA secretariat had now to order its activity in accordance with the major problems arising in the region, namely, how to curb inflation, increase public revenue and raise wages. There was an urgent need to eliminate unjustifiable or superfluous public and private expenditure. Furthermore, the question of fair distribution of income was assuming more and more importance as an economic and social factor; practical means must be devised to secure a general improvement in living conditions without affecting capital formation and thus the subsequent rate of economic growth. Another serious matter for concern was the relative stagnation in agricultural production; to deal with it institutional reforms had to be introduced in the rural economy as part of general development policy. In the industrial field, some Latin American countries had already made decided progress in import substitution; a similar effort must be made in countries which had been less successful in that respect. Industrial expansion depended also on the integration of marginal social groups.

11. With reference to economic integration in Latin America a great deal remained to be done. The path to be followed had already been mapped out to some extent; at the meeting of Latin American Heads of State held at Punta del Este in April 1967 some directives had been formulated for the establishment of a Latin American common market within a fifteen-year period beginning 1970. In addition, sub-regional economic groupings were being considered.

12. The ECLA secretariat had also to define the long-term policies for solving three major inter-related development problems: those of population, employment and marginal economic and social groups. An economic growth of the order of 6 per cent to 7 per cent would be necessary to solve the employment problem in Latin America, since the population was increasing at the rate of 3 per cent per annum. The population explosion had to be checked; some government initiatives had already been taken in regard to family planning, and the ECLA secretariat wished to supplement them by developing an over-all population policy.

13. In the region's relations with the outside world, an expansion and diversification of trade had to be achieved and the balance-of-payments deficit keeping down the growth rate of the Latin American countries wiped out. For that purpose the Commission had instructed its Trade Committee to work out a line of action for the region, bearing in mind the results of the New Delhi Conference; and the Special Committee on Latin American Co-ordination (CECLA) had adopted various resolutions

on the question in June 1968. For instance, it had stated that the best way to eliminate preferential tariffs impeding exports from the developing countries was to conclude international agreements; the member countries of CECLA had announced their willingness to do their utmost to facilitate the negotiation of agreements of that type.

14. At the thirteenth session of the Committee of the Whole to be held in April 1969, the secretariat would submit studies on the various questions he had just enumerated. It would then be possible to determine the part to be played by the Commission in the programme of action which the United Nations bodies were preparing for the second Development Decade.

15. Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa) said that the Council had before it two reports by ECA: the annual report of the Commission (E/4497) and the *Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa 1967* (E/CN.14/409).

16. Since the beginning of the first United Nations Development Decade, economic growth in the African countries, some of which were among the poorest in the world, had been below the modest target established by the General Assembly and had generally been slower than elsewhere. In the first six years of the Decade, African total output had grown in average by 3.4 per cent annually and *per capita* income by about 1 per cent.

17. The member countries of ECA had hoped that the second session of UNCTAD would open up better prospects: wider markets for their primary commodities, more equitable treatment in such matters as transport and insurance, a commitment on the part of the developed countries to transfer resources amounting to not less than 1 per cent of their gross national product, etc. While they had been disappointed, that did not mean that they considered that the Conference had failed. They were now attempting to define lines of action which would take account of existing conditions.

18. In taking stock of the accomplishments and disappointments in the ten years since ECA had been established, the slow development of agriculture in Africa should be noted first of all; from 1960 to 1966 the value added to the gross domestic output by agriculture had increased at an annual rate of only 1.3 per cent. Farm products continued to be produced and marketed in primitive ways. One unfortunate consequence had been the growth in grain imports from the developed countries; in 1965 Africa's grain imports had exceeded its exports by 4 million tons while only thirty years ago the African continent, like Asia and Latin America, had been a net grain exporter.

19. If Africa was to be spared an economic crisis in the coming years an early start must be made to transform its primitive agriculture into a modern and market-oriented activity; that would require better co-ordination of United Nations activities in Africa. ECA, for its part, had already made some efforts to contribute to a solution of the food problem; it had helped Governments to prepare realistic plans and, in co-operation with UNDP, FAO and bilateral

<sup>2</sup> *Towards a Dynamic Development Policy for Latin America*, United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.II.G.4.

agencies, it had participated in fact-finding missions to determine the bottle-necks which inhibited rice production in western Africa.

20. A major weakness of African agriculture was the gap between farmers and research workers; extension services, in particular, would have to be developed to fill that gap. Governments would have to make seeds, pesticides and fertilizers available to farmers. In order to facilitate marketing, they would have to establish adequate storage and marketing facilities and rational pricing systems. In addition, with regard to farm machinery, it had been found that very often imported farm machines could not be used owing to the lack of spare parts or trained mechanics. Bitter experience had taught most of the Governments that for the immediate future hand tools and animal-drawn implements still had a major role to play in African agriculture.

21. Although the United Nations was assisting the African countries to develop their infrastructure and institutions, to train personnel, to formulate long-term economic development policies and plans and to implement co-ordinated industrial and agricultural development projects, that was still not enough to ensure the necessary acceleration in growth rates, for in many African countries those activities had not succeeded in establishing what might be described as the "credibility" of economic progress. It would therefore be necessary to win the support not only of Governments, but also of the multitudes whose welfare lay in active participation in economic development.

22. The fact that the developing countries of Africa were unable to speed up their industrial development was due not only to the lack of funds and suitable infrastructure (transport, communications and energy sources) but particularly to the fact that their markets were very small. For that reason ECA had for some time been advocating an integrated multi-national and sub-regional approach to industrial development. That point of view had been accepted by the African countries, and steps were being taken to establish economic communities and to create appropriate administrative machinery. In that connexion mention should be made of the Conference on Industry and Finance, held at Addis Ababa on 25-27 March 1968, which examined a scheme for setting up sub-regional industrial centres to serve as a means of contact between African Governments and potential investors, as a repository of detailed factual data on the establishment and operation of industries in African countries and as an agency for assessing potential projects and promoting collaboration between African and foreign investors for their implementation.

23. The Commission had also sought to encourage the growth of small industries and for that purpose had set up an initial pilot centre at Niamey, Niger. ECA believed that the spread of small-scale industries would in the course of time bring into existence a class of African entrepreneurs who would subsequently be competent to enter the field of medium and large-scale industries. With the same idea in mind, the Commission also intended to establish agro-industrial centres.

24. On the initiative of the African Development Bank, a joint committee comprising the Bank itself, IBRD,

UNDP and ECA had been formulating a programme for determining priorities in the fields of transport, power and communications. That arrangement might prove to be of great help to Africa because projects in those fields generally called for big long-term investments beyond the domestic capacity of most African countries, and for detailed technical studies. Fuller details on that subject were provided in the relevant chapters of the annual report. On the assumption that work in the fields of transport, power and communications would begin to show results in a reasonable period and thus provide a framework for economic growth, and bearing in mind the situation with regard to industry and agriculture, the Commission was encouraging member States to pay special attention to surveys of natural resources, the development of human resources and the stimulation of social change.

25. The development of the human resources of the African countries would depend in great measure on far-reaching changes in social values, aspirations and modes of behaviour. An approach much deeper than that suggested by simplistic notions about economic and social administration problems of economic development was needed, and it was for that reason that the greatest stress should be laid on education and enlightenment of the masses.

26. With regard to co-ordination, ECA was at present formulating a single and co-ordinated United Nations agricultural programme in Africa, in collaboration with FAO. It also intended to examine ways in which it could contribute more to the effectiveness of United Nations activities in other fields in Africa. Present African economic conditions made it imperative that the United Nations effort in technical assistance, which was enormous, should make a maximum impact. The growing collaboration between the regional economic commissions and UNDP warranted the hope that the effective elaboration and implementation of an agreed and co-ordinated United Nations strategy in Africa would be possible.

27. Mr. MARTIN (Director, United Nations Economic and Social Office, Beirut) said that, although at the moment the pursuit of peace inevitably came to mind as soon as the Middle East was mentioned, it should not be forgotten that the problem of development was as acute as ever in that region. In fact, the Governments of the countries in the region were more keenly aware than ever of the weakness represented by the lag in industrial development and the importance—and limitations—of foreign aid; and they were aware that successful social advancement and economic growth depended on intensified development efforts in pursuance of a development strategy formulated on a wider basis than a purely national one. As a forward echelon in the Middle East of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, his Office was concerned primarily with assisting Governments to concert their activities for development. A summary of studies, carried out by the Office and now going to press, on selected development problems in various countries in the Middle East (E/4511 (Summary)), had been submitted to the Council under agenda item 2.



28. In the Middle East, the problem of development came down broadly to a problem of industrialization, and that meant not only the creation of industries but the modernization of agriculture. In view of the limited domestic markets, industrialization would hardly be conceivable without intensification of trade and, as the State had become the main entrepreneur in each country in the region, the decisions taken by the State would be more or less appropriate according as they were adapted to an over-all schema taking into account the interactions which occurred or could be expected to occur. That schema, which should serve as a basis for any planning, presupposed painstaking analysis based on factual data, statistics, projections and carefully verified assumptions. In many fields, the countries of the Middle East were still at the stage of elementary knowledge comparable to that of the international community with regard to the first Development Decade, the failure of which was due at least partly to the fact that the targets had been poorly defined and the programmes badly formulated and inadequately co-ordinated. Furthermore, just as the international community sought to develop an international strategy for the next Development Decade based on better knowledge of the problems to be solved, the countries of the Middle East desired the formulation and execution of their next development plans to be based on a fuller knowledge of all the facts. His Office, in co-operation with the offices of the specialized agencies in the region, was therefore engaged in studying the problems of planning, industrial development and trade peculiar to each of the countries in the region while at the same time seeking to place them in a multi-national context. Indeed, the success of any regional co-operation plan depended on effective co-operation between neighbouring countries. It was paradoxical that in the Middle East, a region particularly suitable for international co-operation, the idea of proximity should be a factor making for belligerence. It was to be hoped that good sense would prevail and that all the Governments involved would arrive at an understanding and give first place to their concern for development through co-operation within the framework of the global development strategy for the second Development Decade, which the Council and the General Assembly were hoping to establish.

29. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that his delegation fully endorsed the programmes of work submitted by the regional economic commissions and the priorities established for the various projects comprising those programmes.

30. As conditions and problems varied from region to region, the commissions, though pursuing the same goals, had to adopt different policies. In some fields in particular, regional rather than international action was needed, and for that reason his delegation had always favoured decentralization of United Nations activities and strengthening of the regional commissions. ECAFE, in particular, which played an increasing role in regional co-operation, should be granted increased staff and funds. It should also be noted that the expansion of the activities of the regional commissions called for greater co-ordina-

tion of their work with that of the various other United Nations bodies. Lastly, as industrialization was one of the most appropriate fields for regional and sub-regional co-operation, it was to be hoped that UNIDO, when it extended its activities to the ECAFE region, would not fail to establish liaison with the Asian Industrial Development Council.

31. Mr. AL-MUTAIR (Kuwait) said he was glad that the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut had had an opportunity to report to the Council on the work of that Office, which served as an economic commission for the Middle East. It would therefore be perfectly appropriate that the report of that Office should be before the Council on the same footing as the reports of the regional economic commissions.

32. Mr. BELFRAGE (Sweden) said that, for obvious geographical and economic reasons, Sweden had always been interested in improving trade relations with the countries of Eastern Europe, and considered that ECE should devote particular attention to the question. His Government therefore naturally welcomed the new spirit of co-operation which had been evident in that respect at the twenty-third session of ECE and the practical measures ECE had already taken, in particular in regard to long-term agreements and contracts in economic and trade relations between countries with different economic and social systems, long-term export and import forecasts for certain categories of goods, the practices followed for trade in machinery, equipment, patents and licences, and measures to facilitate the development of contacts between businessmen. All those measures could only improve possibilities of trade between the countries of Eastern and Western Europe and, consequently, between those countries and the rest of the world, which meant with the developing countries as well. The Swedish delegation believed that it was essential to intensify and co-ordinate efforts to promote trade, so that the developing countries could derive full benefit from their exports. That was why it had decided to submit a draft resolution on the matter (E/L.1218). Sweden fully supported the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre, and intended considerably to increase its contributions to the various activities aimed at promoting trade, most of which were undertaken under the auspices of the Centre. It should be pointed out that the work of the Centre had now reached a stage where it would be necessary to assess the services it had rendered to the developing countries. Mention should also be made of the efforts being made by other international organizations, such as FAO, ILO, UNIDO and the regional economic commissions, to increase the demand for goods from the developing countries. It would be useful to define the spheres of activity of the bodies he had just mentioned, especially the International Trade Centre and UNIDO. Co-ordination should be facilitated by the co-operation of various bodies under the United Nations Export Promotion Programme. It seemed so far, however, that the Programme was lacking in substance, and it was desirable that the Council should be better informed on the activities taking place under the Programme and the co-ordination efforts which had been undertaken. The more

precise and concrete the Programme was, the more actively would the countries concerned support it. That was why the Swedish delegation in its draft resolution proposed that export promotion should become a permanent item on the Council's agenda and that the Secretary-General should be requested to report annually on the question.

33. Mr. DARON (Belgium) reserved the right to comment at a later stage on the reports submitted by the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, which deserved reflection.

34. In regard to the Swedish draft resolution, the explanations given by the Swedish representative had convinced him of the need for it. In order to make the text clearer, he would suggest that the first preambular paragraph should be amended to read as follows: "*Recognizing* that it is desirable to increase the efficiency of the promotion of the exports of the developing countries"; and that a new paragraph should be inserted after that paragraph, reading as follows: "*Considering* the necessity of avoiding dissipation of effort among the different agencies".<sup>3</sup>

35. Mr. VARELA (Panama) said that his delegation was particularly interested in the *Economic Survey of Latin America, 1967*. The *Survey* showed that the region was still not able to raise the level of employment and productivity, owing both to internal factors and to the rigidity of its external trade and financial relations. It also stated that Latin America had been more seriously affected than some other regions by the repercussions of the slower growth rate of the world economy, for the prices of most of the commodities that constituted the bulk of Latin America's exports had fallen; and since the volume of imports in 1967 had increased, the balance-of-payments deficit had been among the largest on record in the present decade. An attempt had to be made to break the vicious circle in the developing countries' financial and trade relations with the developed countries if their efforts were not to be virtually cancelled out by the constant deterioration in the terms of trade. Otherwise, and in the absence of international stabilization machinery, the economic growth of the developing countries, most of which derived their foreign currency receipts from commodity exports, would always be hampered. Furthermore, population growth in those countries demanded an ever-increasing volume of services from the public sector and prevented the capital formation necessary for the creation of the economic infrastructures required for development. His delegation fully shared the views expressed in the annual report of ECLA and in particular that stated in paragraphs 307 and 308 concerning the "need to evaluate the new situation in Latin America in order to form a clearer idea of the role incumbent upon ECLA ... rejecting formulas that were no longer valid". To that end, the ECLA secretariat should appeal for co-operation from the Governments of the region and, in order to be able to devote itself effectively to those important tasks, should in the first place resolve the problem raised by an extremely crowded

timetable of meetings and conferences, which was detrimental to the progress of its activities.

36. In conclusion, he congratulated ECLA on the work done during the past year and supported the draft resolution appearing in part IV of the annual report.

37. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) congratulated the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions on their respective reports and noted with satisfaction the report on their joint meetings (E/4560 and Corr.1).

38. His delegation considered that the formulation of a global development strategy for the second Development Decade should be based on co-operation at the regional level. It welcomed the fact that the executive secretaries had decided to collaborate more closely with the specialized agencies in the implementation of their respective work programmes which, as they recognized, should be concentrated to a greater extent on action-oriented programmes whose concrete results could serve as an example.

39. He commended the Executive Secretary of ECAFE on the activities undertaken in the field of the development of export trade. Although the ECAFE region had made a late start in that field, relations had already been established with the new UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre. He was particularly pleased to note that the important question of trade negotiations was included in the training programme to be undertaken under the auspices of the ECAFE Trade Promotion Centre. He was, however, surprised that no reference was made among those activities to an association with UNITAR.

40. The progress towards decentralisation of activities to the regional economic commissions, whose spheres of action had become broader, should also be welcomed. However, that intensification of activities should be matched by an increase in the resources placed at the regional commissions' disposal. In the distribution of resources allocated to the regional commissions, as in the distribution of funds allocated to projects and technical assistance programmes, ECAFE was still the poor relation. It was to be hoped that the balance would be redressed in future in favour of that most populous of the developing regions.

41. As to the disappointing results of the second session of UNCTAD, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had said (1531st meeting) that they were due to two reasons: lack of political will on the part of the developed countries and lack of foresight and clear-sightedness on the part of the developing countries. The regional economic commissions continued to be the framework within which regional co-operation and collaboration were forged. The attention of the executive secretaries should therefore be drawn to the need for consultation within their respective regions with a view to cultivating a political will on the part of developed countries to take on significant and constructive commitments during the second Development Decade. Likewise, the developing countries should be helped to adopt far-sighted policies and to rid themselves of the tendency to sacrifice long-term benefits. The regional commissions could do much to make the rich and well-provided

<sup>3</sup> Amendments subsequently circulated as document E/L.1219.

countries recognize that it was in their interest to help poor countries in need of aid. The forthcoming ministerial meeting for the ECAFE region might offer an opportunity for a frank discussion on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the New Delhi Conference.

42. With reference to the Swedish draft resolution, mention should be made in it of UNITAR; he therefore suggested that the words "and with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research" should be inserted in operative paragraph 3 after the words "United Nations Export Promotion Programme". He also suggested that the report referred to in operative paragraph 2 should be submitted to the joint meeting of the ACC and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and should not form a separate item on the Council's agenda. Thirdly, he wondered whether the draft resolution might not usefully be referred at that stage to the Co-ordination Committee.

43. Mr. BRUNI CELLI (Venezuela) thanked the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions for their interesting statements. In the general discussion under agenda item 2, the last few years of the first Development Decade had been described as a transition period during which achievements should be assessed and the way prepared for the second Development Decade. The consideration of the reports of the regional economic commissions provided an occasion to assess the institutional framework for such preparatory work. First, it was essential to recognize the importance of rational decentralization, which could be extremely useful in programming the activities that were to take place in the various regions. The very existence of the regional economic commissions showed that in addition to the features common to developed and developing countries there were differences which must be acknowledged. Thanks to the regional commissions, problems could be put into their geographical perspective and the economic and social difficulties of each region identified. Nevertheless, decentralization should not result in fragmentation, confusion or duplication of effort. A balance must be maintained between regional characteristics, and regional machinery must be made more flexible. In that connexion the various activities undertaken by the specialized agencies in collaboration with the regional economic commissions were to be welcomed, activities where, incidentally, better co-ordination should be possible.

44. Turning to the ECLA report, he noted with satisfaction that the Commission had concluded agreements with many specialized and functional agencies, including FAO, WMO, ILO, IAEA, UNICEF, UNCTAD and UNESCO. While regretting certain negative features of the ECLA report, e.g. those relating to financial problems and commodity trade, he endorsed it.

45. His delegation supported the Swedish draft resolution and wished to co-sponsor it. It was ready to discuss with the Swedish delegation amendments which had been proposed.

46. Mr. COIDAN (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) pointed out that the United

Nations Export Promotion Programme and the joint UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre were due to the initiative of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. UNCTAD considered that close co-ordination of the efforts of United Nations bodies to promote exports was essential, and therefore welcomed the interest which the members of the Council showed in that question. UNCTAD would of course co-operate fully in the preparation of the report on export promotion which it was proposed to request from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. However, he wished to draw the Council's attention to one important point, viz. that export trade was one of the basic fields of activity assigned to UNCTAD, and more particularly to the Trade and Development Board. That being so, it would seem that the Swedish draft resolution should not have the effect of altering the functions assigned to UNCTAD or of denying the Trade and Development Board the opportunity to submit its opinions on the matter to the General Assembly.

47. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) reiterated the congratulations that had been extended to the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions. Mexico had always supported the efforts of ECLA, which had played a major role in the drive for the economic integration of Latin America. A programme designed to promote the exports of the developing countries had been proposed in 1967, but in the era of integration exports not only to the industrialized countries but also to other developing countries should be promoted. His delegation therefore welcomed the draft resolution submitted by Sweden. However, it would like to propose some amendments. The first concerned the first preambular paragraph, but since the Belgian representative had already proposed that that paragraph should be amended, he would wait until the Swedish delegation gave its views on that proposal before submitting his own. His second proposal was to add the following after the words "Export Promotion Programme" in operative paragraph 2: "which would also give consideration to the problems of promoting trade among the developing countries".<sup>4</sup>

48. His delegation was particularly interested in the question of trade among the developing countries and in that connexion it wished to know whether the journal, *International Trade Forum*, referred to in paragraph 21 of the report on the executive secretaries' meetings, would deal with that important matter.

49. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said that the reports of the regional economic commissions, like the statement by the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut were extremely interesting. On the whole the reports were encouraging despite certain negative features in the ECLA, ECAFE and ECA reports. The ECLA report, especially, showed that there were still many obstacles to be overcome in increasing the productive capacity of Latin America and pointed out that they were not always local in origin. International co-

<sup>4</sup> Amendment subsequently circulated as document E/L.1221.

operation must therefore be intensified. The progress achieved in the field of economic integration in Latin America was encouraging, and it was to be hoped that the timetable drawn up at the Punta del Este meeting would be adhered to. ECLA's efforts to solve the economic problems of Latin America had the support of all the member countries, which at the meeting of the Special Committee on Latin American Co-ordination in June 1968 had unanimously voted for a resolution congratulating the Commission on its efforts. He fully supported the reports submitted by the regional economic commissions and would vote for them.

50. With reference to the Swedish draft resolution, he considered that it was perhaps premature to discuss it in plenary. He supported the proposal by the Philippine representative that the draft resolution should be referred to the Co-ordination Committee, which would examine it with all due attention and, if necessary, improve it. It was a draft resolution of very wide scope, since it concerned all the economic and financial bodies of the United Nations. Hasty action should therefore be avoided,

particularly in view of the UNCTAD representative's statement that the draft resolution might encroach on UNCTAD's province.

51. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that his delegation welcomed the draft resolution submitted by the Swedish delegation, which sought to ensure co-ordination of activities under the United Nations Export Promotion Programme. Co-ordination of the activities of the various bodies concerned was of course essential, but it would also be advisable to provide for inter-governmental co-ordination, e.g., within the Council. He considered the amendments submitted to be constructive particularly that proposed by the Philippine representative. However, he hoped that no decision would be taken on them, for the Japanese delegation would require time to study the text.

52. Mr. BELFRAGE (Sweden) said that he would take into account the proposals made and consult the Venezuelan delegation, as co-sponsor.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.