

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1985

PLENARY MEETINGS

UNITED NATIONS

1985

UN/SA COLLECTION

VOLUME I

*Summary records of the meetings held during
the organizational session for 1985,
the first regular session of 1985
and the resumed second regular session of 1985*



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New York, 1989

NOTE

The *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985* consist of the summary records of *Plenary Meetings* (volume I (meetings held in New York) and volume II (meetings held at Geneva)), incorporating corrections requested by delegations and any necessary editorial modifications, the *Supplements* (Nos. 1-15) and the *Lists of Delegations*.

The present volume contains the final summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during its organizational session for 1985 (5-8 February and 22 March), its first regular session of 1985 (7-31 May and 20 June) and its resumed second regular session of 1985 (12 December).

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Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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In 1985, the Economic and Social Council was composed of the following fifty-four Member States: ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, BANGLADESH, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CANADA, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, DJIBOUTI, ECUADOR, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF, GUINEA, GUYANA, HAITI, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, LEBANON, LUXEMBOURG, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, POLAND, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SURINAME, SWEDEN, THAILAND, TURKEY, UGANDA, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA, ZAIRE and ZIMBABWE.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency (United States)
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
EEC	European Economic Community
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
ICFTU	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
OAU	Organization of African Unity
SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

AGENDA OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1985

Adopted by the Council at its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 February 1985

1. Election of the Bureau
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Basic programme of work of the Council for 1985 and 1986
4. Resumed session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade
5. Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions and on the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
6. Provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1985 and other organizational matters

AGENDA OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1985

Adopted by the Council at its 6th plenary meeting, on 22 March 1985

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
3. Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
5. Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace
6. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
7. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia
8. Non-governmental organizations
9. University for Peace
10. Population questions
11. Statistical questions
12. Transport of dangerous goods
13. Cartography
14. Public administration and finance
15. Transnational corporations
16. Human rights
17. Social development
18. Narcotic drugs
19. Elections and nominations
20. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985

**AGENDA ITEM OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1985
CONSIDERED AT THE RESUMED SESSION**

12. Industrial development co-operation

CHECK-LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NOTE: Listed below are the documents pertaining to the work of the Council during its organizational session for 1985, its first regular session of 1985 and its resumed second regular session of 1985.

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E/1985/12	Interim election to fill one vacancy on the International Narcotics Control Board: note by the Secretary-General	5	
E/1985/13	<i>Idem</i>	5	
E/1985/14	Letter dated 26 December 1984 from the representative of Costa Rica to the Secretary-General	3	
E/1985/15	Letter dated 11 January 1985 from the representative of El Salvador to the President of the Economic and Social Council	2	
E/1985/50	Letter dated 22 January 1985 from the President of the Trade and Development Board to the President of the Economic and Social Council	2	
E/1985/51-A/39/862	Letter dated 1 February 1985 from the representatives of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam to the Secretary-General		
E/1985/59	Letter dated 15 March 1985 from the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the President of the Economic and Social Council	2	
E/1985/CRP.1	Attendance of United Nations officials at the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council: note by the Secretariat		
E/1985/INF.1	Calendar of conferences and meetings for 1985: note by the Secretariat		
E/1985/INF.2 and Add.1	Decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1985		For the printed text, see <i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 1 (E/1985/85)</i> , decisions 1985/101-1985/112
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E/1985/L.13	Change of venue of the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1985/L.14	Communication of 6 February 1985 from the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to the President of the Economic and Social Council	3	
E/1985/L.15	Change of venue of the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission: note by the Secretariat	2	

<i>Document Number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
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E/1985/L.17	Fortieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Second World War: Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft decision	3	
E/1985/L.18	Draft decisions proposed by the President, on behalf of the Bureau of the Council, on the basis of informal consultations	2	
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E/1985/WP.1	Review of recurrent and other documentation to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 1985: note by the Secretariat	3	
E/1985/SR.1-6	Provisional summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during its organizational session for 1985		The final texts of the records are to be found in the present volume
First regular session of 1985			
A/39/646	Drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system: note by the Secretary-General	18	
A/40/45	Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	4	<i>Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 45</i>
A/40/260	Drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system: note by the Secretary-General	18	
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E/CN.5/1985/2	1985 report on the world social situation	17	See ST/ESA/165 at the end of the present check-list
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E/1980/6/Add.35/Rev.1	Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 10 to 12, in accordance with the second stage of the programme established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988 (LX)	3	
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E/1985/8	Social aspects of rural development: report of the Secretary-General	17	
E/1985/9 and Corr.1	Impact of development on the institution of the family: report of the Secretary-General	17	
E/1985/10-A/40/78	National experience in promoting the co-operative movement: report of the Secretary-General	17	
E/1985/16 and Add.1	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General	2	
E/1985/17	Composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other bodies established in accordance with existing international instruments in the field of human rights: report of the Secretary-General	3	
E/1985/18	Report of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	3	
E/1985/19 and Corr.1	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	8	
E/1985/20-A/40/190	Summary and conclusions of the biennial report on the world population situation: report of the Secretary-General	10	
E/1985/21 and Corr.1	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: report of the Secretary-General	12	
E/1985/22	Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-first session (4 February–15 March 1985)	16	<i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 2</i>
E/1985/23	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-first session (11–20 February 1985)	18	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 3</i>
E/1985/24	Report of the Commission for Social Development on its twenty-ninth session (18–27 February 1985)	17	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 4</i>
E/1985/25	Report of the Population Commission on its twenty-third session (19–28 February 1985)	10	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 5</i>
E/1985/26	Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-third session (25 February–6 March 1985)	11	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 6</i>
E/1985/30 and Corr.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1985	1	
E/1985/37	Enlargement of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: note by the Secretary-General	12	
E/1985/38	Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas: report of the Secretary-General	13	
E/1985/38/Add.1	Programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the annex to document E/1985/38: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council	13	
E/1985/39	Report of the Secretary-General	14	
E/1985/39/Add.1	Report of the Seventh Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (Geneva, 17–26 October 1984)	14	
E/1985/40-A/40/232 and Add.1–3	Measures to be taken against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror	16	
E/1985/41	Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in South Africa: note by the Secretariat	16	
E/1985/42	Co-ordination and information in the field of youth: report of the Secretary-General	17	
E/1985/43 and Corr.1 and Add.1	Capital punishment: report of the Secretary-General	17	
E/1985/44	Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fifth session	5	
E/1985/45	Review of selected major issues in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system: women and development: report of the Secretary-General	5	
E/1985/46	Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/30, entitled "Suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others": report of the Secretary-General	5	

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E/1985/47	Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1984	18	
E/1985/48	Narcotic drugs: note by the Secretary-General	18	
E/1985/52	States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and status of the submission of reports in accordance with the programme established by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1988 (LX): note by the Secretary-General	3	
E/1985/56	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: note by the Secretary-General	6	
E/1985/58 and Add.1	Nominations to the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: note by the Secretary-General	19	
E/1985/60-A/40/188	Letter dated 19 March 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	5	
E/1985/63	Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: note by the Secretary-General	3	
E/1985/64	Note by the President of the Economic and Social Council	1	
E/1985/69-A/40/267	Letter dated 25 April 1985 from the representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the Secretary-General	3, 4, 16	
E/1985/70-A/40/277	Draft declaration on the right to development: note by the Secretary-General	16	
E/1985/73	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations		
E/1985/74-A/40/298	Letter dated 9 May 1985 from the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Secretary-General	17	
E/1985/82-A/40/320	Letter dated 17 May 1985 from the representative of Czechoslovakia to the Secretary-General	1	
E/1985/83	Report of the Second (Social) Committee	18	
E/1985/84	Interim election to fill one vacancy on the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control: note by the Secretary-General	19	
E/1985/86	Letter dated 16 May 1985 from the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to the President of the Economic and Social Council	5	
E/1985/87	Letter dated 20 May 1985 from the representative of Afghanistan to the Secretary-General	16	
E/1985/89	Report of the First (Economic) Committee	10	
E/1985/90	<i>Idem</i>	11	
E/1985/91	<i>Idem</i>	12	
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E/1985/93	<i>Idem</i>	14	
E/1985/94	<i>Idem</i>	15	
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E/1985/120	Telegram received on 24 May 1985 from the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its thirteenth session to the President of the Economic and Social Council	20	
E/1985/125	Letter dated 14 June 1985 from the representative of Austria to the Secretary-General		
E/1985/C.1/CRP.1	Proposed organization of work: note by the Chairman	1	
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E/1985/C.1/L.3	Bangladesh: draft decision	10	
E/1985/C.1/L.4	Draft decision submitted by a Vice-Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee	14	
E/1985/C.1/L.5	<i>Idem</i>	12	
E/1985/C.2/L.1	Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Turkey, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire: draft resolution	17	

<i>Document Number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
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E/1985/C.2/L.3	Argentina, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Mongolia, Poland and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution	17	
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E/1985/C.2/L.4	Congo, Cuba, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Viet Nam: draft resolution	17	
E/1985/C.2/L.5	Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Finland and Italy: draft resolution	17	
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E/1985/C.2/L.6	Canada, Denmark, France, Italy and United States of America: draft resolution	17	
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E/1985/C.2/L.7	Austria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Portugal, Sweden and Uruguay: draft resolution	17	
E/1985/C.2/L.8	Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Costa Rica, Fiji, Germany, Federal Republic of, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zaire: draft decision	16	
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E/1985/C.2/L.10	Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Congo, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Finland, Guinea, Haiti, India, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution	16	
E/1985/C.2/L.11	Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam: draft resolution	16	
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E/1985/C.2/L.12	Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia: draft decision	16	
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E/1985/INF/3	List of representatives to the first regular session of 1985		
E/1985/INF/4 and Add.1	List of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1985		See <i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 1 (E/1985/85)</i> , resolutions 1985/1–1985/46 and decisions 1985/113–1985/164
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E/1985/L.5	Election of five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes: note by the Secretary-General	19	
E/1985/L.6	Election of 21 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund: note by the Secretary-General	19	
E/1985/L.7	Election of 16 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme: note by the Secretary-General	19	
E/1985/L.8	Election of 24 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting: note by the Secretary-General	19	

<i>Document Number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
E/1985/L.9	Election of 10 members of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: note by the Secretary-General	19	
E/1985/L.9/Rev.1	Election of seven members of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: note by the Secretary-General	19	
E/1985/L.10	Nominations of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination: note by the Secretary-General	19	
E/1985/L.11	Nomination of 12 members of the World Food Council: note by the Secretary-General	19	
E/1985/L.20 and Rev.1	Report of the state of preparedness of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat	1	
E/1985/L.21	Transnational corporations: note by the Secretary-General	15	
E/1985/L.22	Organization of the work of the session: note by the Bureau	1	
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E/1985/L.24 and Rev.1	Schedule of work for the first regular session of 1985	1	
E/1985/L.25	Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bolivia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution	9	
E/1985/L.26	Mozambique on behalf of the African States: draft resolution	2	
E/1985/L.27	Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, India, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Uganda, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zimbabwe: draft resolution	7	
E/1985/L.28	Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Mexico, Portugal, Rwanda and Sweden: draft resolution	4	
E/1985/L.29	Australia, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Italy, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution	3	
E/1985/L.30	Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, Senegal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft decision	3	
E/1985/L.31	Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document E/1985/L.29: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council	3	
E/1985/L.32	Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire: draft resolution	5	
E/1985/L.33	Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, India, Japan, Morocco and Netherlands: draft resolution	5	
E/1985/L.34	Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985: note by the Bureau	20	
E/1985/L.38	United States of America: draft resolution	5	
E/1985/NGO/1	Statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category II	17	
E/1985/SR.7 to 27	Provisional summary records of the seventh to twenty-seventh plenary meetings, held by the Council during its first regular session of 1985		The final texts of the records are to be found in the present volume
E/1985/WG.1/INF/1	Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: list of representatives	3	

<i>Document Number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
E/1985/WG.1/L.1	_____ : draft programme of work: note by the Secretariat	3	
E/1985/WG.1/L.2 and Add.1 to 5	_____ : draft report	3	
E/1985/WG.1/SR.1 to 25 and corrigendum	_____ : summary records	3	
Resumed second regular session of 1985			
E/1985/161	Report of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies	12	
E/1985/L.60	Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council	12	Adopted by the Council as resolution 1985/81
E/1985/SR.53	Provisional summary record of the fifty-third plenary meeting, held by the Council during its resumed second regular session of 1985	12	The final text of the record is to be found in the present volume
* * *			
A/40/3/Rev.1	Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1985		<i>Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 3</i>
E/1985/85	Resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council (organizational session for 1985 and first regular session of 1985)		<i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 1</i>
E/1985/85/Add.2	Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its resumed second regular session of 1985		<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 1B</i>
ST/ESA/165	<i>1985 Report on the World Social Situation</i>		United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.2

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1985

Summary records of the 1st to 6th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters, New York, from 5 to 8 February and on 22 March 1985

1st meeting

Tuesday, 5 February 1985, at 11.05 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Jean L. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation)

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.1

Opening of the session

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council for 1985 and paid a special tribute to Mr. Karl Fischer (Austria), President of the Council in 1984.
2. Mr. SYED ARIFF (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, nominated Mr. Tomohiko Kobayashi (Japan) for the office of President of the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the Bureau

Mr. Tomohiko Kobayashi (Japan) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Kobayashi (Japan) took the Chair.

3. The PRESIDENT, after expressing his appreciation for the honour he felt at being elected, said that 1985 appeared to have been ushered in with positive and encouraging signs in several areas. In the political area, the climate of international relations had improved noticeably, as a result of the opening of nuclear disarmament negotiations between the two super-Powers. In the economic area, according to reliable statistics, many industrialized countries, with market economies or with centrally-planned economies, were currently experiencing a notable economic recovery. A number of developing countries which had been able to take advantage of the favourable circumstances, thanks to suitable national policies, were resuming impressive progress in their economic and social development. World trade was again expanding, and in most developing countries the problem of the external debt seemed to have weathered the phase of acute crisis.

4. However, the economic situation of sub-Saharan Africa continued to be critical. The spectre of famine was ever-present, and the sufferings of millions of human beings had not been assuaged. Many developing countries had to continue to make what were often painful adjustments in order to surmount countless difficulties, such as the balance-of-payments deficit, mounting indebtedness, high inflation and unemployment rates and public sector deficits. High real interest rates continued to place a heavy burden on debtor countries, and a resurgence of protectionism in trade was to be feared. Even the industrialized countries which were experiencing a healthy economic recovery had huge budget deficits, thereby hampering efforts to increase official development assistance. In addition, armed conflicts continued and human rights were flouted in various parts of the world.

5. In order to face those problems and difficulties, it was clear that each Government must endeavour to bring order to its own country by mobilizing all available resources, but also that the international community must intensify its co-operation activities so as to improve the economic and social well-being of all peoples. The United Nations system had a decisive role to play in international co-operation, and the Economic and Social Council should be the cornerstone of that co-operation in the economic and social areas.

6. For the past few years, the efficacy, and even the credibility, of the institutions of the United Nations system and, in particular, of the Economic and Social Council had often been called in question. That challenge must be taken up, although it was not easy to do so. Some encouraging signs, however, could be detected. There seemed to be agreement that the Council should consider some real, carefully selected problems, avoid duplication of the activities of other bodies, while acting as co-ordinator, and should not adopt repetitive resolutions, which were forgotten as

soon as they had been adopted, or controversial resolutions which had no positive effects on the promotion of co-operation. A consensus was emerging to the effect that it was necessary to banish from the discussions of the Council elements of political or ideological polemics which produced no constructive results. Even more encouraging was the growing recognition that the prime responsibility for economic and social development lay with the Government and people of each country. The international community, for its part, could and must facilitate the task of those Governments and peoples and, in that respect, the Council could and must play a useful role.

7. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect four Vice-Presidents. He had been informed that on the basis of informal consultations among the regional groups, the following nominations had been proposed: Mr. Ivan Garvalov (Bulgaria), Mr. Henri A. M. Guda (Suriname), Mr. Rabah Hadid (Algeria) and Mr. Krister Kumlin (Sweden).

Mr. Ivan Garvalov (Bulgaria), Mr. Henri A. M. Guda (Suriname), Mr. Rabah Hadid (Algeria) and Mr. Krister Kumlin (Sweden) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEMS 2 AND 3

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1985/2, E/1985/14, E/1985/15, E/1985/50, E/1985/L.1, L.12, L.13)

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1985 and 1986 (E/1985/1 and Add.1)

8. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to a note by the Secretariat (E/1985/L.13) concerning the scheduling of sessions of the Economic Commission for Africa. If there were no comments, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the provisional agenda contained in document E/1985/2, including the addition of the question to which he had referred.

The agenda was adopted.

9. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that the organizational session provided the Council with a valuable opportunity to look at the work to be performed in the next two years, identify issues for priority consideration, organize its work programme on a biennial basis, review and improve its methods of work, and streamline and rationalize its documentation. The adoption by the General Assembly, in its resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984, of a biennial programme of work for its Second Committee had helped to improve the complementarity between the work of the General Assembly and that of the Council.

10. In accordance with the suggestions contained in resolution 39/217, the Assembly and the Council would alternate, on a biennial basis, the substantive consideration of the reports of intergovernmental bodies which were submitted on an annual basis. That would alleviate the workload of the Second Committee and increase the effectiveness of the Council. The Assembly had also decided to consider almost all of the Secretariat reports on a biennial basis. The subsidiary bodies of the Council would

have to make adjustments in the light of that biennial cycle, and the Council should make use of the current session to look into that question and provide guidance for the subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat.

11. With regard to the streamlining of documentation, an opportunity was at hand to take additional steps. For example, in cases where reports of intergovernmental bodies were to be considered in depth by the Assembly, only recommendations addressed directly to the Council could be circulated. Similar arrangements could be made for Secretariat reports. In addition, some of those could be the object only of an oral presentation at the second regular session of the Council. Lastly, the Council should identify which Secretariat reports would be submitted biennially.

12. So far, the rationalization process had been concentrated on the second regular session of the Council and the Second Committee of the General Assembly, and it would be appropriate to give thought to a similar exercise in relation to the first regular session of the Council and the Third Committee of the Assembly.

13. With regard to co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system, which was one of the most important functions of the Council, it should be noted that in recent years informal meetings had been organized between interested delegations and the executive heads of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Such meetings would be more fruitful if the scope, participation and timing could be identified well in advance, so that necessary preparation could be undertaken. In that context, during its second regular session of 1985, the Council could: (a) continue and strengthen the practice of informal exchanges between delegations and the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, on the one hand, and the Bureau of the Committee for Development Planning, on the other; and (b) organize other informal exchanges with executive heads of United Nations entities and specialized agencies, or their representatives, on issues of common concern.

14. In addition, he intended to organize in the near future, on an experimental basis, informal meetings with delegations to provide information on the steps being taken for the implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly. Similar meetings might also be organized in conjunction with each session of the Council, with a view to highlighting the main issues addressed by the Secretary-General in some of his reports, and briefing delegations thereon.

15. The Council at its current session should, as in previous years, select a group of priority items for in-depth consideration during the year. In that regard, the Council should also identify issues for consideration during 1986, which would allow the Secretariat the time necessary to prepare documentation. Similarly, the Council could select issues for priority consideration not only, as had been the practice in the past two years, from among items of the agenda of its second regular session, but also from among items of the agenda of its first regular session, particularly those dealing with social and human rights issues.

16. A conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat would be distributed containing information requested by the Council in 1984 regarding the

attendance of United Nations officials at Council sessions.

17. With regard to the timing, duration and necessary documentation for the resumed session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, he had consulted with delegations, which had reiterated their commitment to the International Development Strategy and underlined the need to review and appraise the implementation of the Strategy. A large number of delegations had called for an early resumption of the Committee's work, and all delegations had expressed concern that the exercise must achieve meaningful results.

18. In the light of those consultations, he suggested that delegations should continue to hold consultations on the timing, duration and documentation of the session and consider appropriate procedures for the work in order to ensure meaningful results, and that, in the light of the outcome of those consultations, the Council should return to the consideration of the matter, if possible before the end of the current session.

19. The Council, pursuant to its resolution 1984/82, would devote special attention at its second regular session to the assessment of the role of the United Nations in promoting international economic and social co-operation and to the consideration of ways of strengthening the role of the Organization and of further enhancing its effectiveness in that regard. The Secretary-General intended to submit some relevant suggestions to the Council for consideration at its second regular session, and he hoped that Governments would also give consideration to the manner in which the Organization could best serve them.

20. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the success of the Council's activities during the current year would depend to a great extent on the decisions adopted at the current organizational session. Since most international problems reflected in the Council's agenda were currently in a state of deadlock, it was clear that consideration of the draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1985 and 1986 was of the utmost importance.

21. Although the Council regularly considered such issues as the difficult commercial, economic and financial problems experienced by most developing countries—including indebtedness, high interest rates, the overvalued dollar, the net outflow of financial resources from those countries—and many delegations drew attention to the various real causes of that situation and proposed appropriate solutions, the truth was that, because of the lack of the necessary political will on the part of some countries members of the Council, the Council had not taken any useful decision in that area for several years.

22. In accordance with its resolution 1984/82, the Council should devote special attention in 1985 to strengthening the role of the United Nations in promoting international economic and social co-operation. It was essential to carry out a broad and objective analysis of the situation regarding the implementation of the decisions which laid the groundwork for all the United Nations activities in the economic field, in order to produce recommendations aimed at eliminating the obstacles preventing

implementation of the objectives and principles contained in the relevant instruments of the Organization. Such work would, without question, help to channel the activities of subsidiary organs and, in that respect, he hoped that at last, in 1985, the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations, which States Members of the United Nations had been elaborating for such a long time, would be submitted to the Council for its consideration.

23. The Council should also co-ordinate the activities of all the bodies of the United Nations system with a view to broadening further their contribution to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 38/188 J and 39/151 E.

24. Although they were difficult, the tasks before the Economic and Social Council—which included the co-ordination of the disarmament activities of all bodies of the United Nations system—were not impossible, and his delegation intended to participate constructively in the consideration of the draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1985 and 1986 (E/1985/1 and Add.1), which, in general, reflected those tasks.

25. The work of the Council in 1985 was of particular importance since the year marked the fortieth anniversary not only of the creation of the United Nations but also of the victory over nazism and fascism in the Second World War. By resolution 39/114, the General Assembly had unanimously declared that 8 and 9 May 1985 would be the days of that anniversary. On behalf of a number of socialist countries—Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam—he proposed that the Council, at its organizational session, should adopt a recommendation on ways and means of holding a solemn celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the victory over nazism and fascism in the Second World War within the framework of the General Assembly, as well as during the first regular session of 1985 of the Council.

26. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) introduced the draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1985 and 1986, in the preparation of which due account had been taken of the relevant decisions and resolutions of the Council and of the General Assembly, in particular Assembly resolution 39/217. The secretariat had done its utmost to apply the provisions of that resolution but, in instances where the mandate for the submission of a report conflicted with the spirit of the resolution, the Council's guidance would be needed. With regard to item 7, two reports were to be submitted; the Second Committee had decided to combine those reports into one document, to be considered in 1985. According to the Council's draft basic programme of work, those reports were scheduled for consideration in 1985 and 1986, but the Council might perhaps wish to adopt the same procedure as the Second Committee. With regard to item 9, the report of the Secretary-General on the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa in 1985 and 1986 was contained in the Second Committee's biennial programme of work for 1985 and 1986, while in the draft basic programme of work of the Council it had been included for 1985 only, since the mandate for

the submission of the report was to be renewed annually. With regard to item 11, a report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa had been included in the Second Committee's biennial programme of work for 1985 and 1986, but it had been included only for 1985 in the draft basic programme of work of the Council because the relevant mandate was also subject to renewal. With regard to item 15, the Second Committee had included the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for consideration in 1986 only, while in the draft basic programme of work of the Council it had been included for both 1986 and 1985. The Council might wish to adopt the same procedure as the Second Committee. Similarly, with regard to the same item, the Second Committee had planned to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region in 1986, while in the draft basic programme of work of the Council the secretariat had included it for both 1985 and 1986. Nevertheless, the Council might wish to include it only for consideration in 1986. With regard to item 17, although the General Assembly, in its resolution 38/198, had requested that a report on the implementation of that resolution should be submitted to it at its fortieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, the report did not appear at all in the Second Committee's biennial programme of work. The report had been included only in the draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1985. Lastly, the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people, under item 19, had been included in the Second Committee's programme of work for consideration in 1985 only, while in the draft basic programme of work of the Council it appeared for both years. However, the Council might wish to bring its consideration of that report into conformity with the Second Committee's programme of work.

27. She recalled that, in 1982, the Council had decided to concentrate in future on the question of policy review and co-ordination of activities in the area of regional co-operation, and that, in its decision 1982/174, it had requested the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to submit their joint recommendations in that regard. In view of that decision, the executive secretaries had jointly proposed that the Council should consider the question of interregional co-operation to promote and support activities related to economic co-operation among developing countries and technical co-operation among developing countries in accordance with the Caracas Programme of Action.¹

28. Lastly, she pointed out that the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had not been included in the draft basic programme of work of the Council. That issue would be considered at the appropriate session, depending on the decision which the Council would take in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/217.

29. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to paragraph 5 of document E/1985/12 concerning

the interim election, under agenda item 5, to fill one vacancy on the International Narcotics Control Board, in which it was suggested that the Council might wish to waive the requirement concerning the setting up of a Committee on Candidatures. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to proceed in that manner.

30. In addition, he drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 26 December 1984 from the Alternate Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1985/14) containing a request for the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled "University for Peace" in the provisional agenda of the Council's first regular session of 1985.

31. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) said that her Government attached great importance to the inclusion of the "University for Peace" item and had given ample reasons therefor (E/1985/14, annex I). Four years after the establishment of the University, it was important to be aware of the development which it had undergone and the current situation of the institution. Her delegation had also included the text of a draft resolution (*ibid.*, annex II) which could be considered at the appropriate time, so that the General Assembly could consider the study requested at its fortieth regular session. It had been requested that the item be included in the agenda of the first regular session of 1985 in order to allow time for the preparation of the study. Furthermore, since the question related to peace, it would be appropriate to consider it at the session at which questions of a humanitarian and social character would be examined.

32. The PRESIDENT suggested that since there were no further comments the question should be considered in informal meetings.

33. He then drew the Council's attention to the letter dated 11 January 1985 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1985/15) in which the Council was requested to consider resolution 472 (PLEN.17), adopted by the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and to endorse it.

34. Mr. ROSALES RIVERA (Observer for El Salvador) said that the letter sent by El Salvador was self-explanatory. The Government of El Salvador did not wish the resolution in question to remain limited exclusively to the sphere of interest of ECLAC, but wanted it to receive the support of the Economic and Social Council.

35. The PRESIDENT suggested that since there were no further comments the question should be considered further in informal meetings.

36. Concerning the provisions relating to the conversion of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization into a specialized agency, he requested the chairmen of the regional groups to communicate to him, as soon as possible, the names of their nominees for membership in the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies so that they could be appointed, and the Committee given the task of negotiating a relationship agreement with UNIDO.

37. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) asked which countries had already been nominated by the respective regional groups to participate in the Committee.

¹A/36/333 and Corr.1, annex.

38. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out the list of countries selected by the regional groups: for the African States, Algeria, Botswana and the Congo; for the Asian States, Bangladesh, India and Japan; for the Eastern European States, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; for the Latin American States, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela; and for the Western European and other States, the Netherlands and the United States of America.

39. The PRESIDENT, referring to the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, asked the members of the Council whether they wished to comment on the question of requesting the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to initiate, as a matter of priority, the preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

40. Mr. GEZER (Turkey) said that adoption of the text of the draft Convention against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Activities as a working paper by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session indicated the growing interest of Member States in international co-operation in the struggle against drug trafficking and related activities. Despite the existence of instruments such as the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the picture of drug trafficking and drug abuse was becoming ever more alarming and sombre. The measures adopted in that regard had been ineffective and inadequate, not because the conventions were defective, but because of the way in which the parties had implemented them, not to mention the fact that many countries affected by drug trafficking and drug abuse were not parties to the conventions. Furthermore, the provisions of the Single Convention with regard to sanctions were not being duly applied. Turkey, because of its geographical position, was in the vanguard of the fight against drug trafficking and wished to take part in any initiative undertaken to improve the current measures; similarly, it hoped that the conventions in force would be implemented in a more appropriate and balanced way. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had an important task in preparing the new convention. All the ramifications of drug trafficking had to be taken into account. Criminal activities related to drugs were increasingly evident, in other words, the links between drug trafficking, arms trafficking and international terrorism. More and more countries were becoming aware of the interdependence of organized drug traffickers and terrorist groups. It was heartening to observe that many international meetings had highlighted the sinister link between drug

trafficking, arms trafficking and terrorism. A new, more effective mechanism had to be developed for the fight against drug trafficking. That mechanism should include appropriate measures, for instance, measures to speed up the extradition process, measures against sea and air trafficking and measures against abuse of the postal services.

41. Mr. HELO HARFOUCHE (Colombia) said that his country fully approved of the fight against drug trafficking and was one of those most involved in that work, confronting problems and threats. The Council should give priority to the matter of drugs. Drug trafficking sapped the strength of the people of Colombia and affected its struggle in the economic sphere. Colombia needed international assistance in the fight against that scourge.

42. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that the idea of rationalizing and streamlining the work and establishing priorities in the tasks of the Economic and Social Council was making headway, and made it possible to press forward in a pragmatic manner to strengthen the Council so that it could recover its importance as the main body for development, which had done the most work in the United Nations during its 40 years of existence. The rationalization of work, as reflected in documents E/1985/1 and Add.1 and E/1985/2, was a significant indicator in that regard.

43. Concerning the draft convention against traffic in narcotic drugs, it was particularly important for the countries which had unanimously approved of the declaration in the draft Convention against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Activities to the effect that drug trafficking was a crime against humanity. His delegation would fully support the priority given to the preparation of a convention against drug trafficking.

44. Co-ordination of information in the area of youth was also important. Furthermore, his delegation would refer at the appropriate time to the question of industrial development.

45. The PRESIDENT said that, concerning the rescheduling of the sessions of the Human Rights Committee, he wished to draw the Council's attention to the decision adopted by that Committee, contained in document E/1985/L.1. With regard to the dates of the sessions of the Trade and Development Board, he drew the Council's attention to the letter from the President of the Trade and Development Board addressed to the President of the Council concerning the outcome of the consultations on that matter (E/1985/50).

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

2nd meeting

Tuesday, 5 February 1985, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.2

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (E/1985/L.12)

1. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) pointed out that the proposals contained in document E/1985/L.12 had no financial implications.
2. Mr. NISHIMURA (Japan) said that the Committee for Development Planning could play a very important role within the Organization and that it should therefore be given the means of carrying out its mandate. In that context, his delegation was in favour of the proposals contained in the note by the Secretariat published under the symbol E/1985/L.12.
3. In its report on the work of its twentieth session, the Committee had proposed that it should meet twice a year for two three-day sessions, making a total of six days instead of the 10 days currently allocated to it. As it was responsible for considering the long-time prospects rather than the immediate problems, it would be necessary to determine which formula was better. For its part, his delegation would state its position on the question at the second regular session of the Council, bearing in mind the Committee's views.
4. Mr. GOODMAN (United States of America) said that the meetings of the Committee's working groups should also be cancelled so that the resources thus saved could be used to help the victims of the famine in Africa.
5. Mr. HUERTA FLORES (Mexico), supported by Mr. PAPADATOS (Observer for Greece), said that the Committee for Development Planning played a very important role in guiding the Organization's activities. The Committee had perfected its working methods and was endeavouring to carry out its mandate as best it could. Accordingly, the April session was important. He therefore recommended that the Council should approve the Committee's proposal.
6. Mr. MALIK (India) agreed with the representative of Mexico, although by doing so he was disagreeing with the representative of the United States.
7. Mr. DE LA TORRE (Argentina) agreed that the work of the Committee for Development Planning was important and that the meeting would be useful.
8. Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia) stressed the importance he attached to the Committee's work.
9. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that the Committee facilitated the work of other economic organs of the United Nations.
10. Mr. KURLIN (Sweden) said that he was in favour of the Committee resuming its session in April. Concerning the proposal by the representative of the United States, he pointed out that, even if the Committee did not meet, the working groups would still meet; there would therefore be no resources to be reallocated.
11. Mr. GOODMAN (United States of America) pointed out that his proposal related not only to the meetings of the Committee but also to those of the working groups. It was not a question of determining whether the Committee played an important role but of deciding, in the light of the urgent situation in Africa, how best to utilize the available resources.
12. Mr. SEKULIĆ (Yugoslavia) and Mr. HADID (Algeria), recognizing the importance of development planning, endorsed the proposals contained in document E/1985/L.12.

JOINT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION

13. Mr. GOODMAN (United States of America) said that the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination were not very effective because they were organized in a way that made it impossible to give the questions considered the necessary attention. Accordingly, they should be dispensed with and the resources thus released should be made available to the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa.
14. Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia) pointed out that improvements had been made in the way those joint meetings were prepared and that the Council itself had suggested ways of making further progress. ACC should give that proposal due consideration and CPC should also endeavour to help improve the joint meetings.
15. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said that the existing arrangements for the joint meetings were not satisfactory. The number of items on the agenda should be limited and the decision-making process should be streamlined. Recent decisions taken by the Council and CPC should help enhance the effectiveness of those meetings.
16. Mr. FAURE (France) said that he shared the doubts expressed by other speakers regarding the usefulness of the joint meetings as currently organized. However, those meetings could give rise to a dialogue and to reflection which would be helpful in improving the functioning of the Organization. The dialogue between the executive heads of the specialized agencies and of the United Nations should be made more specific and practical by making various improvements—possibly relating to the choice of the issues considered, the preparation of documentation and the scheduling of meetings. A vice-president of the Council could also be put in charge of helping the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Council itself to consider those questions.

MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
AFRICA (E/1985/L.13)

17. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the proposals contained in document E/1985/L.13 had no financial implications.

18. Mr. GOODMAN (United States of America) asked whether savings could be effected by holding the twentieth session of the Commission and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission at the Commission's headquarters instead of at Conakry.

19. Mr. EE (Budget Division) recalled that, at its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly had allocated \$287,300 so that the nineteenth session of ECA and the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission could be held at Conakry. The meetings had not taken place at Conakry and it had been decided that the 1985 meetings should be held there. That amount had therefore been kept in reserve. By holding the meetings at Addis Ababa instead of Arusha or Conakry, the available sum would be saved. However, planning missions had already taken place. The savings would therefore be \$287,300 minus the cost of those missions, the exact amount of which was not yet known.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA
AND IN NAMIBIA

20. Mr. OSAKWE (Nigeria), supported by Miss SHANIN (Observer for Egypt), recalled that the Council had decided to hold public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and in Namibia and had entrusted the preparations to an *ad hoc* committee. If the Council considered the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its second session, as planned, there would not be enough time. Accordingly, the Council should decide to consider at its first session that portion of the Commission's report which dealt with the public hearings.

21. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) supported the Nigerian proposal as the hearings were, in principle, scheduled for September.

22. Mr. HADID (Algeria) pointed out that the decision to hold public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and in Namibia had been taken in 1982 and that the issue was an urgent one. For practical reasons, it would not be desirable to leave the consideration of the question until the second regular session of the Council. He therefore supported the proposal.

23. Mr. TANASA (Romania) supported the proposal of the representative of Nigeria.

24. Mr. ZUCCONI (Observer for Italy) pointed out that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on public hearings had not completed its work. Moreover, the question raised by the representative of Nigeria would be considered by the Commission on Transnational Corporations. The Council did not have to adopt an agenda at its organizational session. Any decision on the matter should be postponed to the first regular session.

25. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) pointed out that the *Ad Hoc* Committee would meet on 14 and 15 February to adopt its report.

26. Mr. OSAKWE (Nigeria) pointed out that the *Ad Hoc* Committee had already adopted the essential parts of its report. He was therefore formally opposed to the proposal of the representative of Italy.

27. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) pointed out that the *Ad Hoc* Committee met solely to adopt its report and that it was merely a question of including that item in the provisional agenda of the Council's first regular session, which could be done at the organizational session.

28. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) endorsed the proposal of the representative of Nigeria.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1985
and 1986 (*continued*) (E/1985/1 and Add.1)

29. Mr. SARRÉ (Senegal) noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 39/217, had decided to place before the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session, the question of countries stricken by desertification and drought. In its resolution 39/208, the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure the implementation of the different activities mentioned in that resolution, to report to it at its fortieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the evolution of the situation in those countries and to formulate proposals for specific, co-ordinated action. The entire international community had demonstrated its solidarity with those severely stricken countries. He therefore proposed that the item should be included in the agenda of the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council so that it would be taken into account in the informal consultations.

30. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), Mr. HADID (Algeria), Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) and Mr. RODRIGO (Sri Lanka) supported the proposal of the representative of Senegal.

31. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said that the question was subsumed by item 4, entitled "Critical economic situation in Africa", of the draft basic programme of work of the second regular session of the Council (see E/1985/1, sect. II B), under which specific mention was made of the Secretary-General's report on countries stricken by desertification and drought.

32. Mr. SARRÉ (Senegal) said that item 4 was concerned basically with the critical economic situation in Africa, which had been dealt with separately in the Second Committee and in plenary meetings of the General Assembly. The question of countries stricken by desertification and drought was a global one which transcended the African continent and was specific in nature. He was therefore opposed to the proposal of the representative of the Netherlands.

33. Mr. DE LA TORRE (Argentina) said that the proposal of the representative of Senegal was consistent with the spirit in which the subject matter of agenda item 141 of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly had been adopted for consideration. The latter had been considered as a separate item by the Second Committee, and the Economic and Social Council should follow the same proce-

dure. That would respond to the wishes of the affected countries themselves.

SELECTION OF PRIORITY ISSUES

34. Mr. KEYES (United States of America) recalled that, in 1984, the United States delegation had proposed "Planning, public administration and strategies for development" as a priority issue and that it had been decided to consider the matter in 1985. The issue was important because it related to underlying problems of development and the impact which governmental action could have on those problems. It was unfortunate that, despite the agreement of the previous year, some wished to avoid discussion of the topic.

35. Nevertheless, the importance of that issue had been eclipsed by the crucial problem of famine in Africa. United Nations agencies had begun to address the problem, and the Secretary-General was making efforts to set up co-ordination machinery, in which he had the support of the United States. It was to be feared, however, that despite speeches and professions of good will the task would be too great for the system and that the priorities, ambitions and passions of the past would at times continue to guide it. Faced with a crisis on a scale not seen since the 1930s, the Organization could not return to business as usual. The United Nations and the specialized agencies must devote themselves, particularly in their economic and social activities, to serving the welfare of people, and the priorities in the area must be determined by actual needs. The crisis which had led the Council to give the highest priority to Africa's plight the previous year continued unabated, and the international community had only just begun to undertake the massive efforts which would be needed.

36. The comfort of conference rooms should not make the Council forget that 14 million Africans were suffering from starvation. One million children would die from hunger and diseases related to malnutrition in Africa in 1985. The world community was engaged in priority assistance to Africa—the Government of the United States, for its part, had already committed \$250 million in 1985 in emergency food assistance to Africa, and that figure was expected to reach close to \$1 billion by the end of the year. However, despite the extraordinary response of world public opinion, the situation in Africa would continue to deteriorate.

37. At the same time, the world was witnessing a return to massive refugee flows in Africa. From Ethiopia to the Sudan, from Angola to Zaire, from Chad to the Central African Republic, Africans were fleeing famine and drought. An estimated 2 million refugees in Africa received assistance in May 1984, and their number had already increased by 25 per cent in January. The problems of starvation and massive dislocations of population would not be solved by another meeting of CPC or ACC.

38. Theoretically, it would make sense to determine a priority item one year, then another the following year. But famine was no respecter of schedules and, while the Council was debating the virtues of abstract topics, children were starving to death.

39. The United Nations intended to co-ordinate the world's response to the continuing crisis, and it was important to strengthen international co-operation. However, the time had come when no amount of talk

could achieve that goal. Now, institutions would be judged not on how well they could hold meetings but on how well they could act to meet the real needs of the masses, not merely by undertaking action but by seeing it through. The United Nations would be judged on the effectiveness of its actions and its capacity to pursue them until final victory; in Africa, however, the fight had just begun.

40. It appeared that, without the scrutiny of the relevant organs, particularly the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations was in grave danger of not meeting the challenge. The task that awaited it was a long-term one, and the United Nations had just begun its attempt to prove its worth in that regard. Priority should not be given to any other effort in that field until the task had been completed.

41. Under those conditions, the Economic and Social Council should again give priority in 1985, at its second regular session, to the critical situation in Africa; not to galvanize international will but to scrutinize and assess what had been done and to suggest means to strengthen the international response, particularly with regard to the leadership and co-ordinating role of the United Nations.

42. Mr. NISHIMURA (Japan) said that he wished to propose as a priority issue, besides the one already suggested by the United States, the "development of human resources". Many developing countries had emphasized the importance of that issue at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly. Specific proposals had also been made in other forums, such as the proposal of the UNDP Administrator for a world conference on human resources development, the resolution adopted by the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, and the round-table proposed by the Government of Jamaica, which was currently being held at Kingston, Jamaica. Japan, which participated actively in such activities, felt that it was time for an in-depth discussion of the question at the second regular session of the Council.

43. The Japanese Government attached the greatest importance to the development of human resources in the context of the overall economic and social development of the developing countries. It should not be limited to technical training in specific fields, but should also enhance effective administrative and planning capabilities for development. The development of human resources was already a common theme for operational activities in the United Nations system, and it was therefore appropriate to discuss the issue from an overall perspective, to identify objectives and means to achieve them, so as to guide the activities of the United Nations system in the proper direction.

44. Mr. SAAD (Observer for Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said he appreciated the interest in international co-operation shown by the United States. He recalled that the proposed priority issue had already been brought to the attention of the Council by the Group of 77, which was of the opinion that the Council should continue to give it priority. However, it should not be forgotten that, the importance of that issue notwithstanding, the world economy was beset by other serious and urgent problems and an interesting proposal had been put forward in that regard by the Japanese delegation. While the Council must continue to deal with the critical situation in Africa, that should not prevent it

from considering other priority issues which it could decide upon in informal consultations.

45. Mr. KABANDA (Rwanda) said that the issue of planning and public administration raised by the United States was certainly of importance but that since the significance of the issue was not generally perceived, it should not be given priority consideration. It could be deferred until a later session. Moreover, if the United States delegation considered planning so important, he did not understand how it could consider that the Committee for Development Planning should not meet.

46. The human resources issue, raised by Japan, was very important and deserved priority consideration, together with several other issues relating to development. Interesting suggestions had also been made by the observer for Egypt. There was a hierarchy among the various priority issues and informal discussions should be held on the matter.

47. Mr. HUERTA FLORES (Mexico) fully supported the proposals made by the Group of 77. He had, moreover, been touched by the concern shown by the United States representative at the situation in Africa, a concern which everyone shared. It was necessary to seek to make better use of the resources which were truly being wasted on military expenditure. By allocating even a small part of those resources for other purposes, the very serious problems of Africa and other pressing problems which affected millions of people in Asia and in Latin America could easily be solved. The purpose of meetings and committees was dialogue and the search for solutions to those problems, but the same could not be said of the enormous quantities of resources devoted to destruction.

48. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that, while the Council was right to decide at the current stage what questions should receive priority, so that it would have the relevant documentation in time, it should also be ready to consider priorities which arose suddenly as a result of unforeseen circumstances. It should, however, take care to avoid carrying over priorities almost automatically from one year to the next, especially since it was trying to rationalize its work. It could, for example, be decided in 1985 to give priority to the economic situation in Africa. The issue proposed by Japan regarding the item on the development of human resources was also interesting but could be considered a little later. He thought that the second regular session of the Council should be limited to one, or at most two, issues to which priority consideration could be given.

49. Mr. ZUCCONI (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community (EEC), said that he was very impressed by the statement made by the United States representative. The question would be considered by the Council, in the light of the relevant deliberations of the Second Committee of the General Assembly, the declaration adopted by the Assembly on the situation in Africa, and bilateral and multilateral activities on behalf of Africa. The Council should take care not to increase the number of priority issues.

50. Mr. WANG BAOLIU (China) said he agreed with the proposal of the Chairman of the Group of 77 to give priority consideration to the situation in Africa and was pleased that the United States, the EEC and Canada had also supported that proposal.

He shared the view of the Chairman of the Group of 77 that the issue proposed by Japan could be considered in informal consultations.

51. The other priority issue proposed by the United States—planning and public administration—was important and should be studied by each State in the light of its own situation. According to a Chinese proverb, spring was the most important season of the year. Priority issues should therefore be decided upon during the first regular session, if possible to the satisfaction of the majority of countries.

52. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden) supported the United States proposal to give priority to the issue of planning and public administration. His delegation was pleased, moreover, that the situation in Africa had been proposed as a priority issue, since that would afford the Council a rare opportunity to be somewhat more action-oriented than usual.

53. Mr. MALIK (India) said that, while he fully agreed that the economic situation in Africa should be given priority consideration, he did not see why it should be a priority thematic item, since the General Assembly had already adopted a declaration on the subject. The Council should instead concentrate on the implementation of decisions that had been taken.

54. Mr. FAREED (Observer for Pakistan) said that premature consideration of the question could be dangerous and that it would be better to allow time for the activities undertaken to bear fruit. The question could, for instance, be considered by the General Assembly at its fortieth session, which would be attended by high-level delegations. That might make for more satisfactory results. The question could be discussed in informal consultations during which the issues of public administration and the development of human resources, which might perhaps be linked, would also be considered.

55. Mr. ELHASSAN (Observer for the Sudan) pointed out that the text of the General Assembly declaration on the critical economic situation prevailing in Africa was some seven months old and that a year had gone by since the last rains had fallen in Africa. July therefore seemed an entirely appropriate date to consider the implementation of United Nations activities on behalf of Africa.

56. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the debate on the selection of priorities showed that that was an important matter which had to be carefully considered. He proposed that the discussion should be continued in informal consultations, in which his group was prepared to participate actively in order to arrive at a solution which was to everyone's satisfaction. It was thanks to the Group of African States and the Group of 77 that the critical situation in Africa had been given priority consideration. The Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984, showed that the international community was aware of the urgency of the problem. The Secretary-General himself paid continuous attention to it, with the approval of the majority of delegations, and had entrusted an *ad hoc* group of senior United Nations officials with the task of keeping the situation under review.

57. Mr. DE LA TORRE (Argentina) said he appreciated the concern shown by the developed countries with regard to the developing countries but recalled that, as indicated by the Group of 77, the position of

the developing countries themselves had not yet been determined and that the priorities of those countries would have to be discussed in informal consultations.

IDENTIFICATION OF A SUBJECT RELATING TO INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION OF INTEREST TO ALL REGIONS

58. The PRESIDENT recalled the joint recommendation of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to select the question "Interregional co-operation to promote and support activities related to economic co-operation among developing countries and technical co-operation among developing countries, giving due regard to the Caracas Programme of Action".

ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN PURSUANCE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 39/217

59. The PRESIDENT, referring to General Assembly resolution 39/217 concerning the biennial programme of work of the Second Committee of the Assembly, which was aimed at avoiding duplication in the work of the Council and of The Assembly, noted that in 1985 the Assembly would consider directly the reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Commission on Human Settlements and the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for

Development and that the Council therefore could transmit those reports directly to the Assembly without debate. On the other hand, the Assembly would not consider directly the reports of the Industrial Development Board, the World Food Council and the United Nations University.

60. Mr. LEE (Canada) stressed the need to rationalize the work of the Council's first regular session so that more time could be spent on an in-depth discussion of issues which were of particular interest to the Council. At that session, the Council dealt with elections, approval of reports of subsidiary bodies, review of ongoing discussions and debates, and consideration of special subjects which had not been dealt with in detail elsewhere. Item 3 of the proposed agenda for the first regular session was of great interest to the Council because it related to the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The preceding year, the Director of the Centre for Human Rights had proposed that the Council should give priority attention to the relationship between human rights and development. The other issue which required attention was women and development. Perhaps the issue of rationalizing the programme of work could be considered by the Bureau, in informal consultations, or by a sessional working group.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

3rd meeting

Wednesday, 6 February 1985, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.3

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that, after having consulted with the other members of the Bureau, he had decided that, in 1985, the Vice-Presidents of the Council would exercise the following functions: Mr. Rabah HADID (Algeria) would preside over the First (Economic) Committee; Mr. Ivan GARVALOV (Bulgaria) would preside over the Second (Social) Committee; Mr. Henri A. M. GUDA (Suriname) would preside over the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee; and Mr. Krister KUMLIN (Sweden) would carry out other functions, as needed, and co-ordinate the informal consultations.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1985 and 1986 (*continued*) (E/1985/1 and Add.1)

2. Mr. ZUCCONI (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, pointed out that the World

Food Programme (WFP) had entrusted consideration of the question of the present relationship between it and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to a working group which was to submit a report on the subject to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its May meeting; the Council could therefore consider the report at its second regular session.

3. Referring to the programme of work proposed for the first regular session of 1985, in which it was noted (E/1985/1, sect. II. A) that the item concerning activities for the advancement of women was to be assigned to the Second Committee; the States members of EEC believed that, since the report of the Secretary-General on the role of women in development and related questions was to be considered that year, the item should also be considered in plenary. The item concerning implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which had been assigned to the Sessional Working Group, should also be considered in plenary since the Council, according to its resolution 1982/33, was to review the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of that Working Group that year.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

4th meeting

Friday, 8 February 1985, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.4

AGENDA ITEM 5

Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions and on the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1985/11/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2, E/1985/12, E/1985/13)

ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

1. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Council had to elect one candidate from the list proposed by the World Health Organization (E/1985/13, para. 3) to fill the vacancy arising as a result of the death of a member of the International Narcotics Control Board who was to have represented that organization until 1 March 1987.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Rahim (Bangladesh) and Mr. Chacón (Venezuela) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	44
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	43
Abstentions:	None
Number of members voting:	43
Required majority:	22
Number of votes obtained:	
Dr. S. O. Kayaalp (Turkey).....	31
Dr. T. Baasher (Sudan).....	12

*Having obtained the required majority, Dr. S. Oguz Kayaalp (Turkey) was elected a member of the International Narcotics Control Board.**

2. Mr. GEZER (Turkey) expressed appreciation for the election of Dr. Kayaalp.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

3. The PRESIDENT said that the secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had, on behalf of the Group of African States, informed the United Nations Secretariat that Mali had been nominated for the vacancy in the Commission for Social Development to be filled from among the African States, for a term expiring on 31 December 1988.

4. Since there were no other nominations and if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Mali by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

5. The PRESIDENT called the Council's attention to the fact that the Secretariat had been informed

that Argentina had submitted its candidature for one of the vacancies on the Committee on Natural Resources to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, for a term expiring on 31 December 1988.

6. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Argentina by acclamation.

It was so decided.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

7. The PRESIDENT said that Egypt, which presided over the Group of African States for the month of February, had informed the Secretariat that Senegal had submitted its candidature for the vacancy on the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts to be filled from among the African States, for a term expiring on 31 December 1987. Similarly, Ecuador had submitted its candidature for the vacancy to be filled from among the Latin American States, for a term expiring on 31 December 1987.

8. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Senegal and Ecuador by acclamation.

It was so decided.

9. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that, since there were no candidates for the vacancies on the other subsidiary bodies, the Council wished to postpone the elections for those vacancies to a future session.

*It was so decided.**

CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

10. The PRESIDENT called the Council's attention to documents E/1985/11/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2,² containing the names of the persons nominated to serve on the functional commissions, which had been communicated to the Council for its confirmation after the closure of the organizational session for 1984.

11. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) announced that Chile had nominated Miss María Teresa Infante Barros to fill a vacancy on the Commission for Social Development, as would be indicated in a new addendum to document E/1985/11/Rev.1.²

12. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm all the nominees.

*It was so decided.**

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

*See decision 1985/111.

²Document E/1985/11/Rev. 1/Add.3 was issued on 11 February 1985.

5th meeting

Friday, 8 February 1985, at 9.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.5

AGENDA ITEM 5

Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions and on the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (concluded)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of item 5 and, specifically, of the elections to vacancies on the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Secretariat had been informed by the Chairman of the Group of Latin American States that Mexico had been nominated for the vacancy to be filled from that Group, for a term expiring on 31 December 1986.

2. If he heard no objection he would take it that, since there were no other nominations, the Council wished to elect Mexico by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

3. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 5.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (continued) (E/1985/2, E/1985/14, E/1985/15, E/1985/50, E/1985/51, E/1985/L.1, L.12-L.15, L.18, E/1985/CRP.1)

4. The PRESIDENT said that document E/1985/L.18 contained six draft decisions which, on behalf of the members of the Bureau and on the basis of informal consultations, he was submitting to the Council.

5. He invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions.

DRAFT DECISION I

6. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out a revised version of draft decision I, concerning the letter dated 11 January 1985 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Council, by which the Council: (a) took note of the fact that the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the resolution on assistance to El Salvador contained in document E/1985/15, without signifying any agreement as to the contents of operative paragraph 2 of the resolution regarding the treatment of countries as least developed countries; (b) emphasized, in that connection, that as a general practice the existing procedures should be followed by all organs, organizations and bodies of the United

*See decision 1985/111.

Nations system for inclusion of new countries in the list of least developed countries.

Draft decision I, as revised, was adopted (decision 1985/110).

DRAFT DECISION II

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 1985/104).

DRAFT DECISION III

Draft decision III was adopted (decision 1985/105).

DRAFT DECISION IV

7. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that, in subparagraph (c) of draft decision IV, the phrase "its fourteenth special session and" should be inserted after the words "Board on".

Draft decision IV, as amended, was adopted (decision 1985/106).

DRAFT DECISION V

8. The PRESIDENT observed that draft decision V, concerning the scheduling of meetings of the Committee for Development Planning, was being proposed on the understanding that the President of the Council would inform the Chairman of the Committee for Development Planning that, during the discussions, the Council had felt that the Committee, at its resumed twenty-first session, should continue to pay particular attention to the economic problems facing Africa and report thereon to the Council at its second regular session of 1985.

Draft decision V was adopted (decision 1985/108).

9. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that his delegation was opposed to increasing the number of meetings of the Committee for Development Planning, and had therefore abstained during the vote on Council resolution 1984/83. His delegation had none the less joined the consensus on draft decision V because it had no financial implications.

DRAFT DECISION VI

10. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out the text of a new draft decision VI, by which the Council, recalling its decision 1984/183 of 27 July 1984 and having considered the note by the Secretariat (E/1985/L.13) regarding the change of venue of the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, decided, without prejudice to paragraph 4 (f) of General Assembly resolution 31/140, that the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa and eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers should be held at the headquarters of the Commission at Addis Ababa.

11. Mr. WORKU (Observer for Ethiopia) recalled that his Government had warmly welcomed the decision to establish the headquarters of the Econom-

ic Commission for Africa in Ethiopia. It was for the ECA member States to decide the venue of their meetings; Governments could not interfere in such decisions but had to do everything possible to facilitate the success of such meetings. The Ethiopian Government had never raised and would never raise difficulties in that respect, and its African brothers would never have to ask for permission to meet at Addis Ababa. The Ethiopian Government pledged all possible assistance to facilitate the scheduled meetings and took full responsibility for guaranteeing the safety of all participants, from their arrival to their departure. In the eyes of the Ethiopian Government and people, they were already welcome.

Draft decision VI, as read out, was adopted (decision 1985/109).

12. Mr. LEE (Canada) welcomed the decision which had just been adopted as it was in keeping with the spirit of economy that should govern the use of the limited resources of ECA.

DRAFT DECISION VII (VI IN E/1985/L.18)

Draft decision VII, entitled "Review of the functioning of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination", was adopted (decision 1985/107).

13. The PRESIDENT informed members of the Council that, in keeping with the provisions for the negotiation of an agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to make the latter a specialized agency in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter of the United Nations, and in accordance with Council resolution 1983/105, he was holding consultations with the chairmen of the regional groups regarding the nomination, from among the member States of the Council, of the members of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies. He asked the chairmen of the interested regional groups to transmit to him as soon as possible the names of the States they were nominating.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1985 and 1986 (concluded) (E/1985/1 and Add.1, E/1985/L.16 and Corr.1, E/1985/L.17, E/1985/L.19)

14. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions contained in document E/1985/L.19, as revised, proposed by the President on behalf of the Bureau of the Council, on the basis of informal consultations relating to the basic programme of work of the Council for 1985 and 1986 contained in documents E/1985/1 and Add.1, and on the draft decisions contained in documents E/1985/L.16 and Corr.1 and E/1985/L.17. He announced that Belgium and Italy had joined the sponsors of the draft decision in the latter document.

15. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) pointed out that in paragraph 2 (a) of document E/1985/L.19, a typographical error in the French version should be rectified by replacing the figure "14" by "15" in the fourth line and the figure "15" by "16" in the fifth line. She then read out the

amendments that had been made to draft decision as it appeared in the document, namely:

The following new subparagraph (b) should be inserted in paragraph 2:

"(b) To hold, during a meeting of its first regular session on 8 or 9 May 1985, a solemn commemorative ceremony in the light of General Assembly resolution 39/114, and bearing in mind the continuing relevance of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its emphasis on the importance of international co-operation towards peace, security and development and of fundamental human rights and the dignity of the human person and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion;"

Former subparagraph (b) then became subparagraph (c).

In paragraph 3, item 4 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985 had been revised to read: "Review of the immediate and longer-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa and the follow-up of the response by the international community and the United Nations system".

The bracketed entry under item 14—"Countries stricken by desertification and drought"—had been deleted. A new item 22, entitled "Countries stricken by desertification and drought", had been included and former item 22 had accordingly become 23.

In paragraph 4, new subparagraphs (b) and (c) had been inserted:

"(b) To give priority consideration at its second regular session of 1985 to the question of the review of the immediate and longer-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa and the follow-up of the response by the international community and the United Nations system, and to take up at its first regular session of 1985 the question of a second priority issue for its second regular session of 1985;

"(c) To inscribe an item entitled 'Countries stricken by desertification and drought' on the agenda of its second regular session of 1985, and further decides to consider this item at the same time as the item entitled 'International co-operation on the environment'";

Former subparagraphs (e), (f), (g) and (h) would become subparagraphs (d), (e), (f) and (g) in the revised text. New subparagraph (g) had been amended by the addition of the phrase "in even years" at the end.

16. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council approved the inclusion of a new item 22 (Countries stricken by desertification and drought) in the provisional agenda for its second regular session of 1985 and suggested that it should be considered at the same time as item 14 (International co-operation on the environment).

It was so decided (decision 1985/102).

17. The PRESIDENT, by way of an annotation to the item entitled "Food problems" of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985 of the Council, said that, in conformity with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 3404 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes submitted an annual report to the Economic and Social Council. It would adopt its tenth annual report, for 1984, at its nineteenth session, in May 1985. It should, in addition, recom-

mend an estimated total for contributions to the World Food Programme for 1987–1988. The Committee was also to consider the conclusions of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the Director-General of FAO on the work of the special joint United Nations/FAO team for the World Food Programme. The report of the nineteenth session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes would, exceptionally, be made available to the Council.

18. He proposed that document E/1985/L.19 be considered paragraph by paragraph.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 3 AND 5 TO 9

*Paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 9, as orally revised, were adopted.**

PARAGRAPH 4

*Paragraphs 4 (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h), as orally revised, were adopted.***

19. Mr. SEIF EL-NASR (Observer for Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the latter was in favour of keeping paragraph 4 (c) unrevised, as it appeared in document E/1985/L.19.

20. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) opposed the retention of paragraph 4 (c) and requested a vote on the text in question.

*Paragraph 4 (c) of document E/1985/L.19, unrevised, was retained by 36 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.***

21. Mr. GEZER (Turkey), speaking in explanation of vote, said that he had voted in favour of paragraph 4 (c) of document E/1985/L.19, but nevertheless wished to draw attention to the explanations of vote given by the Turkish delegation on 14 December 1984 in the Second Committee of the General Assembly when the draft resolution entitled "Activities of the United Nations system in support of economic co-operation among developing countries" (General Assembly resolution 39/216) was adopted.

22. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) said he had voted against paragraph 4 (c) of document E/1985/L.19. The United States was not a party to the Caracas Programme of Action, and his delegation considered that there was no need for detailed discussion of the question of interregional co-operation in order to promote and support activities related to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, which were not of common interest to all regions. The executive secretaries had shown a remarkable lack of imagination in the proposals which they had submitted to the Council.

23. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had voted in favour of paragraph 4 (c) of document E/1985/L.19, since it was drafted in terms previously adopted by consensus by the Council and by the General Assembly. It would, however, be necessary, in accordance with paragraph 1 (h) of Council resolution 1982/50, to pay more attention in future to the interests of all regions. It would be particularly useful to consider at some future session the question of economic and commercial co-operation between States with different economic systems.

24. Mr. STEBELSKI (Poland) associated himself with the remarks of the representative of the Soviet Union.

25. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said he had abstained from the vote on paragraph 4 (c) of document E/1985/L.19 because the text mentioned the Caracas Programme of Action, to which his country, although in favour of economic co-operation among developing countries, was not a party.

26. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) said that the explanation of vote made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany applied equally to his own delegation.

27. Mr. LEE (Canada) said he had abstained from the vote on paragraph 4 (c) of document E/1985/L.19 for three reasons. The Government of Canada had always been convinced of the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and had always defended the principle of such co-operation, but the text proposed had not taken into account the fact that the joint recommendations of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions had failed to receive the general endorsement of Council members. Secondly, it was for the developing countries themselves to ensure material support for technical co-operation. Finally, the Caracas Programme of Action was not an agreement concluded by the States Members of the United Nations, and related only to a particular group of countries.

28. Mr. ZUCCONI (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the countries of the European Economic Community with reference to item 9, entitled "University for Peace", of the provisional agenda for the Council's first regular session of 1985, recalled that when the General Assembly had adopted resolution 35/55, the countries of the European Economic Community had stated that they associated themselves with the consensus on the understanding that the funding for that university, which was not a United Nations body, would be provided exclusively through voluntary contributions. Attention should also be drawn to what had been said by the Legal Counsel during the informal consultations.

29. Concerning item 22 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985, "Countries stricken by desertification and drought", the countries of the European Economic Community accepted that that question should be discussed, in view of the circumstances, but remained firmly wedded to the principle of the rationalization of work and were against proliferation of agenda items.

30. In conclusion, it would be very desirable to have a report on the most recent (Yaoundé, December 1984) of the three international symposia organized under United Nations auspices on the mobilization of private savings in developing countries. Such a report, even if it gave only a very abbreviated account of the results of that meeting, would assist in the consideration of item 3 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session and would underline the considerable efforts made by developing countries in private savings.

31. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) welcomed the Council's agreement, at her delegation's suggestion, to include in the provisional agenda for its first regular session of 1985 the question entitled "University for Peace". She thanked all the delega-

*See decision 1985/101.

tions which had supported that proposal, or which had not raised objections or opposed it, despite their reservations. When that question was examined in detail, the necessary arrangements would be made to satisfy everyone.

32. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said it was regrettable, with regard to item 3 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985, that the supplement to *World Economic Survey 1984*, dealing with economic co-operation among developing countries, had not yet been published. He wished to know the reason and wanted to be certain that the 1985 supplement would appear simultaneously with the *Survey* itself, and at the appropriate time.

33. Mr. YOLAH (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) explained that the publication of the supplement to *World Economic Survey 1984* referred to by the representative of Bangladesh had been delayed as a result of unavoidable technical difficulties, but that the document would appear very soon. Where the 1985 supplement was concerned, measures had been taken to prevent the delay from recurring.

34. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the statement by the Observer for Italy regarding the usefulness of a report on the third symposium on private savings, recalled that to date such reports had not been considered within the framework of the subject-matter of item 3 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985, but within the framework of the item "Public administration and finance", which was item 14 on the provisional agenda for the first regular session. Established practice should be followed.

35. The PRESIDENT said that no proposal along the lines of the observations made by the representative of the USSR had as yet been submitted to the Council.

36. Mr. LEE (Canada) said he was pleased that the question of the immediate and longer-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa had been included in the agenda. He hoped that the debates would not be a simple repetition of what had already been said, but would concentrate on action to be taken.

37. Mr. BA (Senegal) said that his delegation, too, was concerned with rationalizing the work of the Council. It had always worked in that direction, whether in the Council or in the Second Committee of the General Assembly, and that was precisely why it had agreed that the question of countries stricken by desertification and drought should be considered at the same time as other agenda items.

38. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Resumed session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade

39. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the text of a draft decision prepared by the Bureau, on the basis of informal consultations under agenda item 4, for consideration by the Council.

40. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council), referring to the sixth paragraph of the text of the draft decision, said that, as far as consideration of future arrangements for the work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade was concerned, the Bureau's intention was to consider them in May 1985.

41. Mr. ORLANDO (United States) requested confirmation that the draft decision proposed by the President on behalf of the Bureau had no financial implications.

42. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) confirmed that the proposed draft decision had no financial implications.

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1985/103).

43. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that while he was not opposed to adopting the draft decision proposed by the President, he nevertheless had reservations concerning the impact of that decision on the work of the first regular session and its implications for consideration of the implementation of the International Development Strategy.

44. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and Poland, endorsed the text just adopted. It was important that the report of the Secretary-General should focus on the assessment of the implementation of the International Development Strategy from the point of view of achieving its goals and objectives, particularly on the reasons hampering their realization. That endeavour should, however, also engage the attention of the Committee itself, which should attempt to find a way of overcoming the difficulties that existed in that regard, and keep in mind the spirit of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The aforementioned delegations, for their part, were ready to participate constructively in the work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Strategy. In their view, the document submitted by the Group of 77 (A/39/48, annex I) remained a good basis for that work.

45. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 4.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1985 and other organizational matters (E/1985/L.19)

*The provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1985, as contained in document E/1985/L.19, was adopted.***

46. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of item 6 of the agenda.

Closure of the session

47. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 10.40 p.m.

RECONVENED SESSION

6th meeting

Friday, 22 March 1985, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.6

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*concluded*)

LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 1985 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (E/1985/59)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had arranged the reconvening of the organizational session for 1985 following the receipt of the letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the President (E/1985/59), which the Council had before it. He suggested that the matter should be considered under agenda item 2. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to that suggestion.

It was so decided.

2. The PRESIDENT recalled that in February, by decision 1985/109, the Council had decided, without prejudice to paragraph 4 (f) of General Assembly resolution 31/140, that the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission should be held at the headquarters of the Commission at Addis Ababa.

3. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania had decided to offer to act as host to the meeting at Arusha in April 1985, in accordance with the terms of section I, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 31/140, on the pattern of conferences. He therefore proposed to the Council the text of a draft decision:

“The Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 1985/109 and taking note of the offer subsequently made by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (E/1985/59) to act as host to the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission in accordance with the terms of paragraph 5 of section I of General Assembly resolution 31/140, decides that the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission, shall be held at Arusha in April 1985, in accordance

with the terms of paragraph 5 of section I of Assembly resolution 31/140.”

4. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

It was so decided (decision 1985/112).

5. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) requested the Secretariat, once the dates were known, to ascertain for illustrative purposes the additional costs that would be incurred as a result of the decision just adopted.

6. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) expressed doubts about the propriety of asking a Government which was defraying the costs of a meeting how much it was disbursing. Moreover, even if that were an appropriate procedure, there were practical difficulties in calculating the dollar cost, since frequently expenditures were in local currency and at other times in the form of contributions in kind or the provision of services.

7. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) said that he had put the question because in February it had been stated that the additional costs might amount to \$250,000. If at that time, when it had been expected that the Organization would bear the entire cost, it had been possible to estimate them even though some of them would be in local currency, he failed to see the difficulty of so doing in the current instance. There was absolutely no question of intervening in the internal affairs of the Tanzanian Government; it was simply a matter of obtaining, for illustrative purposes, cost estimates which might be of use when similar situations were considered in the future.

8. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, although General Assembly resolution 31/140, section I, paragraph 4 (f), was perfectly clear about the procedure to be followed in the case of meetings financed from the regular budget, the same was not true of the provisions of paragraph 5 of the same section of that resolution. He asked whether an express decision by the Council or by the Assembly was necessary, or whether such a decision could be dispensed with.

9. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that whenever an invitation had been received from a Government in the past, it had been necessary to adopt an appropriate decision.

10. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he still had doubts, since General Assembly resolution 31/140, section I, paragraph 5, provided that “United Nations bodies may hold

sessions away from their established headquarters". In his opinion, it was not clearly stated whether the decision should be taken by the body concerned, by the Economic and Social Council or by the General Assembly.

11. Mr. LEE (Canada) asked whether the decision just adopted would have the effect of maintaining the economies achieved as a result of the decision adopted in February. If it would do so, he urged that the funds should be used to provide relief in the emergency situation in Africa.

12. Mr. MOUSOURIS (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that, as a result of Council decision 1985/109, the amount of \$250,000 for the Economic Commission for Africa was no longer available, and that budgetary funds could not be used for extrabudgetary purposes without an express decision of the General Assembly.

13. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that the satisfaction expressed when the decision had been adopted in February had been prompted in part by the expectation that the funds saved would be used to alleviate the emergency situation in Africa. His delegation would be concerned if the money were to be spent in any other way. He asked by what procedure the Council might propose, suggest or urge, in an appropriate manner, that the money in question should go to relieve the emergency situation in Africa.

14. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Canada and proposed that the Council, at the right time and in the proper form, should express its desire that the money should be allocated to relief operations in Africa.

15. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) supported the statements of the representatives of Canada and Sweden.

16. The PRESIDENT said that, since the members of the Council apparently agreed that the savings realized should be used to relieve the emergency situation in Africa, he wished to propose that the matter should be considered at the second regular session of 1985 in the context of the critical economic situation in Africa. At that time, the Council's wish might be taken into account and put into a more concrete form.

17. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that Africa was undoubtedly in need of assistance from the international community, and the Soviet Union had participated actively in the provision of such assistance. However, what a num-

ber of speakers had just proposed was based on feelings of solidarity. Although his delegation shared those feelings, it realized that there was a procedural problem, namely, whether the Council could, on the basis of those feelings, allocate funds from the regular budget for purposes not provided for in that budget. Did the Council have the necessary mandate to proceed in that way?

18. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that the Economic and Social Council lacked the mandate to use budgetary funds for purposes other than those they were intended for. All it could do was to formulate recommendations in that regard to the General Assembly, whose business it was to take the necessary decisions.

19. Mr. FAREED (Observer for Pakistan) said that the decision to hold a meeting in the United Republic of Tanzania had already been adopted and the Government of that country had agreed to defray the additional costs. Consequently, the question of savings was not relevant in the current instance.

20. Moreover, a decision having been taken, it was impossible to impose conditions retroactively. Lastly, the savings, if there were any, should be added to the general funds of the Organization. The Council was discussing a non-existent issue.

21. The PRESIDENT repeated that, in accordance with the wishes of the representative of Canada, the Council could examine the matter in specific terms at the second regular session of 1985.

22. Mr. LWENO (Observer for the United Republic of Tanzania) thanked the Economic and Social Council for the decision adopted.

23. Mr. KAZEMBE (Observer for Zambia) expressed agreement with the view that any savings made should be used to alleviate the critical situation in Africa.

24. Regarding the partial payment by the Government of the host country of the costs of meetings of the regional commissions held away from their respective headquarters, he considered that the decision just adopted by the Council should not set a precedent and that in future the United Nations should, as a rule, defray all the costs that arose in similar cases.

Closure of the reconvened organizational session

25. The PRESIDENT declared closed the reconvened organizational session.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1985

Summary records of the 7th to 27th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters,
New York, from 7 May to 2 July 1985

7th meeting

Tuesday, 7 May 1985, at 4.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.7

Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the first regular session of 1985 of the Economic and Social Council.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1985/30, E/1985/L.20/Rev.1, E/1985/L.22)

2. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the provisional agenda for the session as contained in document E/1985/30.

It was so decided.

3. The PRESIDENT said that, since the third session of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace had had to be resumed and had just completed its work, some last-minute adjustments had had to be made to the organization of the work of the session (E/1985/L.22) in order to ensure that the Commission's report could be issued and studied in good time. It being understood that the First (Economic) Committee and the Second (Social) Committee of the Council would have to approve their own schedules of work, he suggested that the schedule of work contained in the annex to document E/1985/L.22 should be amended accordingly.

4. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) informed the members of the Council that the Commission's report, which would be more than 60 pages in length, would not be available before Friday, 10 May. He therefore suggested that the Council should approve the proposed schedule of work for the first week only. Given the length of the report in question and its late submission, the Council would be unable to begin its consideration of item 5 (Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women:

Equality, Development and Peace) during the second week.

5. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the First (Economic) Committee would hold its first meeting on Wednesday, 8 May, at 3 p.m. and that the Second (Social) Committee would meet on Monday, 13 May, at 3 p.m. In accordance with established practice, during the consideration, in plenary, of item 2 (Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination), item 4 (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) and item 5, no meetings of the Second (Social) Committee would be scheduled. Similarly, in keeping with Council decision 1985/103, the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade would not meet at the same time as the First (Economic) Committee.

6. With regard to agenda item 19 (Elections and nominations), he stated that, in accordance with Council resolution 1982/67, the Commission on Transnational Corporations was to review, at its eleventh session, the mandate and the achievements after three years of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, with a view to deciding on the advisability of its continuation. He therefore suggested that the election of the members of the Working Group should be deferred to the second regular session of 1985 in order to take account of the recommendations thereon of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the report of which would be considered by the Council at that session.

7. Since the Council would consider the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1986 and 1987 at its second regular session of 1985, all matters relating to decisions on meetings to be held in those years should be deferred to the second regular session. The Council should, on the other hand, take any decisions on meetings to be held in 1985 at the current session. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the schedule

of work contained in document E/1985/L.22, as amended, including the suggestions he had made.

It was so decided.

8. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council), addressing the question of the control and limitation of documentation, said that, in spite of the Council's decisions on the matter, neither the Secretariat nor delegations had yet been able to reduce the volume of documentation. Requests for documents were, on the contrary, increasing. It was extremely rare for documents to be deleted from the Council's work programme or to be issued less frequently. There could be no question of the revitalization of the Council, in his view, as long as the Council's decisions on that matter and on the control and limitation of documentation were not taken seriously. The decision taken in its resolution 1982/50, to amend the Council's calendar of meetings by postponing its first regular session from April to May, did not seem to have had the anticipated result, namely, the timely distribution of the documents scheduled for consideration according to the Council's work programme. As it had been interpreted, that decision had allowed the bodies concerned to draw up the documents requested in a more leisurely manner or to hold their meetings later.

9. It should also be noted that the services available to the Council were used for meetings other than those scheduled three years in advance in the calendar of meetings of the Council, thereby prejudicing the effectiveness of its work. The resolve should therefore be made at the current session to take the Council's decisions on documentation and the rationalization of its work seriously. It would be pointless to adopt new decisions that did no more than repeat what had already been said. Rather, the decisions already taken should be implemented and, above all, there should be a change of attitude on the matter.

10. While it was true that, following the Council's recommendations, the work of the Second Committee of the General Assembly had been organized on a biennial basis, efforts should also be made to rationalize the work of the Third Committee of the Assembly, failing which it would be impossible to rationalize that of the Council itself.

11. The PRESIDENT said he hoped that due account would be taken of the remarks of the Secretary of the Council.

12. Mr. LEE (Canada) recalled that, with regard to the revitalization of the Council, at the Council's organizational session held in February 1985, his delegation had proposed, *inter alia*, that it should establish priorities among the questions to be considered at its first regular session. In that context, the coordinating role that the Council was supposed to play with regard to a number of questions considered by the United Nations, particularly in the field of human rights and social affairs, should be more clearly defined.

13. The Council's role as the leading organ with respect to the work programme of the United Nations in the economic and social fields and the field of human rights was laid down in Articles 62 and 63 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Council had itself considered the question several times, for example in its resolutions 1156 (XLI), 1623 (LI) and 1982/50. In the last of those resolutions, it had been decided that the Council would enhance its role in co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the economic and social sectors and that it would, in that context, consider, on a cross-sectoral basis, the activities and programmes of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in order to ensure that the work programmes of the United Nations and its agencies were compatible and mutually complementary.

14. His delegation felt that the Council's role as coordinator of activities in the field of human rights and social affairs should be enhanced and that, in order to accomplish that, the Council should act more decisively in guiding the work of its subsidiary bodies. It also felt that, in anticipation of each first regular session, a few priority issues should be selected which deserved the more particular attention of the Council and on which the Council would be able to make crucial and constructive recommendations. The selection could be made at the organizational session held at the beginning of each year on the basis of the substantive questions considered by the General Assembly. In the interest of the effectiveness of the Organization, he hoped that all delegations would give consideration to that question during the current session.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.

8th meeting

Wednesday, 8 May 1985, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.8

Solemn commemorative ceremony in view of General Assembly resolution 39/114 (Economic and Social Council decision 1985/101, para. 2 (b))

Statement by the President

1. The PRESIDENT said that on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, his thoughts went to all those who had suffered the consequences of the war, and to all the profound and complex causes of that tragedy. The international community had resolved never to repeat those errors, and to that end Member States had undertaken to ensure the full exercise of basic human rights, to settle their international disputes by peaceful means, to control and reduce nuclear and conventional weapons, and to promote the economic and social development of the developing countries.

2. In the preceding 40 years, noticeable progress had been made: per capita income, life expectancy and literacy had increased. Many peoples had obtained their independence, and a third world war had been avoided. However, the realities of the world were not yet in keeping with the hopes placed in the United Nations by its founders, as demonstrated by the many armed conflicts, the violations of human rights in some parts of the world, the arms race, and the vast regions of poverty and misery, for example in Africa. Faced with that situation, the international community had the responsibility to maintain international peace and security, and the major Powers had to activate their dialogue in order to overcome their differences.

3. The United Nations, of which the Economic and Social Council was one of the most important components, had been born out of the ruins and devastation of the Second World War, and was an indispensable instrument of international co-operation which should seek to bequeath to coming generations a better world.

On the proposal of the President, the members of the Economic and Social Council observed a minute of silence as part of the solemn commemorative ceremony in view of General Assembly resolution 39/114.

Statement by the Secretary-General

4. The SECRETARY-GENERAL paid a tribute to the millions who had participated heroically 40 years earlier in the struggle against nazism and fascism and had contributed to the restoration of human dignity. He said that the best way to honour their memory was to renew the determination that such atrocities would never occur again.

5. There were notable differences between the world of 1945 and the contemporary world. The continent of Europe, which had been a spectacle of ruin and devastation, was now a monument to the resilience of the human spirit and the blessings of peace. The countries of Asia and Africa, most of

which had then been in colonial bondage, were now sovereign members of the international community. The hopes of the world after the Second World War had culminated in the United Nations, and a truly global civilization had been born.

6. On the other hand, mistrust and suspicion now separated the great Powers, which had been allies 40 years earlier, and the prospects of peace in 1945 had given way to disillusion. The fear of nuclear Armageddon had been unknown 40 years earlier; it was now a pervasive burden on the human mind.

7. After the Second World War, the founders of the United Nations had formulated the essentials of peace in the Preamble to the Charter and in Article 1 thereof. To the framers of the Charter, justice and international law, the self-determination of peoples, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all had appeared not as abstractions, but as the prerequisites for an international order that could ensure peace and promote economic and social advancement.

8. The process of the preceding 40 years had confirmed the importance of the spirit of co-operation, especially among the permanent members of the Security Council, if the system of collective security was to become a political reality. Violations of human rights had the inevitable effect of destabilizing the political order. Only the universal protection of human rights could lead to the realization of the full meaning and purpose of the victory over nazism and fascism. In order to demonstrate their appreciation of that immutable truth, all States that had not yet done so should ratify or accede to or consider acceding to the covenants and conventions in the area of human rights, as proposed in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 39/114.

9. In the preceding 40 years, there had been considerable achievements: the world had been spared another global war, and, in contrast to the attitudes of the past, there now existed a far more widespread revulsion against war. That represented a positive and encouraging advance in the world's political culture. It was for the United Nations to translate that from the plane of spiritual conviction to that of the actual conduct of international affairs.

Statements by Member States

10. Mr. DOS SANTOS (Mozambique) said that the defeat of nazism and fascism was the best testimony of what men and women could accomplish when they pooled their sacrifices, resources and determination to defend the best of what they had in common. It was that philosophy that had inspired the establishment of the United Nations, which was a vivid expression of the victory over nazism and the best instrument to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and promote social progress.

11. The African continent had been one of the arenas of the Second World War. The African peoples had contributed to the downfall of the Axis

Powers. There had been African soldiers in the contingents of the Allied Forces in Europe, the Middle East and South-East Asia. About 3 million people had been recruited in Africa. Thousands of others had constructed fortifications, roads and airports. Their courage and endurance had made a valuable contribution to the liberation of Europe.

12. One would have thought that, at the end of the Second World War, all those who had participated in the struggle against nazism and fascism would have benefited from the victory. That, however, had not been the case. At the outbreak of the Second World War, most of the African countries had been in colonial bondage. At the end of the war, those with whom the African peoples had fought side by side had become enemies, impeding self-determination, freedom and independence. Africa had had to struggle to regain every inch from the claws of colonialism. The economic strategies and plans for the reconstruction of Europe and Japan had not been extended to Africa, which was now reaping the fruits of neglect: illiteracy, disease, malnutrition and hunger.

13. The international community had certainly come to the aid of Africa during the latest economic and food crisis. However, much remained to be done with respect to the development of the African continent and the developing world at large, and with respect to the establishment of an equitable basis for international economic relations.

14. The creation in 1963 of the Organization of African Unity, which had scored important victories in the struggle against all forms of colonialism, had represented the highest point in the patriotic conscience of Africa.

15. In celebrating the important anniversary of the victory over nazism and fascism, his delegation had in mind the peoples of Africa, Asia and other continents who had fought for freedom and still remained unfree. In particular, there were the Palestinians, who were being denied their legitimate national rights, and the people of Namibia, who were the victims of *apartheid*.

16. The commemoration of the end of the Second World War should constitute an opportunity to draw lessons for the present and the future, and to face honestly the fundamental challenges to the international community, one of which was the elimination of *apartheid* and all forms of racial discrimination and colonialism. Among the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations were the securing of dignity, equality and justice among human beings, and the promotion of peace, security and stability through independence and economic development for all nations. Time would tell whether the OAU, the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations had been able to observe and fulfil those principles and objectives.

17. Mr. AL-ANSI (Observer for Oman), speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, said that throughout its history, the United Nations had adopted many resolutions aimed at protecting international peace and security. Since December 1971, when the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2839 (XXVI) on measures to be taken against nazism and other ideologies and practices based on incitement to hatred and racial intolerance, that item had been on the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights, a subsidiary organ of the Economic and

Social Council. Since then, the scope of the item had been broadened in other resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 36/162 of 16 December 1981. The Commission on Human Rights had been dealing with the item since its thirty-eighth session, and, at its forty-first session, in 1985, it had adopted resolution 1985/31, some paragraphs of which were reflected in the agenda of the Council's current session.

18. The Council had met that day specifically in pursuance of paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 39/114, to devote the day to commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the victory over nazism and to remember that the United Nations had been created to defend the dignity and worth of the human person and to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. On such a day, it could only be hoped that those objectives would be achieved.

19. In some countries of Asia, the Second World War had continued to be felt months after the hostilities had ended in Europe, and Japan in particular had been the victim of atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Some peoples of Asia still continued to suffer from the consequences of that war, and a clear example of that was the Middle East, especially Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. The efforts of the United Nations in the struggle against fascism and against all racist practices and ideologies based on racial hatred deserved strong support, and his delegation therefore fully joined in the solemn commemoration of the end of the Second World War.

20. Mr. MUÑIZ (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American States, said that it was customarily reiterated, perhaps automatically, that the United Nations had been born at the end of the War in order to save, as stated in the Preamble to the Charter, "succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind". The date being commemorated offered an opportunity to re-examine the true meaning of those words and to become aware of the inescapable need to avoid any situation which could endanger international peace and security.

21. It was gratifying to note that at the end of the war, with the defeat of nazism and fascism, it had been possible to create at San Francisco a system which for 40 years had demonstrated its effectiveness and which had permitted the beginning of the recovery of a devastated world, thus inaugurating a period of international co-operation which had contributed to healing the wounds left by that conflagration. In that connection, it should be borne in mind that only the definitive elimination of the causes of a conflict would permit the development of friendly relations and co-operation between former adversaries. That was the best way of honouring the memory of those who had given their lives to preserve peace and freedom. In that connection, it was worth while remembering the words uttered a few days before by the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Köhl, who, referring to that great stage of reconstruction, had said that "the supreme goal of our political efforts" was "to make impossible any repetition of that systematic destruction of human life and dignity".

22. In that process, the United Nations had played a fundamental role. Without the system of collective

security created by it, the international community would have continued to be exposed to all forms of aggression and it would have been impossible to ensure respect for law in relations between States. Similarly, without the system of international co-operation created at San Francisco, the problems of underdevelopment would have manifested themselves in much more cruel forms. Thus the importance of the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter, the fulfilment of which would give impetus to the establishment of a more just international order, based on the sovereign equality of States, the settlement of disputes through peaceful means, the non-use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and non-intervention in affairs which were essentially within the internal jurisdiction of States.

23. Latin America had the honour of having participated with great distinction in the establishment and development of the United Nations. Of the 51 original Members, 20 had belonged to the Latin American region and had had the serious responsibility of encouraging a process which was the most important achievement of the United Nations: that of decolonization, a process which it was to be hoped would be finalized in the near future. At the same time, Latin America viewed with deep concern the fact that many of the causes which had led to great inequality in levels of development still remained, and that, despite the efforts made, continued to be manifested in daily situations of social and economic injustice, to the surmounting of which the Council must contribute.

24. Mr. BIERRING (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, said that for those States, united in a firm commitment to freedom, democracy, human rights, social justice and the rule of law, it was an honour to participate in the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the end of the most catastrophic war in the history of mankind. Even though the scars and the memories of that conflict were still with those who had suffered and had survived, its end, in May 1945, had also represented the end of one world and the beginning of a new one, based on co-operation rather than confrontation. Democracy had been reinforced and expanded, and the international community had been tripled with the emergence of new nation States.

25. Looking back over the past 40 years, one could not fail to recognize that, while there had been confrontations and conflicts, the repetition of a new world war had been avoided. Among the reasons for that achievement, a major one was undoubtedly the new system of international co-operation inaugurated by the United Nations. That raised hopes that the lessons of the past had been learned, but there should be no room for complacency. The capacity of the human person for good and for bad was without bounds. For that reason, on that day of commemoration, it was necessary to renew the promise to each other to pool human and material resources in a determined effort to use to the full the opportunities offered by the United Nations to improve the conditions of mankind. It was necessary to put an end to the arms race and to seek the peaceful settlement of disputes which divided peoples. It was necessary to seek the triumph of justice and to use the available international machinery for the economic and social development of all peoples and for

the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world. In that connection, the words written by Franklin D. Roosevelt on the last day of his life for a speech which he had intended to deliver at the San Francisco Conference remained relevant:

“The work, my friends, is peace: more than an end of this war—an end to the beginning of all wars. I ask you to keep your faith. The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with a strong and active faith”.

It was to be hoped that that same spirit would motivate all delegations participating in the current session of the Economic and Social Council.

26. Mr. GOLOB (Yugoslavia) said that the participation of Yugoslavia in the victory over fascism was recalled with pride and that that participation had been the result of the decision of the peoples and nationalities of Yugoslavia to fight against the yoke of foreign domination and to join forces with all allied countries that had been fighting nazism and fascism. Yugoslavia had thus placed itself among the nations of the anti-Hitler coalition and had fought for common goals and principles that had, in the end, been incorporated into the Charter of the United Nations. From the founding of that Organization, Yugoslavia had firmly committed itself to the struggle for human dignity and freedom, for democratization of international economic and political relations and against colonialism, foreign domination and the use of force.

27. Marshal Tito, one of the outstanding strategists of the Second World War, had imbued Yugoslavs with ideals of brotherhood and unity at home and independence and equality abroad. Those ideals remained the inspiration of Yugoslavs, who had made their independence and sovereignty a shining achievement which they were prepared to defend jealously and ceaselessly.

28. The war of liberation had cost Yugoslavia 1,700,000 human lives and constituted irrefutable proof that peoples, inspired by the ideals of independence and freedom and determined to defend them, could mould their own destiny and participate in forming the common destiny of mankind.

29. The victory over the ideology, system and practices of the Axis Powers, which had constituted the major enemy of all peoples and of progress, had resulted from the united effort of all nations, without distinction as to their political, ideological or religious beliefs. That victory of the peoples of the world over fascism had made possible the establishment of the United Nations and the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations. The new era thus inaugurated had produced the great anti-colonial revolution in which more than 100 countries had gained their independence. The policy of non-alignment was increasingly gaining influence, as were the activities of the Group of 77 developing countries. The right to peace, security, equality and equitable co-operation had been widely recognized, and the concept of the new international economic order and global negotiations had been established. The ideals of the common heritage of mankind and individual and collective human rights had been achieved, the use of force had been rejected, and interventionism and the arms race had been condemned. That period had also seen the

adoption of the Helsinki Final Act and the institution of the process of European security and co-operation.

30. The peoples living under the yoke of foreign domination, oppression and colonialism had seen in the defeat of nazism a victory for the forces of light, independence, peace, right and freedom; but in reality many of them, on virtually all continents, remained subjected to aggression and domination. Some peoples had not yet achieved independence and self-determination. *Apartheid*, the identical twin of nazism, was still untouched. Economic and political domination and exploitation were increasing and the division of the world into blocs was being enforced. The power to decide the fate of humanity was increasingly concentrated in the hands of the few, and new forms of warfare were being invented that were making it more and more difficult to contain the arms race.

31. However, as the late President Tito had said, future generations were going to measure countries and statesmen not by the devastating power of their armaments, but by the part they had taken in efforts to turn away from the path of self-annihilation and to channel human energy, wisdom and wealth into the service of security and prosperity for all countries.

32. Mr. DZIPANOW (Poland) said that he had the honour to address the Council as a representative of Poland and as a soldier of its People's Army and a veteran of the most atrocious war known to man.

33. The Polish people had been the first to offer armed resistance to the German onslaught in September 1939. In May 1945, after a total of 2,078 days of unremitting fighting, the Polish Army had had the honour of raising its white and red flag next to the Soviet flag in the capital of the Third Reich. In the first weeks of the war, close to a million Poles had faced the Germans in battle. The Poles as a people had never been defeated. In 1944, Polish armed combatants, both resistance units and regular army units, had numbered well over 800,000. Another half million Poles had served in the ranks of the Allied armies. By 9 May 1945, the Polish troops encircling the Third Reich had numbered 600,000 men, 400,000 of whom had fought on the eastern front and almost 200,000 on the western front. In April and May 1945, in Europe, the Poles had ranked as the fourth largest fighting force among the Allies. It was a matter of historical record that the Polish resistance in 1939 had offered the Western Allies a better chance to prepare themselves for action in the spring of 1940. On the western front, the Polish Armed Forces had distinguished themselves at Narvik and Tobruk, in the march to Rome through Monte Cassino and in the Normandy encirclement of the German Army at Falaise. On the eastern front, the main battlefield of the war, the People's Army, together with the Red Army of the Soviet Union, had distinguished itself at the Pomeranian ramparts and in the battle for Berlin.

34. Above all, however, the impact of the armed resistance of Polish guerrillas should not be forgotten. The underground resistance organization, comprising over a million members, had caused the Nazis to lose the equivalent of 12 to 14 combat divisions. In the Warsaw uprising against the Nazis in 1944, the inhabitants had resisted twice as long as had several Allied armies in 1940, despite the fact that every 24 hours of fighting had taken a toll of killed and wounded twice as high as that of a week of combat on

the western front in 1944–1945. The Poles had also taken part in guerrilla operations in 17 European countries, with separate Polish units operating in 13 of them.

35. Over 6 million Poles had perished in the war. Every day of the war had cost 3,000 lives. Millions of Poles and Polish Jews had died in concentration camps. Poland had lost 40 per cent of its national wealth and Warsaw had been razed. Yet the battle to save Poland from Hitler's goal of biological extinction had also been a relentless struggle against absolute evil and a starting-point on the road to a reborn nation. More than 600,000 sons of the Soviet Union had lost their lives on Polish soil, fighting side by side with the Polish people, and the sacrifice of their lives had led to the rebirth of Poland as a socialist nation within historically just frontiers.

36. The United Nations, which was also celebrating its fortieth anniversary in 1985, owed its existence to the Allied victory; its authority and effectiveness depended upon the allegiance of its Members to the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter and upon the full implementation of its resolutions and declarations. For a number of years, the United Nations, including the Economic and Social Council, had, with broad international support, been involved in the adoption of effective measures against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and other totalitarian and racist ideologies and practices based on intolerance, hatred and terror. The people of Poland recognized that the questioning of established frontiers and the spreading of racial prejudice and hatred were the modern-day version of the ideologies that had pushed mankind into the abyss of the Second World War, and they consequently stood persuaded that much remained to be done in that respect. Warsaw, levelled to the ground 40 years earlier, had recently been the scene of an appeal for peace, mutual tolerance and respect, non-interference and peaceful coexistence by the leaders of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty. Millions of Polish war veterans had associated themselves with the President of Poland, General Jaruzelski, when he had urged all the peoples of the world, regardless of their beliefs, religion, culture or occupation, to act to dispel the threat of a new war, reach understanding and restore the climate of co-operation and common sense so weakened by the forces of evil and fascism.

37. Mr. OTT (German Democratic Republic) said that the people of his country were observing the fortieth anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism and, at the same time, their own liberation from Nazi rule. They wished to convey their greetings and thanks to the liberators: to the Soviet people, who had had to bear the brunt of the war and had suffered the greatest losses, and to the peoples of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the other Allied countries. Their struggle had saved world civilization from Fascist barbarity by allowing humanity, freedom and human dignity to triumph, thus ushering in the longest period of peace known in Europe.

38. The people of the German Democratic Republic paid homage to the 20 million Soviet citizens and the other brave combatants of many other nations; to the heroes of Brest, Moscow, Leningrad and Stalingrad, the fighters of the Polish, Czechoslovak and Yugoslav liberation armies, the French and Italian resistance fighters, all the partisans and resistance fighters in other countries, and the anti-Fascists who

had continued the struggle in prisons and concentration camps. Among them from the start there had been Germans—communists and social democrats, trade unionists, Christians and Jews, liberal democrats and patriotic officers, workers and artists—who had fearlessly stood up against Hitler's fascism and had been its first victims.

39. In recent weeks, the German Democratic Republic had paid tribute to all the anti-Fascists of various political outlooks and religions, Jews, Christians and Muslims, who had died during the war. For their sake and that of all the victims and survivors of the concentration camps and the massacres at Buchenwald, Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrueck, Brandenburg, Ploetzensee, Dachau, Bergen-Belsen, Lidice and Oradour, there could be no reconciliation with SS murderers under any pretext whatsoever. Never could those crimes be forgotten or forgiven. The people and State of the German Democratic Republic had made those historical facts a constituent part of their moral position and their policies. Those who in their thinking had remained in the trenches of the Second World War and regarded the day of victory and liberation as a catastrophe, a disgrace and a failure were lost in their delusions. The eighth and ninth days of May symbolized the victory of sanity which had prompted the creation of a common front against fascism at the Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences, despite differences of opinion and interests, and had made peace possible in Europe. Those conferences furnished convincing proof that it was possible for States with different social systems to co-operate and that even the most complicated problems and conflicts could be solved when the legitimate security interests of all sides were taken into account and the necessary political will was brought to bear. Peace, security and co-operation were based upon adherence to the accords concluded by Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill, Truman and Attlee, the numerous bilateral treaties and the Helsinki Final Act. The key issue was the recognition of the inviolability of existing borders and of the principle of equal security for all States.

40. The most important lesson of the Allied co-operation 40 years earlier was that all peace-loving peoples must unite to prevent war before it started, since any new war would be a nuclear war, as the Head of State of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Honecker, had recently pointed out, and would involve mankind's self-destruction. There could thus be no more important task than to secure peace. The triumph of the anti-Hitler coalition, with its broad composition, nourished the hope that a world-wide coalition could be forged of all countries interested in preserving peace and preventing a nuclear catastrophe.

41. The German Democratic Republic supported all initiatives to promote dialogue and negotiations designed to safeguard peace, and all practical measures for bringing about disarmament. His country, whose position had an anti-Fascist, democratic and socialist basis, had eliminated all forms of militarism and expansionism in order to ensure that war would never again begin on German soil. His Government pursued a policy of peaceful coexistence, good-neighbourliness and constructive dialogue.

42. The commemoration of the victory must not be only an opportunity to recall historic events, but must also be a reminder of the obligation to oppose any attempt to resurrect fascism and the threat of

war. In that regard, the United Nations, which had been established after the triumph of the Allies in order to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, had a fundamental role to play in the maintenance of peace and the implementation of the right of all peoples to life.

43. It was hoped that the spirit present at the meeting of the armies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States on the River Elbe, which had recently been commemorated by veterans of the two countries and by anti-Fascist Germans, could serve as a source of inspiration for political action at the current time.

44. Mr. TSVETKOV (Bulgaria) said that the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism in the Second World War was an occasion to reflect on that tragedy in which 50 million persons had lost their lives and in which the peace-loving and democratic forces had entered into combat with the forces of aggression and obscurantism.

45. His delegation paid homage to all those who had given their lives in order to save the world from fascism and particularly to the Soviet people, who had borne the brunt of the struggle and had played a decisive role in it, to the Allies, who had contributed to the defeat of fascism, and to the Resistance fighters and those who had died in Nazi concentration camps and gas chambers.

46. The Bulgarian people, who had led the first massive uprising against fascism in 1923, had also contributed to the joint victory through its protracted resistance struggle and the tens of thousands of victims who had fought in the Resistance.

47. That victory was a landmark in world politics. The war had shown that countries with different social structures could unite to achieve a common objective, and the joint decisions taken at Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam in order to avert another military catastrophe and ensure lasting peace for mankind were proof of that.

48. Since the war, it had been possible to observe the results of that spirit of joint determination during the years of détente, which had opened new horizons for the concept of peaceful coexistence. Nevertheless, recently there had arisen dangerous tendencies based on the belief that armed confrontation was the most effective way to safeguard peace. The question of the prevention of nuclear war remained unresolved and the time had come, as had been the case with regard to Fascist aggression, for the good sense and feeling of responsibility on the part of the united peace-loving countries to prevail over the temptation to achieve military supremacy in order to avert a thermonuclear catastrophe, and to devote all energy to solve the innumerable problems which continued to confront mankind and which could be alleviated through constructive co-operation.

49. It was important not to forget the danger of the alarming resurgence of fascism, which, instigated by the forces of social and political revanchism, took advantage of international tensions in order to achieve its own ends. The commemoration could serve as the starting-point of a United Nations effort to broaden its activities against the dangerous manifestations of fascism and neo-fascism and to orient its work along those lines in political, social, humanitarian and cultural fields.

50. The international community must combine its efforts in order to create a political atmosphere for

preventing a resurgence of fascism and hatred, thus saving current and future generations from the scourge of war.

51. Mr. TROYANOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism being celebrated throughout the world and, specifically, in the United Nations, which had been established as a result of that victory, he had the honour to speak not only on behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, but also on behalf of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, whose long-suffering peoples had contributed so much to the defeat of fascism.

52. The Second World War, which had caused 50 million deaths, 20 million of which had been Russian, had been the bloodiest in the history of mankind. His delegation wished to take the opportunity to pay homage to those who had fallen on the battlefield and to those who had died in Nazi concentration camps. It also wished to express gratitude to the armies of the Allied countries and emphasize, in particular, the role played by the troops of the Central European countries which had participated in the conflict, and the valiant struggle of the members of the Resistance. The contribution of the Soviet Union to the victory had without doubt been decisive, as Roosevelt, Churchill, de Gaulle and many others had clearly recognized.

53. Speaking of the past should serve not only to commemorate the victory and recall to mind the victims of the war, but also to draw from that experience two lessons which were still valid: the need to struggle against war before it began, and the importance of working together to maintain peace, as those who had defeated fascism and laid the foundations for peace through the establishment of the United Nations, which was the culmination of the joint efforts to promote peace, had worked together, although belonging to different social systems.

54. The joint victory had been achieved because fascism had been recognized by all as a general danger. At the current time, nuclear war represented a threat to all.

55. The General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mr. Gorbachev, had recently stated that his country would spare no effort to prevent a repetition of the tragedy of the Second World War, halt the arms race and avert the threat of nuclear war. The efforts of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty, which were ready to resume the process of détente in order to prevent the division of the world into two blocs and which favoured the simultaneous dissolution of the two major military alliances as a first step towards mutual understanding and co-operation, were oriented along those same lines. Furthermore, the Soviet Union supported the role of the United Nations as an important international forum for uniting the forces which favoured peace and security.

56. Mr. MARINESCU (Romania) said that the Romanian people were commemorating on 9 May the fortieth anniversary of the defeat of fascism and, at the same time, the day of their independence, which had been the culmination of their centuries-old struggle for freedom.

57. The Romanian people had made a decisive contribution to the defeat of fascism. Even before the war, the Communist Party of Romania had orga-

nized large-scale activities in the struggle against fascism, and the working class had later fiercely opposed the anti-national policy pursued by certain governmental circles. During the war, the Communist Party of Romania had organized and directed numerous acts of sabotage, which had culminated in the anti-Fascist, anti-imperialist and social and national liberation revolution of August 1944.

58. Having rid itself of Fascist domination, Romania had joined the coalition of the allied nations and had struggled together with the Soviet Army, demonstrating that the Romanian people had nothing in common with those who had unleashed the war against the Soviet Union and that it shared the aspirations of the peoples who had opposed fascism. The President of Romania, Nicolae Ceauçescu, had stated that the heroic struggle and the sacrifices on the battlefield together with the Soviet soldiers in order to bring about the liberation of Romania and then Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Austria, culminating in the total defeat of Hitler, had demonstrated the true feelings of the Romanian people.

59. The participation of Romania in the struggle had been a great blow to Hitler's strategic plans and had facilitated the rapid advance of Soviet forces in that part of Europe. During the war, Romania had lost 170,000 men out of a total of 540,000. It was high on the list of countries that had contributed to the defeat of fascism.

60. The lack of unity and steadfastness among the anti-Fascist and anti-Hitler forces had permitted the outbreak of the world war, and the defeat of Hitler had, in turn, resulted from a great coalition. The best tribute that could be paid in that regard to those who had fallen in the fight against fascism was a policy of peace and international co-operation. The fundamental lesson of the Second World War was that peoples and countries which had different systems could co-operate among themselves if they subordinated their differences to the interest of preserving peace. At a time when the international situation had deteriorated to an unprecedented degree since the Second World War and when the existence of nuclear weapons threatened civilization and life itself on the planet, it was necessary for all States to redouble their efforts to halt the advance of the world towards a nuclear cataclysm and to resume the process of détente and co-operation.

61. Mr. HUANG (China) said that 40 years before, international fascism had started a global war that had devastated Europe, Asia and Africa and had affected 60 countries and nearly four fifths of the entire world population. The victory over fascism had been a victory of peace over war, of democracy over anti-democratic forces, of justice over evil and of civilization over barbarism.

62. During the Second World War, China had fought side by side with the other allied countries, had suffered heavy losses and had made great sacrifices, thus making indelible contributions to the struggle against fascism. That victory had also helped to put an end to imperialist oppression and to promote the struggle of colonies for their national independence and freedom.

63. There was a Chinese saying that past experience was a guide for the future. Valuable lessons could be drawn from that period of history. While there had not been a new world war, there had been regional conflicts, unrest in many parts of the world and

violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms guiding international relations. The arms race between the super-Powers, in particular, posed a grave threat to international peace and security. The peoples of the world were entitled to ask the two super-Powers to carry out arms reductions with sincerity and good sense.

64. The Government and people of China genuinely desired peace and consistently stood for disarmament, the reduction of conventional arms and the total prohibition and destruction of all nuclear weapons. The Government and people of China welcomed the resumption of the arms control talks between the United States and the Soviet Union and sincerely hoped that those talks would achieve positive results.

65. The situation in the developing countries, whose population made up three quarters of the world's total, constituted an important global problem with a bearing on the overall situation of the world. Nevertheless, the developed countries had not so far responded positively to that problem. His delegation hoped that there would be a return to the North-South dialogue and that the countries of the South would strengthen their co-operation in an effort to solve their own problems, especially in view of the increasingly obvious fact that the development of the countries of the third world was an important factor for peace throughout the world.

66. China, a developing socialist country, wished to establish and develop friendly relations with all countries on the basis of the fundamental principles of peaceful coexistence. In today's world, marked by tensions and pernicious conflicts, the international community had the historic duty to endeavour to safeguard world peace, promote the development and prosperity of all countries and base international relations on equality, mutual benefit, friendship and co-operation in order to build a better world. Those were the hopes which China brought to the solemn commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism and of the end of the Second World War.

67. Mr. GOODMAN (United States of America) said that even though much had been achieved since the victory in Europe and in the Pacific, there was no doubt that there was still a long way to go before the ideals expressed in the Charter of the United Nations could be converted into reality for the millions who still suffered under one form or another of fascism and totalitarianism.

68. The Second World War had brought great suffering to people everywhere, to participants in the fighting, to innocent victims, to the aggressors and to those who had ultimately succeeded in putting down aggression. The burdens of the war had not been confined to any nation; all had suffered its consequences. Far too many people still carried with them the physical and psychological scars of the conflict. However, it would be all too easy to dwell on that tragic episode, and nothing would be gained by adopting a backward-looking approach to the current commemorative ceremony. It would be better to consider the great progress made since the day on which, 40 years before, a curtain had been lowered and, as President Reagan had stated, "democracy and freedom and peace and friendship began between erstwhile enemies".

69. The achievements and benefits of post-war reconciliation and co-operation among the Western-oriented nations had been unmatched in world history. The growth of free societies, dedicated to pluralism, freely contested elections, genuine human rights and economic progress had been astounding. During the past 40 years, a third world war had been avoided, even though that had not meant the elimination of armed conflict and aggression. Perhaps most remarkable of all was the emergence of thriving democracies dedicated to individual liberty, free enterprise and human dignity in the very nations that had been defeated in the Second World War. That constituted an example for the peoples whose aspirations to that end were still unfulfilled. However, the democratic experiment remained a fragile exercise and needed constant dedication and support. In that respect, the recollection of the horror which had ended in 1945 and the knowledge that other horrors, perhaps comparable, continued to plague the small planet should be sufficient to ensure that the international community rededicated itself to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

70. The very fact that the European Community, represented in the Council, was an association of free and democratic nations which 40 years before had been at war with each other was a tribute to the great progress that had been made. Similarly, in the Far East, Japan had emerged from utter ruin to become a dominant economic power, innovative, dynamic and, above all, free and democratic. To the extent that the United States had contributed to the emergence of freedom and democracy where neither had existed before, it could only be proud of its efforts and the results achieved. Wars were never fought between nations which freely elected their leaders and which guaranteed human rights and the rule of law for their peoples.

71. That was why the international community should concentrate on the future and not allow itself to be consumed by the past. The horrors of the Second World War could not and should not be forgotten, but if a repetition of the terrible mistakes which had led to that war was to be avoided, it was necessary to work to ensure that true democracy flourished everywhere. A world which needed no walls to keep the people in, which respected the rights and dignity of peoples everywhere, and which ensured that nations were governed by the rule of law was a world in which the tragedy that had ended in 1945 would not be repeated. The task was difficult, but much had been achieved since then.

72. Mr. LEE (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, pointed out that all three countries had contributed wholeheartedly and vigorously to the struggle in many parts of the world during the Second World War and had sustained great losses. Yet their resolve to defend freedom and democratic values remained undiminished. The same could be said of many other countries which had taken part actively in the fight against aggression and prejudice during the world conflict which had caused millions of casualties and brought tragedy to countless persons.

73. Yet, out of the ashes and the devastation of that war, a determination had been forged that had animated the successful efforts to date to avoid a similar or worse catastrophe. That same determination had been at the root of the establishment of the United Nations with its aims and ideals and with its

persistent search, over 40 years, for peace and disarmament, its significant steps towards peace-keeping and peace-making, its practical programmes of economic and social development and co-operation, and its progressive establishment of enlightened norms of human rights and international law.

74. On the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, while the Organization pressed forward with its efforts in those and other important areas of human endeavour, it had to avoid recrimination and denigration, mustering instead all the qualities of peaceful co-operation and mutual encouragement learned from that most destructive of all wars, and thus helping to overcome the barriers of the past.

75. Mr. BUCCI (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the countries members of the European Economic Community, said that, in the Second World War, human dignity and conscience had confronted an implacable and destructive totalitarian system and that what had been at stake was freedom. Victory had resulted from the sacrifice and heroic determination of many nations, and the international community should pay tribute to all the victims of those terrible years.

76. On the other hand, the struggles and sufferings of the European nations and the horrors of one of the cruelest wars in the history of man had undermined rabid patriotism and myopic and selfish nationalism on the European continent, thus making possible the creation of the European Economic Community. The ten States members of the European Economic Community, joined together by deep bonds of friendship and by their faith in freedom, democracy and human rights, underscored the close link between the last world conflict and European integration. The thirty-fifth anniversary of the historic speech of Robert Schuman in which the French Government had proposed the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community fell on 9 May; that proposal, as had been pointed out by Walther Hallstein, the then Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, had led not only to the establishment of new economic ties but also to the creation of a supranational European community. The process of European unification was the major politico-economic event of the post-war period and the major contribution of the past 40 years to world peace. Current relations among the ten countries of the European Economic Community were such that the two world conflicts mentioned in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations were considered in Europe as two devastating fratricidal wars which had made the new spirit that animated Europe possible.

77. The members of the European Economic Community had, by their active participation and their confidence in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, evidenced their will to overcome the remaining sources of friction among the two major world blocs and to initiate a new, more constructive phase in relations among the nations of the continent. It was consequently indispensable to respect the ten principles of the Helsinki Final Act. The new European spirit was also reflected in the relations of the ten member countries with other

continents and especially in their support for negotiation and a search for peaceful solutions, producing neither victors nor vanquished, to the problems of regions in crisis such as the Middle East, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, South Africa and Central America.

78. In addition to contributing to stabilization and peace in Europe and the world, the European Economic Community was promoting its own economic and social progress and that of other nations, especially the developing countries. It represented for all countries of the world the best exponent of freedom and total respect for human rights, and on the basis of those principles the community had now been expanded by the admission of two new members.

79. Despite the difficulties involved in the process of economic integration and in the establishment of political co-operation, the European Economic Community had not isolated itself but rather had remained open to the developing countries. In the economic field, it should be noted that the Community had participated actively in the latest series of GATT negotiations on commodities and in the more than 200 agreements on economic and trade co-operation concluded with more than 120 countries, especially the three Lomé Conventions, the latest of which, concluded on 8 December 1984, linked the Community with 65 developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, representing a total of 370 million persons.

80. The European Community was the main trading partner of the developing countries and in 1983 had provided almost 45 per cent of official development assistance. The least developed countries were the recipients of 40 per cent of Community exports.

81. With regard to the Community's contribution to the social and humanitarian advancement of peoples, attention should be called to the rise of free trade unions in Europe after the world war, the great victories in defence of workers' rights, the progress made with regard to the family, equal rights for women, social legislation and practice and, above all, in the field of civil and political rights. All those factors had allowed the countries members of the European Economic Community to play an important role in elaborating, within the United Nations, instruments promoting human rights and international co-operation favouring social progress and greater freedom.

82. However, the ten countries members of the European Economic Community believed that nations must remain on guard against totalitarian systems which prevented individuals from enjoying their civil, political and human rights and expressing themselves freely in a democratic system. Consequently, inspired by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and as part of their contribution towards making them effective, they reiterated their strong condemnation of ideologies that were out of step with history or that stood condemned by it and of all forms of totalitarianism and intolerance wherever they existed.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.

9th meeting

Wednesday, 8 May 1985, at 4.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.9

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)* (E/1985/30, E/1985/L.20/Rev.1, E/1985/L.22)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the schedule of work proposed for plenary meetings for the first regular session of 1985, as orally revised (E/1985/L.22).

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Non-governmental organizations (E/1985/19 and Corr.1)

2. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations), presenting the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1985/19 and Corr.1) which had met from 11 to 22 March 1985, drew special attention to the draft decisions contained in section I of the report.

3. Notwithstanding the efforts made and the support given by the Secretariat, the Committee had been unable to reach agreement on all the applications before it. Of 105 applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations, the Committee had approved 48, denied 7, deferred consideration of 6 because of inability to reach consensus and had been unable to consider 23.

4. Owing to lack of time, the Committee had been unable to deal with item 4 of its agenda (Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in categories I and II). As the Committee would have some 315 quadrennial reports to consider in 1987 it would be necessary to schedule an additional week for its session.

5. With regard to the Committee's future activities (E/1985/19 and Corr.1, sect.V), various suggestions had been made with regard to the methods for rationalizing the consideration of applications.

6. In the deliberations of the subsidiary organs of the Council, consensus should always be the desired objective. However, when it was impossible to reach consensus—as had occurred recently during consideration of the rules of procedure of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held at Nairobi—it was vain to persist and was best to try to find an intelligent compromise. It was in just that sort of case that the rules of procedure should be referred to.

* Resumed from the 7th meeting.

7. Finally, it was important that information should be accurate and she stressed that it would be useful if the Department of Public Information would take duly into consideration the statements made by a Chairman speaking on behalf of his or her delegation. With regard to the press, particularly the press accredited to the United Nations, it should at least indicate the name and nationality of the Chairman of an organ and consult him prior to disseminating ironical comments on any particular incident occurring during a meeting, in order to get the facts straight.

8. Miss ATTWOOD (United Kingdom) expressed concern at what appeared to be a growing tendency for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to refuse to approve applications for consultative status from organizations or groups working in the human rights field. Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, in which the provisions relating to consultations with non-governmental organizations were defined, made specific mention of those organizations as being among those which should be granted consultative status. It was therefore particularly regrettable that the Committee had had to defer a decision on applications from such organizations because of the objections of one or two countries. The fact that the Committee operated by consensus should not prevent it from awarding consultative status to organizations that met fully the requirements of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). Moreover, since one of the purposes of the United Nations was to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, her delegation could not but deplore the denial of status to such organizations. While the Committee had generally operated by consensus in the past, there would be grounds for reconsidering the tradition if it continued to be abused.

9. So far as organizations with members in South Africa were concerned, the Committee must carefully observe the existing guidelines. Clearly a non-governmental organization which supported *apartheid* could not be awarded consultative status; many of the organizations involved were not political organizations. They were technical organizations and they could make a very useful contribution to the United Nations system. The Committee must concern itself primarily with that and must ensure that the organizations satisfied the other criteria. It had not been possible to consider in depth the question of the streamlining of the Committee's work. That issue should be given urgent thought so that the Committee could do its work more effectively.

10. Mr. SCOTT (United States of America) said that the contribution of the non-governmental organizations to multilateral co-operation was not only valuable but essential. Those organizations not only provided fresh ideas and technical assistance to the United Nations system but they also provided the necessary bridge between what was said in the Organization and what had to be done in the field.

Their grass-roots support was vital as had been demonstrated again with the mobilization of international assistance for Africa. The role of the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations was therefore vital. Because of that, his delegation was extremely concerned to see that some countries engaged in political bickering to the detriment of the Committee's real work. That had resulted in numerous delays in considering applications for consultative status and increasingly heavy workloads at each successive session.

11. Since Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) was the foundation for the Committee's work it was regrettable to see some delegations introduce political considerations into the discussion of whether a non-governmental organization qualified for status. The United States, for its part, would continue to ask three questions when evaluating non-governmental organizations: Was the organization truly non-governmental? Could it contribute to the work of the United Nations system? If so, what status should it be accorded?

12. In that regard, he expressed regret at the fact that the Committee had been unable to grant consultative status to certain human rights organizations, such as the Lawyers' Committee for International Human Rights, the Minority Rights Group and the International Rescue Committee on the grounds that their activities, particularly in Eastern European countries, constituted interference in the internal affairs of States, according to some delegations.

13. Despite the criticism levelled by some non-governmental organizations against the United States

Government, his delegation continued to feel that all human rights organizations should be accorded consultative status provided that they were even-handed and that they could contribute to the work of the United Nations. It would continue to oppose any attempt to link the criteria for the admission of a non-governmental organization to that organization's political stand as long as that stand was not inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

14. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands), referring to the Committee's decision to defer consideration of the application by the Lawyers' Committee for International Human Rights and other similar organizations to its 1987 session, said that he had been forced to conclude that the non-governmental organizations which had built a sound reputation in the field of human rights were being systematically opposed on political grounds. The rule of consensus certainly had its uses. However, it should not be used to exclude non-governmental organizations which, despite all the difficulties they encountered, continued to remind Governments of their obligations and what they had promised. By acting as spokesmen for public opinion, they drew the attention of the United Nations system to the critical situation that existed in the field of human rights. The decisions which had been taken regarding those organizations could not but be deplored.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

10th meeting

Thursday, 9 May 1985, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.10

Applications for hearings by non-governmental organizations (E/1985/73)

1. The PRESIDENT called the attention of the Council to the recommendations of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, contained in its report, concerning applications from non-governmental organizations in category I for hearings (E/1985/73, para. 2).

2. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council decided to hear the non-governmental organizations recommended by the Committee.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Non-governmental organizations (*continued*) (E/1985/19 and Corr.1)

3. Mrs. WIENER (Director, World Federation of United Nations Associations), speaking on behalf of the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, expressed to the Council

the Board's serious concern at certain trends which had recently crept into the deliberations of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. The inclusion of strictly political considerations which could not be said truly to affect the consultative process unnecessarily burdened the work of the Committee and often prevented the United Nations from benefiting from the expertise and co-operation of organizations that had a specific contribution to make within the context of paragraph 14 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). On occasions when the Committee failed to abide by the spirit and letter of that resolution, non-governmental organizations which had over the years demonstrated support and advocacy for the Charter and programmes of the United Nations were sometimes subjected to discriminatory treatment. It seemed a paradox that, while resolutions of various United Nations bodies were increasingly calling upon non-governmental organizations for every type of assistance, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was not accorded higher priority. Since the Council and the non-governmental organizations wanted the consultative relationship to be more effective, it was to be hoped that the Council would

find ways to facilitate and expedite the work of the Committee.

4. The General Assembly of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations, to be held in September, would have as its theme "NGOs and the United Nations—Together for a better world", and would be devoted to the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations. The 1985 Biennial Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations would, for its part, focus on the theme "United Nations—Peace and security—Public opinion attitudes".

5. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France) said that her country attached great importance to the contribution of the non-governmental organizations to United Nations activities. However, it should be recognized that at recent sessions of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, certain positions had been taken which, if not quickly rectified, could paralyse the work of the Committee.

6. Chief among the causes of the Committee's current difficulties was the excessive number of reports submitted for its consideration. In 1987, the Committee would have to examine more than 300 applications for consultative status, which was obviously impossible in the time available.

7. In addition, the Committee had strayed from the principles which, in accordance with the provisions of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), should guide consultations with non-governmental organizations and the work of the Committee itself. Obviously, if a non-governmental organization met the conditions referred to in parts I, II and III of that resolution, valid and substantive reasons must be given for the denial of its application for consultative status in either category. That was not always the case, and political considerations of a national character often appeared to prevail, which harmed the public image of the United Nations. She also questioned the validity of working methods which allowed meetings of the Committee to become interminable debates on questions of procedure, with the result that the Committee pronounced neither in favour of nor against granting consultative status and opted to defer consideration of the question without giving valid reasons for doing so.

8. In order to prevent further deterioration of the situation, it was necessary first to reduce the number of reports from non-governmental organizations submitted for consideration by the Committee at each session. In that connection, the suggestion contained in the Committee's report (E/1985/19 and Corr.1, para. 26) that priority should be given to the consideration of applications from non-governmental organizations that had been in existence for more than four years seemed to be a good one. Consideration might also be given to a method of classification for the use of non-governmental organizations that would allow the Committee to work more efficiently, on the basis of a more rational programme and with clear priorities.

9. The Committee should, above all, use strictly objective criteria when it was considering applications from non-governmental organizations and abide faithfully by the principles of resolution 1296 (XLIV). Relevant clarifications of a basically technical nature might be submitted on the lines of models already successfully used in other organizations of the United Nations system. In that regard, the Secretariat could perhaps undertake a comparative

study on how the systems for admitting non-governmental organizations functioned in the specialized agencies.

10. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that at the preceding session of the Council and at the current session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had been criticized because, although it had approved the applications of many organizations, especially Western organizations, it had also criticized several organizations for failing to abide by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations or to conform to the relevant criteria. Specifically, the Committee had not recognized the International Police Association; dissatisfaction had been expressed at the working methods which allowed such a decision to be taken.

11. In that regard, his delegation wished to place on record that it had already had occasion to express its opinion that non-governmental organizations promoted international co-operation and made positive contributions in many respects, for example, in the improvement of social conditions, the struggle against *apartheid*, the advancement of women, the denunciation of human rights violations, the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and efforts to combat the threat of nuclear war.

12. Nevertheless, his delegation could not overlook the fact that after many years the entire system of non-governmental organizations was still unbalanced because the overwhelming majority of them represented only one geographical region and one particular social and political system. The organizations from socialist or developing countries which had been granted consultative status could be counted on the fingers of one hand. That situation was intolerable, and it was the duty of the Economic and Social Council and the non-governmental organizations themselves to redress the imbalance. The Committee itself had already examined the problem and had adopted appropriate measures.

13. Some delegations, however, instead of facing that basic problem, criticized the Committee for having stated that certain non-governmental organizations were not acting in accordance with the principles of the Charter because they engaged in activities that involved slandering some States and defending others. Those delegations had even tried to change the Committee's decision-making procedures and had criticized the fact that its methods of work were based on the principle of consensus. Those same delegations, without the slightest regard for consistency, had found it unacceptable that the Committee should not approve the applications for consultative status of certain non-governmental organizations related to them, but, because of the opposition of a single Western delegation, had agreed that such status should be denied to the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, which had the support of many delegations. That Western delegation had invoked precisely the principle of consensus to oppose the application of the Buddhist Conference. The same had occurred in the case of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, which, despite its importance, had the disadvantage of not being in the specific geographical and political region to which most non-governmental organizations belonged. It was clear that the ultimate goal was to prevent the non-governmental organizations as a group from being balanced and genuinely representative of the principles laid down in the Charter.

14. Rather than criticize the Committee's methods of work, his delegation preferred to point to the need to examine the politicized and unilateral position of certain delegations. The work being done by the Committee was, on the whole, useful, even though some mistakes had been made and there was still no proper annual review of the activities of the organizations, as provided for in the Committee's mandate. He hoped that the situation would be rectified at the next session, when there was expected to be an in-depth review of the activities of the organizations and their objectives.

15. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had managed to ensure that most of the organizations approved were organizations which really engaged in activities that met the objectives and principles of the Charter, contributed to international co-operation and facilitated the solution of the major problems dealt with in the Economic and Social Council. His delegation therefore categorically rejected any attempt to change the Committee's methods of work and insisted that such important humanitarian organizations as the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization and the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace should be granted consultative status.

16. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica), speaking in her capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, said that inasmuch as, in 1985, the review of about 40 quadrennial reports had been deferred, some 240 were expected to be submitted in 1986, and between 30 and 35 in 1987. In 1987, more than 300 quadrennial reports on the activities of organizations already in consultative status would have to be reviewed. She therefore suggested that the 1987 session should be extended so that the Committee would meet for three weeks instead of two.

17. The PRESIDENT announced that the general debate on the item concerning non-governmental organizations had been concluded and invited the Council to consider the recommendations in section I of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1985/19 and Corr.1). He suggested, in that connection, that the following subparagraph (a) should be added to draft decision I, entitled "Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations": "(a) To take note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1985/19 and Corr.1)". The former subparagraphs (a) and (b) would then become subparagraphs (b) and (c).

18. Mr. AL-MERDAS (Saudi Arabia) said that the rule concerning the distribution of documents in all the working languages two weeks in advance had not been followed because the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had not been distributed in Arabic. His delegation could not agree to the adoption of a decision the text of which it had not read in its own language, and therefore suggested that the consideration of the item and the adoption of the draft decision should be deferred until the document was available in Arabic.

19. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) apologized for the delay and explained that he had had reason to believe that the document would be available in Arabic. Under the circumstances, he asked the Council to honour the request of the

representative of Saudi Arabia to defer consideration of the item until the text was available in all the languages.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1985/16)

20. Mr. JONAH (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Co-ordination of Activities relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) stressed the importance that the Secretary-General attached to the co-ordination of activities for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and said that regular contacts had been maintained in that regard with Governments, various bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and with specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations. The reports presented orally by the 14 representatives of various United Nations bodies showed the broad range of activities undertaken within the United Nations to combat *apartheid* as a spontaneous response to the injustice of racism and as a demonstration of the growing tendency to condemn that phenomenon.

21. In addition to the report currently before the Council (E/1985/16), another document (E/1985/16/Add.1) containing the reports of FAO, UNESCO and WHO, as well as reports from five non-governmental organizations, would be issued. Document E/1984/34/Add.3 contained an analysis of the replies received from Costa Rica and the United Republic of Tanzania and another document containing the replies of Czechoslovakia, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar and Suriname would be issued at a later date.

22. One of the main objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 38/14, was to change the attitudes of those who still supported racism and racial discrimination and to urge others to join, in a forthright manner, in the struggle against *apartheid*, the most extreme form of racial discrimination. In spite of difficulties and set-backs, the successful conclusion of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had made it possible to re-establish the consensus reached at the beginning of the first Decade, in 1973. That consensus had been maintained at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly and on that basis numerous consultations designed to broaden support for the objectives of the Second Decade had been undertaken. At the current time, there were signs of a change in attitude among those who had refused to support the first Decade. The Secretary-General, through his Special Representative, had indicated at the end of the debate on that item at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly that he was planning a media round-table meeting to explore international legal issues relating to *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination and intended to do everything possible to ensure the success of the Second Decade.

23. The historic events which the international community was witnessing in South Africa and other parts of the world gave rise to hope and expectation,

although tempered by the suffering of the people of South Africa, and a growing feeling of revulsion against *apartheid*. In some cases, that had brought about a change in policy, and in others only a shift in tactics. Nevertheless, in all cases there had been a great outcry demanding a radical change in the policy of *apartheid*. It was the hope of the Secretary-General that the international community would act prudently in order to ensure that nothing detracted from the growing consensus and that the momentum that was gathering in the struggle against *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination would be maintained.

24. Mr. OUDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, said that the item under consideration was of particular importance for the Special Committee. The victory over fascism, the fortieth anniversary of which was currently being commemorated by the international community, had also been a victory over the policy and doctrine of racism. Nevertheless, racism and racial discrimination still continued to exist in parts of the world, such as South Africa, where the most abhorrent form of racism, *apartheid*, was practised. The United Nations, which had emerged from the war against nazism and fascism, must do everything possible to eliminate *apartheid*. It was to be hoped that the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism would help promote public awareness of the magnitude of the tragedy of that war. The fact that 1985 was also the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should also serve to strengthen the international commitment to complete the work of decolonization.

25. The Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, adopted at the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, called upon all States to implement strictly the mandatory arms embargo imposed against South Africa and to sever all links with that régime. It also called upon the Security Council to consider urgently the imposition of mandatory economic and other sanctions against South Africa and urged the international community to provide greater support to the front-line States and all States that were subjected to continuous acts of aggression by the South African régime.

26. The consistent condemnation by the United Nations of *apartheid* and the illegal occupation of Namibia had been ignored by the Pretoria régime, which had refused to heed calls for the elimination of *apartheid* and to implement the Security Council resolutions on Namibian independence. It was therefore necessary to give serious consideration to the imposition of mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, as recommended by the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and the General Assembly, and to the cessation of all collaboration with the Pretoria régime.

27. The *apartheid* régime's recent acts of repression and brutality and its ploy of establishing a so-called transitional Government in Namibia constituted blatant defiance of United Nations decisions. There was no doubt that such defiance would not have been possible without the aid of certain Western States which, while paying lip-service to the struggle against

apartheid, were in reality protecting the racist régime. The Special Committee against *Apartheid* hoped that all peoples of the world would exert their influence to persuade those States to change their policies and cooperate in international action for the elimination of *apartheid*.

28. The latest events in South Africa and Namibia made it more urgent than ever to take action. Possible steps could be the adoption of sanctions against South Africa under the Charter of the United Nations and increasing assistance to victims of *apartheid*. The Council might also keep under consideration any links between non-governmental organizations and South Africa when it reviewed the periodic reports of organizations in consultative status.

29. He drew attention to the regrettable fact that a representative of the racist régime of South Africa had been admitted to the most recent meeting of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva, and expressed the hope that appropriate steps would be taken to ensure that there was no recurrence of such a blunder.

30. The Special Committee stood ready to co-operate fully with all organs and bodies of the United Nations in their efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*.

31. Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that with the adoption by consensus of the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session,¹ the international community had renewed its determination to combat racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. The Nordic countries would participate constructively in implementing the plan.

32. Although the problem of *apartheid* was the single most important issue in the struggle against racism, the plan of activities dealt also with the serious problems of minorities, indigenous peoples and migrant workers, who were often victims of racial discrimination and discriminatory policies.

33. With regard to the action taken by the Nordic States to combat racial discrimination in their countries, their legal frameworks guaranteed equality without distinction of any kind and their Governments were endeavouring to eliminate intolerance and discrimination, and to meet the challenge raised by the arrival of large numbers of migrant workers by promoting understanding, tolerance and mutual respect and emphasizing education, teaching and information.

34. The Nordic countries had stated time and again that the *apartheid* policy of South Africa was the single most important and urgent issue in the struggle against racism and they were convinced that the international community, particularly through the United Nations, must bring increased pressure to bear on South Africa by adopting mandatory economic sanctions and make the existing arms embargo more effective.

35. On the basis of a joint programme of action against South Africa adopted by the Nordic Ministers for Foreign Affairs in 1978, the Nordic countries had adopted, and would continue to adopt, concrete measures to bring pressure to bear on South Africa; the measures were aimed at discouraging investments

¹See A/39/167-E/1984/33 and Add. 1 and 2.

in South Africa, discontinuing contacts in the fields of sports and culture and increasing aid to victims of *apartheid* and to liberation movements.

36. The Nordic countries had participated in a number of the activities described in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1985/16). They had taken special interest in the activities of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and in the drafting of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families.

37. The Nordic countries believed, further, that the Council should urge Member States to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa established during the first Decade to Combat Ra-

cism and Racial Discrimination, in view of the important role that Fund could play.

38. The Nordic countries supported the proposal made by Mr. Jonah, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Co-ordination of Activities relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, regarding the convening in Europe later in 1985 of a media round-table meeting on international law and *apartheid*. They also supported his proposal to convene an informal meeting of the United Nations bodies which administered programmes relating to the goals of the Decade, before each session of the Economic and Social Council, because the resulting exchange of views would probably be of great value to those bodies and to the Council in carrying out their tasks.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

11th meeting

Friday, 10 May 1985, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.11

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1985/16)

1. Mrs. KUROKOCHI (Japan) said that the proclamation by consensus, at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and the determination shown by the international community at the thirty-ninth session to eradicate racism had not prevented the continuation of racial discrimination in parts of the world. In South Africa, especially, the institutionalized nature of such discrimination strictly regimented every aspect of the life of the majority of the population and had even caused great loss of life.

2. Her delegation added its voice to the appeals that had been made, especially in the Security Council in March, to the South African Government to end the violence and repression against the black people and other opponents of *apartheid* and to take urgent measures to eliminate *apartheid*.

3. The Japanese people, who knew from experience what it meant to be subjected to racial discrimination, found *apartheid* abhorrent and strongly objected to the violation of human rights which it involved. Her Government had participated in the international humanitarian and educational efforts of the various United Nations funds and programmes, as a way of expressing its solidarity with the people of South Africa, and with a view to alleviating their suffering and inducing the régime to abandon *apartheid*. The international community, without slacking in its efforts to apply pressure to the South African Government, should lend its support to progressive and non-violent movements whose

activities were consistent with the principles of the Charter, as it had done in 1984 with the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Desmond M. Tutu.

4. Her delegation welcomed the work done by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Jonah, aimed at co-ordinating the activities of the various United Nations organs and thus ensuring that those activities were as effective as possible. Japan looked forward to receiving information on the important long-range educational and public information campaigns, at the national and international levels, in the area of basic human rights. In order to instill an early awareness of the evils of racial prejudice, activities directed at the young should be emphasized. The main objective of the regional and interregional seminars should be to promote tolerance and harmony among different ethnic groups. Every effort should be made to avoid unnecessary repetition of the discussions or activities of other forums. Reference should be made, in that connection, to the excellent ongoing arrangements for the seminar on community relations commissions and their functions (E/1985/16, para. 6). It was imperative for the international community to redouble its collective effort during the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It could rely on Japan's unreserved support in that process.

5. Mr. LINDGREN (Brazil) referred to the importance of the struggle against racism in the context of the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Aware and proud of the mixture of races and cultures that constituted the basis of its society, Brazil considered racial discrimination, especially the so-called "separate development" of *apartheid*, to be an offence to the very seeds of its nationhood. His delegation praised the work performed by the United Nations in that area and was mindful of the threat to

peace posed by *apartheid*. Since the tragic events that had taken place at Crossroads in March 1985, violence in South Africa and the consequent popular unrest had not ceased to grow. As had been pointed out by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Co-ordination of Activities relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, in the past few weeks condemnation of the South African régime, which was denying the majority of the population the most elementary rights, had increased and had gathered unprecedented momentum. The report submitted by the Secretary-General (E/1985/16) showed that the activities contemplated for the Second Decade corresponded, in broad lines, to the expectations of the international community. However, much still remained to be done before the objectives of the Decade were attained.

6. Mr. TANASA (Romania) said that despite General Assembly resolution 38/14, in which the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was proclaimed, and the Programme of Action for the Second Decade drawn up by the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was approved, racist practices continued and were tolerated and even encouraged by those who benefited from them.

7. Romania, which firmly condemned all forms of racism and supported the peoples struggling against it, believed that it was imperative for the international community to redouble its efforts throughout the Second Decade to implement the Programme of Action, especially with regard to the brutal and blatant racism of the Pretoria régime. The latter's intransigence had brought untold human suffering and constituted a chronic cause of tension and strife in the region.

8. The resolutions on *apartheid* adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly reaffirmed the responsibility of the international community to help eradicate a system which could not be reformed and was universally condemned. Measures to combat *apartheid* were particularly important at a time when repression had been intensified, when the so-called "constitutional proposals" were clearly aimed solely at undermining the unity of the peoples oppressed by the Pretoria régime, and when the illegal occupation of Namibia and South Africa's acts of aggression against neighbouring countries were making a bad situation even worse.

9. Romania reiterated its solidarity with the peoples of Africa who were struggling to eliminate colonialism, defend their national independence and advance on the path of economic and social progress. It extended its full support to the people of Namibia, who, under the leadership of SWAPO, were struggling for their independence and for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

10. His delegation considered it important to stress the need to include, among the actions to combat racism, economic, political, social and cultural measures aimed at removing inequalities in employment, nutrition, health, housing and education. A free flow of information on efforts to implement the objectives of the Second Decade was also important. Within the framework of the International Youth Year, in 1985 it would also be useful to stress the importance of educating the younger generation to live in a spirit of

peace, understanding and mutual respect, and to reject racism and racial discrimination.

11. His delegation felt that the United Nations must continue, through the adoption of resolutions providing for effective measures, to help bring about conditions that would enable the peoples of southern Africa to put an end to racial discrimination and determine freely their own future.

12. Mr. POLOWCZYK (Poland) said that the Polish people, who, together with other nations, had been the victims of Nazi racism, believed that there could not be lasting peace or a just international political and economic order until fascism, colonialism, *apartheid* and foreign domination disappeared from the earth. For that reason, the appearance of neo-Fascist and neo-racist attitudes and activities in any part of the world was cause for profound concern for the Polish people. The moral dimension of the Second World War was the basis of Poland's outright rejection of efforts to forget the differences between the victims and their murderers, particularly the Gestapo, the SS and other troops of the Nazi army.

13. In spite of the virtually universal condemnation of the South African régime and its supporters, certain imperialist circles, with the support of their Governments, continued to provide to South Africa the assistance which it required in order to survive and sought to prevent the names of the criminal racists and those who supported them from appearing in United Nations documents.

14. As a result of all that, many United Nations resolutions, such as Security Council resolution 418 (1977) concerning military and nuclear co-operation with South Africa, were ignored, and the illegal occupation of Namibia, in violation of resolutions of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, was continuing. With regard to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, the Security Council should also look into the racial situation in the occupied Arab territories.

15. The recent mass demonstrations, the other acts of just protest and the numerous deaths of black citizens rendered invalid the argument for appeasement which had been put forward with such persistence by one delegation in the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the Third Committee. Nevertheless, the United States, which, because of its history of racial conflict, should identify with the plight of the black population in South Africa, allowed economic, financial and other interests to take precedence over United Nations resolutions and over the right of the international community to expect the United States to promote the speedy ratification and implementation of the international instruments designed to eliminate racism and racial discrimination.

16. It was also necessary to put an end to social injustice and prohibit all neo-Fascist and racist organizations, war propaganda and the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or nationalistic chauvinism.

17. Racial discrimination had always been alien to the mentality of the Polish people, which had resulted in the fact that non-discrimination and racial equality were basic principles of the social system of Poland, laid down in its Constitution and protected by the Penal Code. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimina-

tion² had become an integral part of Poland's legal system, and, for that reason, there was no need for laws or administrative regulations in order to ensure its application in the country. In the struggle against colonialism and racial discrimination, Poland also supported and would continue to support all the liberation movements recognized by the United Nations and other international organizations. The Polish Government and non-governmental organizations sought to mobilize public opinion and cooperated with various academic institutions in publishing books and educational materials dealing with *apartheid* and racial discrimination.

18. His country, which considered that racism and racial discrimination were among the main causes of human suffering, attached great importance to the goals of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and would spare no effort to ensure their implementation, for the struggle against colonialism, oppression and the exploitation of peoples was one of the best ways to maintain peace and avert the threat of a nuclear war.

19. Mr. MARÍN-BOSCH (Mexico) said that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination required the determined efforts of the entire international community. Mexico, which supported all United Nations activities in that field, had therefore acceded to the main international instruments concerning the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, and faithfully applied the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as was demonstrated by its fifth periodic report submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 1984.

20. Mexico supported all the activities and measures referred to in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,¹ and hoped that other United Nations agencies and bodies, as well as the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, would also take a positive position in that regard.

21. Racial discrimination against migrant workers, which had at times been brutal, should also be kept in mind in that connection. For that reason, his country attached high priority to the drafting of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families, and urged all delegations interested in that question to participate actively in the meetings of the Working Group dealing with the matter.

22. In spite of the efforts of the United Nations, it had still not been possible to eliminate the crime of *apartheid*. Recent events in South Africa showed that it was impossible to reform that system and that it therefore must be abolished. His country fully supported resolution 560 (1985) adopted by the Security Council in March and urged it to adopt concrete measures and sanctions against that régime in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

23. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that his country supported the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Programme of Action approved by the General Assembly.

24. At the national level, Canada was currently reviewing the machinery set up during the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and was preparing new machinery. His country, which was very diverse ethnically and racially, had always shown great interest in questions concerning racism and all types of discrimination, which were expressly prohibited under article 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

25. At the international level, his delegation, which participated in all United Nations activities in that area, supported the central co-ordinating role played by the Council with respect to the Second Decade.

26. While racism and racial discrimination were world problems, the policy of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa was their most serious manifestation. For that reason, his Government was firmly resolved to contribute to all international efforts aimed at eliminating that system. To that end, Canada was reviewing its policy towards South Africa, always bearing in mind that violence and repression were not viable solutions and that efforts must be made to bring about peaceful change.

27. Canada also participated in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and had recently organized in Quebec a seminar on the rights of minorities, which the Secretary-General of the United Nations had attended. All those activities were proof of Canada's sincere desire to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination, wherever they existed.

28. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) said it was regrettable that despite all the efforts of the United Nations and the international community, it had not been possible to eliminate racist practices and racial discrimination, which were among the most serious violations of human rights. It was also regrettable that while the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and of the victory in the Second World War was being celebrated, there was a resurgence in some countries of neo-Fascist and neo-Nazi groups and organizations, whose activities were intolerable.

29. On the question of *apartheid*, as a result of the combined efforts of the African peoples and pressure from the international community, the racist régime of South Africa had been obliged to introduce some changes in its policy of *apartheid*, which was not only the most abhorrent form of racial discrimination and a violation of human rights but also a threat to international peace and security. Nevertheless, those changes would fool no one because they were not intended to eliminate *apartheid*, but to prolong its life. It was necessary, in order to eradicate that evil, for the international community and the United Nations to intensify efforts for the adoption of concrete measures to increase the moral, political, economic and military support to the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia, and to implement effectively the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. All necessary measures must be adopted for the total isolation of the racist régime of South Africa, putting an end to the collaboration of some Western countries with it and to the activities of some transnational corporations which had contributed to prolonging the life of *apartheid*, thereby prolonging the suffering of the African population

²General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

and the violation of United Nations decisions and resolutions.

30. The Arab people in the occupied Arab territories, especially in Palestine, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, were also subjected to various forms of discrimination and the violation of their fundamental rights. Yugoslavia firmly condemned those practices.

31. Migrant workers, national ethnic minorities and indigenous populations were also exposed to discrimination and violations of their rights. For that reason, his delegation considered it essential to adopt an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families, in the elaboration of which it was participating, because it believed that that would contribute to improving the situation of minorities and promoting human rights in general and peace and security throughout the world.

32. As a non-aligned and socialist State, Yugoslavia was taking the necessary steps at the national and international levels to achieve the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, especially with respect to the eradication of *apartheid* and the liberation of the people of Namibia. To that end, it provided moral, political and material support to the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia. Similarly, Yugoslavia supported the liberation struggle being waged by the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and all activities aimed at achieving the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

33. Yugoslavia, which was a multinational State, had a special interest in the protection of the rights of national minorities, both within the country and in other States. For that reason, Yugoslavia had, some years before, submitted a proposal to the Commission on Human Rights for the adoption of a declaration on the rights of minorities and was currently actively working on the draft of a declaration.

34. Mr. GÖKTÜRK (Turkey) said that two years after the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action by the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the international community's concern about that problem was still fully justified because the racist régime of South Africa continued to apply its policy of *apartheid*, one of the most abominable forms of racial discrimination.

35. Turkey maintained no type of relations with South Africa and was firmly opposed to the illegal occupation of Namibia by that régime. It believed, in addition, that in order to eradicate the inhuman practices of *apartheid*, a concerted effort by all Member States was necessary. Turkey therefore found it regrettable that the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Second Decade had not been adopted by consensus.

36. While it was reasonable to focus attention on *apartheid*, there were other forms of racism and racial discrimination in various parts of the world which manifested themselves in different ways and which had a direct bearing on relations between States. Turkey, which supported all the objectives of the Decade, would continue to work actively for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action within the framework of its legislation and in accordance with the principles of its policy.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Non-governmental organizations (*concluded*) (E/1985/19)

DRAFT DECISION I

37. The PRESIDENT invited delegations to comment on draft decision I, entitled "Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations", contained in section I of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1985/19 and Corr.1), with the amendment that he had suggested at the preceding meeting, and on draft decisions II and III, also recommended by the Committee to the Council.

Draft decision I, as amended, was adopted (decision 1985/113).

DRAFT DECISION II

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 1985/114).

DRAFT DECISION III

Draft decision III was adopted (decision 1985/115).

38. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 8.

The meeting rose at noon.

12th meeting

Friday, 10 May 1985, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.12

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1985/16)

1. Mr. SAIDU (Nigeria) recalled that the United Nations had been born as a result of the struggle of all peace-loving and democratic forces against fascism and nazism and that the lessons of that struggle must remain engraved in the memory of mankind. For years, the United Nations had been combating racism and racial discrimination on every front and by every means. However, certain parts of the world were seeing a resurgence of totalitarian doctrines and ideologies based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror. Those manifestations not only threatened the enjoyment of human rights and freedoms but also constituted a grave threat to international peace and security and national independence.

2. The most dangerous and abhorrent of those ideologies was the policy of *apartheid* of the racist South African régime. That evil system was also being extended to Namibia; the Namibian people continued to suffer under the yoke of colonialism and attempts were being made to deprive the African people of all their rights. The atrocities committed by the régime were comparable to those committed by the Hitlerite fascist régime. In that connection, the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights had concluded in a report (E/CN.4/1984/8) that the criminal effects of *apartheid* amounted to a policy bordering on genocide. Urgent action must be taken in order to set up an international penal tribunal. The *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts had included in its report a summary of comments on the draft statutes of such a court. The report contained useful guidelines for the efforts to be undertaken during the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

3. His delegation welcomed the measures outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/16) that had been undertaken or that were planned in order to achieve the objectives of the Second Decade. It was also pleased to note the outbursts of indignation in some countries at the transnational corporations that continued to support the racist régime and that various groups were putting pressure on those corporations to encourage them to disinvest from South Africa. The time had come for the United Nations to implement the resolutions calling for complete and mandatory sanctions against the racist régime.

4. The recent repressive measures taken by South Africa against the black majority demonstrated clearly that neither peaceful means nor so-called "constructive engagement" were likely to convince South Africa to renounce its *apartheid* policy. Some States, which rejected the idea of armed struggle and advocated the use of peaceful means were, at the

same time, refusing to sever political, diplomatic and economic ties with the illegal South African régime. It should be remembered that most South Africans who had peacefully opposed the *apartheid* régime were currently being charged with treason. It should also be remembered that only recently, in Europe, violence had been countered not by peaceful means and patience but by fighting. Currently, the world was again faced with a formidable enemy and those same peace-loving forces, including blacks, who had united to defeat fascism must join together once again to eliminate *apartheid* forever.

5. Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand) said that, despite the progress which had been made, racism and racial discrimination continued to manifest themselves in various forms in several regions of the world; accordingly the international community could not relax its efforts. The launching of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had provided Member States with an opportunity to reapply themselves to the task of eliminating those evils.

6. New Zealand was made up of people from many backgrounds and the principle of racial equality based on mutual respect and co-operation underpinned the society. New Zealand was therefore vigorously opposed to racism whatever its form and wherever it occurred, especially to the most glaring example, *apartheid*, and it was working in the United Nations to eliminate that system which was an affront to the dignity of mankind. It had severed all diplomatic ties with South Africa and was endeavouring to discourage all sporting contacts with that country.

7. The elimination of racial discrimination deserved high priority both at the national and at the international level. The launching of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was of major significance. He welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of a plan of activities for the first half of that Decade and thanked the Secretary-General for his detailed report, prepared in pursuance of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 39/16, on the activities undertaken or contemplated to help achieve its objectives.

8. With regard to the activities of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, he recalled that New Zealand had been pleased at the start of the year to receive a visit from the Chairman of the Special Committee during which he had had talks with the Prime Minister and senior officials as well as with representatives of non-governmental organizations combating *apartheid*. A mission from the Special Committee's Task Force on Women and Children under *Apartheid* had also visited New Zealand at the end of 1984.

9. Finally, he expressed the hope that the spirit of good will and compromise which had prevailed at the adoption of the decision concerning the Second Decade would continue to be evident during the implementation of activities to combat racism and

racial discrimination. New Zealand, for its part, would continue to give its full support to the objectives of the Decade.

10. Mr. WIJewardane (Sri Lanka) welcomed the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and noted that the programme must now be implemented in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. Sri Lanka, for its part, subscribed to the principles of the Charter and abided by the provisions of the many human rights covenants, conventions and other international instruments to which it was a party. In that connection, he urged Member States which had not yet done so to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. *Apartheid* was the most serious violation of human rights and Sri Lanka unreservedly condemned that evil which was being perpetuated by a minority racist régime which oppressed the majority on the basis of their racial and ethnic origin.

11. In its Constitution, Sri Lanka affirmed the basic principles relating to fundamental human rights, the dignity and value of the human person, equal rights for men and women and for nations large and small, that were enshrined in the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations. In Sri Lanka, any human rights violation was punishable by law and the victim of such a violation could seek remedy in the courts; the independence and integrity of the courts were guaranteed under the Constitution. In the United Nations, Sri Lanka's position on *apartheid* was well known; his country had been repeatedly commended for its efforts and for its spirit of co-operation in the implementation of measures to combat racism and racial discrimination. Even in the field of sports, Sri Lanka had distinguished itself, sacrificing its own interests to the struggle against *apartheid*, and it had not hesitated to take sanctions against a group of cricketers who had played exhibition matches in South Africa.

12. Sri Lanka was a unitary State which comprised many races, languages and cultures; all citizens were treated equally, without distinction as to colour, religion, language or birth. Sri Lanka sought to develop the full physical and intellectual potential of its citizens. Free health services were available to Sri Lankans, and an ambitious food-stamp programme currently existed for underprivileged groups. Given that education and information were important factors in the development of its citizens' potential, Sri Lanka was proud of the fact that 85 per cent of the population had access to the national radio and television network. Several newspapers had a wide circulation throughout the country and reflected every shade of opinion; no government control was exercised over those which were privately owned.

13. The Government and non-governmental organizations played an important role in both urban and rural areas in the dissemination of knowledge and education. In that connection, tribute should be paid to the Centre for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in Sri Lanka which infused children from their earliest years with moral and ethical principles that allowed them to live lives free from hatred and prejudice.

14. Since 1959, a curriculum study centre had been responsible for ensuring that the content of textbooks was totally free from any racist connotations. In

addition, teacher-training programmes had been set up to promote respect for human rights and racial equality at all levels. In recent years, the study of human rights had been included in school curricula.

15. Thus, nationally as well as internationally, Sri Lanka strictly followed the principles enshrined in the universal instruments on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. Unfortunately, certain elements sought to undermine the unity which characterized the Sri Lankan State and to establish a racist, mono-ethnic secessionist State by resorting to violence and terrorism. Surprisingly, that form of terrorism seemed to have the support of some self-styled champions of human rights who had accused Sri Lanka in various international forums of perpetuating racism and racial discrimination.

16. Mr. RAHIM (Bangladesh) said that, almost 40 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by General Assembly resolution 217 A(III), racism and racial discrimination continued to exist in various parts of the world; it was imperative that the international community should take concerted action to put an end to those heinous practices once and for all. Bangladesh attached great importance to the Council's deliberations on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

17. Article 28 of the Constitution of Bangladesh stipulated that the State should not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of race. Consistent with that principle, Bangladesh had in 1979 become a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It had recently acceded to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, the Slavery Convention of 1926 and the Protocol amending that Convention, and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery. His delegation firmly believed that the implementation of the provisions of those Conventions would ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on race or colour.

18. In southern Africa, the heinous policy of racial discrimination institutionalized under the *apartheid* system had been rightly described by the international community as a crime against humanity. That inhuman system denied political representation to the vast majority of the population and dispossessed millions of blacks who were subjected to Draconian laws, economic discrimination and repression. The policy of "bantustanization" and the alleged constitutional reforms designed to exclude the vast majority of the country's original inhabitants from the political system had no other goal but the perpetuation of the policy of *apartheid* by fraudulent means. The international community must therefore take steps immediately to compel South Africa to abandon its policy of sham reform and accept the principle of the equality of all its citizens, without distinction as to race or colour. To that end, Bangladesh believed that a concerted campaign was necessary to bring about the complete isolation of the *apartheid* régime in all spheres—diplomatic, political, economic, commercial, social and cultural—and that comprehensive and mandatory sanctions must be applied against South Africa as provided for under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

19. Among the international community's efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, he welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to co-ordinate activities concerning the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Bangladesh had also noted with satisfaction the activities of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, and hoped that the public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia, to be held in September 1985, would make it possible to identify concrete measures that could be taken by Governments and by inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies to bring about the eradication of the system of *apartheid*.

20. In conclusion, Bangladesh supported the seminar organized by the Centre for Human Rights, to be held in September 1985 at Geneva (see E/1985/16, paras. 8-11), and the convening in Europe during 1985 of a media round-table to explore international legal issues related to *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination, currently being prepared by the Secretary-General.

21. Mr. PERUGINI (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, said that the Ten had always categorically rejected all forms of racial discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin because they constituted an offence to human dignity and an inadmissible violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, they were incompatible with the principles of equality, justice and liberty.

22. The proclamation by the General Assembly of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination testified to the international community's determination to fight those scourges. The Ten were of the view that it was incumbent upon States to adopt constitutional and legislative measures for that purpose, and that education must play a fundamental role in the development of the principles of tolerance and respect for others.

23. While noting with regret that manifestations of racism and racial discrimination still occurred in varying forms, the Ten welcomed the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 of the Second Decade, which recognized that problems of racism and racial discrimination must be attacked at the local, national, regional and international levels; they also welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 39/16. In addition, the round-table on international legal issues related to *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination, scheduled to be held in Western Europe in 1985, would make a useful contribution to the goals of the Second Decade.

24. The States members of the European Economic Community also welcomed the decision to hold a seminar on community relations commissions at Geneva in September 1985, since those commissions had an important role to play in promoting the principles of non-discrimination and tolerance. Some States members of EEC would be sending experts to the seminar in response to the Secretary-General's invitation.

25. The Ten were deeply concerned by the escalation of violence in South Africa. They condemned the tragic events which had occurred at Crossroads and Uitenhage and rejected all discriminatory measures taken against the black population, which was

totally excluded from political life and granted no democratic means of expression. Only the complete elimination of *apartheid* could satisfy the legitimate claims of the majority of that country's population. For their part, the Ten had always advocated peaceful change in that direction and urged the Government of South Africa to commence without delay a constructive dialogue with the representatives of the black population. Furthermore, they would continue, individually and collectively, to exert pressure on the Government of South Africa with a view to the elimination of *apartheid*. Regrettably, the latest repressive measures which that Government had taken, and in particular the arrests of members of the United Democratic Front, were not of a nature to facilitate such a process.

26. Mr. POLICHTCHOUK (Observer for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the victory over fascism, the fortieth anniversary of which was currently being marked, had dealt a fatal blow to racism. The proclamation of the first and, later, the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, together with the adoption by the General Assembly of programmes of action and a considerable number of decisions aimed at the elimination of racism, colonialism and *apartheid*, had made it possible to mobilize the international community to achieve the objectives of the Decade.

27. For its part, the Ukrainian SSR continued to participate actively in the activities envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Decade, as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been informed, during its consideration of the eighth periodic report of the Ukrainian SSR, with regard to implementation of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. Moreover, the Ukrainian SSR was conducting significant measures at the international and national levels to condemn all forms of racism and racial discrimination and to support those peoples who were struggling against colonialism and oppression.

28. He deplored the fact that, despite the considerable number of international instruments condemning racism and the increasing numbers of States parties to those instruments, racism and racial discrimination continued to be a constant source of tension and international conflict. In that respect, the most abhorrent form of racism was undoubtedly the policy of *apartheid* pursued by the racist régime of Pretoria against the indigenous population of South Africa and the Namibian people. Violence and repression, together with acts of aggression against neighbouring independent African States, the growing military capability of South Africa and the desire of the racists to acquire nuclear weapons, created a situation in southern Africa which posed a serious threat to international peace and security.

29. The Western Powers, and particularly the United States, were directly responsible for that situation by giving the Republic of South Africa increasing economic, political, military and financial aid in violation of United Nations resolutions which described *apartheid* as a crime against humanity. The racist régime prospered and continued to carry out its criminal activities by virtue of the support which it received from the transnational corporations. For that reason, the Ukrainian SSR fully supported the

opinion expressed by the Group of Three appointed by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights that article III of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* should be applied to transnational corporations which operated in South Africa.

30. The problem of eliminating racial discrimination was not confined to southern Africa, since racism continued to manifest itself wherever vestiges of colonialism persisted. In that respect, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, where the Arab population was subjected to degrading treatment and acts of repression, could not fail to cause concern. Moreover, racism and racial discrimination were a daily occurrence in many countries dominated by capital, and took the form of harsh exploitation and overt or concealed discrimination against foreign workers from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

31. In view of the resurgence of organizations which openly professed racist, Fascist and neo-Nazi ideas, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which had suffered so greatly during the Second World War, believed that the fortieth anniversary of the defeat of fascism should serve as an incentive to reinforce the struggle against such manifestations and ought not to be the occasion for laying wreaths on graves in a cemetery where Nazis were buried. It was essential that war criminals should no longer be able to find asylum in certain Western countries, and the Ukrainian SSR urged all States which had not yet done so to accede to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity.

32. In conclusion, the Ukrainian SSR welcomed the decision by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regarding the commemoration of the victory over nazism and fascism in the Second World War (CERD/C/134) and emphasized that it was imperative to apply Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/31 and General Assembly resolution 39/114 concerning measures to be taken against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror—resolutions which the Ukrainian SSR, among others, had sponsored.

33. Mr. ARTACHO (Spain) said that the proclamation of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination clearly showed the determination of the United Nations to redouble its efforts for the elimination of racism. That task called for concerted action by the international community as a whole. In that regard, the consensus reached at the time of adopting the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and the plan of activities for the period 1985–1989 was encouraging.

34. The necessity of proclaiming a Second Decade attested to the difficulties encountered in seeking to abolish racism and racial discrimination and demonstrated the continued need to make the necessary resources available at the international and national levels to accomplish that objective, especially in South Africa where racial discrimination was institutionalized in the system of *apartheid*, which Spain had always condemned.

35. Unfortunately, the efforts made by the international community to bring an end to *apartheid* had been frustrated by the obstinacy of South Africa, which remained indifferent to the appeals to it to put

an end to that intolerable situation. The racist régime of South Africa, sensing its imminent demise, was responding with violence to protect demonstrations, and the so-called constitutional reforms adopted recently could in no way serve to justify the acts of repression in which the authorities engaged. The *apartheid* system could not, in fact, be reformed and must, quite simply, be dismantled.

36. The activities undertaken by the United Nations to combat racism and racial discrimination were considerable and called for co-ordinated action by Member States. In that regard, the delegation of Spain felt that the questionnaire issued by the Secretary-General was extremely useful as a basis for the preparation of reports by Governments. In addition, the Secretary-General's initiative, referred to by his Special Representative for the Co-ordination of Activities relating to the Second Decade (10th meeting, para. 22), to convene in Europe a media round-table on international law and *apartheid* was extremely interesting and his Government was considering the possibility of contributing to the financing of that round-table.

37. With regard to certain points which had been raised in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/16), his delegation considered that the holding in September 1985 of the seminar on community relations commissions and their functions in September 1985 would be extremely useful. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination performed an important task in the struggle against racism. However, it was regrettable that the report had highlighted solely certain of the Committee's activities which were not directly related to its mandate, which should be confined to issues relating to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

38. It was also necessary to stress the considerable role played by the Commission on Human Rights, which, at its most recent session, had accorded high priority to the examination of the application of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, and the role of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. His delegation thought it was important that the Sub-Commission should continue to examine the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of providing assistance to the South African régime. Nevertheless, it was regrettable that the Sub-Commission had given the Special Rapporteur the sole task of updating the list of bodies which maintained trade relations with South Africa. It should also have instructed him to undertake a broader and more detailed study of the various aspects of that issue. Finally, as had been pointed out in the report, it was necessary to ensure the co-ordination of the various United Nations organs and bodies which were engaged in one way or another in activities or programmes relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

39. Mr. WAKE (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that much had been said about the need for reaching a consensus on matters relating to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination but that his delegation had not participated since 1975 in the adoption of the texts of resolutions submitted under the agenda item being discussed, for reasons that were well known to members of the Council. During the current debate, the representatives of some of the world's most

repressive States had engaged in strident criticism of United States policy in southern Africa. Just as those representatives continued to give a distorted version of the momentous events which had taken place 40 years earlier in Europe and elsewhere, they also sought to distort the United States Government's approach to the situation in southern Africa.

40. It was worth noting that all Americans found repugnant the system of racial discrimination in South Africa known as *apartheid*, which they considered morally abhorrent, politically unsustainable and economically wasteful. Nevertheless, moral indignation was not a substitute for an effective foreign policy. The United States Government had always encouraged change in South Africa by publicly condemning the evils of *apartheid*, by opting for quiet diplomacy, by working with the sectors of the South African population which shared a common vision of peace and equity, and by financing programmes aimed at giving South African blacks better training and educational opportunities.

41. Despite the fanciful and politically inspired descriptions by some delegations of all-out United States support for South Africa, the United States maintained military, political and economic relations with South Africa which were far less intimate than those with many other States. In fact, significant restrictions had been imposed on trade and co-operation in the military and nuclear areas. In an effort to eliminate *apartheid*, the United States had, since 1963, placed an embargo on arms sales to South Africa and, in 1977, had joined the other members of the Security Council in imposing a mandatory arms embargo on South Africa. With regard to trade, the United States Export-Import Bank was prohibited from financing United States sales to South Africa, except under very restrictive circumstances. Similarly, under the law, the United States representative at the International Monetary Fund must actively oppose the granting of funds to any country which practised *apartheid*. Thus, to argue, as some had done, that the United States maintained normal relations with South Africa was patent nonsense.

42. Others had emphasized that it was necessary to go further and to try to exclude South Africa from the community of nations by means of boycotts, embargoes and sanctions. In the opinion of the United States, such an approach would lead to ineffectual actions which were more likely to strengthen resistance to change than to strengthen the forces of progress.

43. The first delegation which had referred explicitly to the policies of the United States in the course of the current debate represented a country, Poland, in which martial-law restrictions on human rights, imposed "temporarily" in December 1981, had been permanently institutionalized in the legal system.

44. Mr. POLOWCZYK (Poland), speaking on a point of order, observed that the representative of the United States was evaluating the internal situation in Poland and that his observations had nothing to do with the issue under consideration.

45. The PRESIDENT said that all delegations had the right to respond to comments contained in the

statements of other delegations and that the remarks of the United States representative fell within the scope of the debate.

46. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) observed that the representative of Poland had himself referred to the internal situation in the United States at the preceding meeting and had on that occasion made completely unfounded accusations. At the current meeting, a country which had signed a shameful pact with the Nazis during the Second World War so that it could later invade the country whose representative had just raised a point of order, had made similar accusations. Those representatives had held that the United States flaunted moral principles which were in contradiction with its policy towards South Africa. In actual fact, the only course consistent with American values was to advocate constructive and peaceful change in South Africa and to promote peace and stability in the region, not to encourage a polarization which could result in a race war. *Apartheid* was a system which was as odious for the United States as it was for the United Nations. Its injustice and cruelty should certainly give rise to indignation. However, that was not enough; it was also necessary to develop a strategy which would ensure peace and promote human rights for all people in southern Africa.

47. Mr. POLOWCZYK (Poland) said that the United States representative had referred expressly to the internal situation in Poland. Admittedly, everyone had the right to make such references, but, contrary to what seemed to be the case in the United States, there was no racial discrimination in Poland. The remarks therefore were not relevant to the current debate. He, himself, had been concerned with the international consequences of United States policy with regard to the situation in southern Africa.

48. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that, although racist laws and practices had been widespread in his country 20 years earlier, very rapid and important changes had since occurred, not only in legislation but also in the attitude of the American people. The United States was encouraging the adoption of similar measures in southern Africa, not the permanent imposition of restrictions on human rights such as those which Poland had adopted in 1981, allegedly as temporary measures. The United States sincerely hoped that real change would occur in South Africa which would make that country a multiracial and democratic State in which human rights and fundamental freedoms were respected.

49. Mr. POLOWCZYK (Poland) said that his observations had been aimed solely at the impact on the situation in South Africa of United States policy and that the international community had a right to expect the United States to show its understanding of that problem. Returning to the question of Poland, he wished that many allies of the United States had the same legal system as Poland, and added that, if the United States representative wished to have more information on that subject, he was fully prepared to provide him with all the necessary particulars.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

13th meeting

Monday, 13 May 1985, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.13

In the absence of the President, Mr. Guda (Sri-name), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1985/16)

1. Mr. RATHORE (India) observed that, in some parts of the world, the universal principle that all human beings were born free and equal in dignity and rights was still abused daily on grounds of race, colour or ethnic origin. The most pernicious and degrading form of racial discrimination was the institutionalized policy of *apartheid* that existed in South Africa, where the white minority régime was continuing its immoral subjugation of the black majority and expanding its criminal policy of bantustanization. The new "constitution", which excluded the indigenous African majority from any political rights, and the recent sham elections had been rejected not only by the overwhelming majority of eligible coloured and Asian voters but also by the international community as manoeuvres to further entrench white minority rule and the *apartheid* system. The latest violent suppression of popular protest demonstrated the real nature of that system.

2. His delegation supported the efforts being made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the co-ordination of activities relating to the Second Decade to combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It noted with satisfaction from the report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/16) that the Commission on Human Rights had decided to give thematic consideration in 1987 to the subject of international assistance and support to peoples and movements struggling against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, and was confident that the implementation of the activities enumerated in the report would result in intensified efforts on the part of the international community to combat racism. For those efforts to succeed, all Member States must also accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and States parties must adopt appropriate legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures to put an end to all vestiges of racism during the Second Decade. His delegation urged those States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, in particular those States that had jurisdiction over transnational corporations with operations in South Africa and Namibia and without whose co-operation such operations could not be halted. His delegation was also convinced that universal, comprehensive and mandatory sanctions were the only effective peaceful means by which the Pretoria régime might be compelled to change its policies and that the legitimate struggle of the people of South Africa and

Namibia deserved increasing international support. It was confident that the general atmosphere of co-operation which had prevailed at the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would continue, so that the international community's efforts to combat those evils and *apartheid* might succeed.

3. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) observed that, 40 years after the defeat of nazism and fascism and more than 11 years after the launching of the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, millions of people were still victims of the ideology and policy of racial hatred in its various forms, the most dangerous of which was the *apartheid* system in South Africa. The similarities between the racial policies of fascism and the policy of *apartheid* were becoming increasingly obvious, and the latest acts of terror perpetrated by the *apartheid* régime exploded the myth of the so-called reform in that country.

4. The massive violations of human rights within South Africa were closely linked with the Pretoria régime's policy of aggression and destabilization against neighbouring sovereign States, which posed a threat to world peace and international security. As the representative in Namibia of the vested interests of leading imperialist Powers and transnational corporations, South Africa's occupation régime also continued to exploit the human and natural resources of that Territory and to use it as a marshalling ground for aggression against independent African States. His delegation therefore demanded that Namibia be granted its independence forthwith, in accordance with the relevant United Nations decisions.

5. South Africa's permanent disregard for General Assembly and Security Council resolutions calling for an end to *apartheid* and the illegal occupation of Namibia was possible only because of the all-out collaboration of certain Western circles. By its resolution 1985/9 of 26 February 1985, the Commission on Human Rights had recently condemned the increased assistance rendered by major Western countries and Israel to South Africa in the political, economic, financial and, particularly, military fields, and had taken the position that the actions of transnational corporations operating in South Africa came under the definition of the crime of *apartheid*. The time had clearly come to embark on the only feasible approach to eliminating *apartheid*, namely the imposition of comprehensive sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

6. His delegation wished to point out that the growing collaboration, particularly nuclear collaboration, between South Africa and Israel posed a threat to peace. Like that of the *apartheid* régime, Israel's conduct was characterized by illegal acts against neighbouring States and the oppression of other peoples. His delegation reaffirmed its position that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East could be achieved only on the basis of complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories and

the exercise of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish their own independent State, with full guarantees for the sovereignty and security of all States in the region.

7. Imperialist exploitation and oppression also gave rise to extreme right-wing ideologies and organizations, often of a Fascist and neo-Fascist nature, elsewhere in the world. Effective United Nations action, as called for in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (see E/1985/16), was required to curb the resurgence of such activities. Mindful of the bitter lessons of history, the German Democratic Republic was determined to oppose all manifestations of racism and racial discrimination and to contribute to the speedy implementation of the Programme of Action. It also believed that international law must be codified further and existing international instruments applied universally if the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was to succeed. In that connection, all States should accede to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. States' attitude to those Conventions in fact reflected their position on the implementation of the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

8. Mr. CHACÓN (Venezuela) observed that, year after year, delegations from all regions voiced their abhorrence of the *apartheid* system. They did so not just as an exercise in rhetoric, but also as an expression of the sentiments of all justice-loving peoples. Over the years, the international community had adopted numerous instruments and declarations outlawing racism and racial discrimination and upholding equality and fundamental freedoms, and countless resolutions aimed at establishing a just international system based on moral and ethical principles and the rule of international law. None the less, in South Africa the *apartheid* régime continued to oppress and exploit the majority of the population, creating a climate of instability which threatened international equilibrium and the maintenance of international peace and security. It was fortunate that a number of United Nations Member States complied with the Charter and the instruments and declarations which had been alluded to, enabling a minimum of harmony to prevail and multilateral diplomacy and international co-operation to continue.

9. His delegation therefore appealed for an end to commercial and other support for South Africa. The *apartheid* system could not be reformed: it must be totally abolished. The international community must renew its efforts to end the repression and exploitation of the people of South Africa and to guarantee the effective exercise of self-determination by the Namibian people, in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Venezuela's international position of respect for the principle of equality before the law was consistent with its own Constitution, which outlawed all forms of discrimination. It therefore supported fully the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, in particular the priority given to education, training and the dissemination of information.

10. The report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/16) contained a positive assessment of the activities

undertaken thus far to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, and his delegation agreed fully with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General who had said, in his introductory statement (see 10th meeting), that he believed that the struggle against racism had gained new impetus and that increased efforts must be made to ensure that freedom, justice and equity prevailed in all parts of the world.

11. Mr. OLEANDROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was one of the most important tasks of the United Nations. At a time when victory in the Second World War was being celebrated, it must not be forgotten that Hitlerite nazism and fascism had been one of the most dangerous forms of political and ideological racism. Recent history showed that racism and racial discrimination flourished where the ideology of the superiority of some people over others took root and a policy of lawlessness and enslavement was followed. Like Hitlerite racism, all the most intolerable modern forms of racism served the interests of the most reactionary imperialist circles and the superprofits of the most powerful international monopolies. That was the main reason why racism continued to exist, especially in the form of racist State policy and ideology.

12. The *apartheid* régime in South Africa was currently trying to prolong its existence by mass terror and repression, striving to suppress the just struggle of millions of Africans by armed force. The régime had turned South Africa into a gigantic concentration camp and was using the methods of Hitler's butchers. Investigations carried out by the United Nations had shown that the racists were preparing for a policy of genocide against the native African population.

13. The Soviet Union fully supported United Nations resolutions relating to the elimination of *apartheid*, and advocated their strict implementation. The elimination of *apartheid* and other forms of State racism wherever it appeared, in South Africa, Namibia or the occupied Arab territories, was the most important objective of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, and should be the centre of attention for the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

14. *Apartheid* and other forms of State racism continued to exist, despite numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, because they were protected by the major Western Powers and their transnational corporations. *Apartheid* was holding out only with the assistance of certain Western Powers, primarily the United States of America. Without that aid, the régime would collapse, the enslavement of South Africa and Namibia would end and their peoples would be able to determine their own fate. The President of the United States had openly described the *apartheid* régime as a historical ally of the United States. It was to save that ally that the United States of America and other Western Powers were impeding in every way the implementation of measures against South Africa.

15. The alliance of Western Powers and corporations with the *apartheid* régime was founded on base self-interest and aimed at keeping the population of South Africa and Namibia in racist slavery. Despite United Nations resolutions, President Reagan's Administration had pursued a policy of *rapprochement*

with the Republic of South Africa from the beginning. Under the "constructive engagement" policy, economic relations had expanded and about 400 large American companies and another 6,000 firms were operating there. They made huge profits by exploiting cheap African labour and wanted to make even more. Under the current Administration, American banks had increased loans and credits to Pretoria by \$2 billion, and United States capital investments in South Africa had reached \$15 billion. Trade between the two countries was growing just as fast.

16. Despite the repeated assurances of the United States delegation, the Administration had decided to supply some kinds of equipment to the South African army and police and was weakening the ban on co-operation in the nuclear field. It had thus taken an official step towards breaking the United Nations embargo on military deliveries to the racists. Unofficially, American companies were ferrying to Pretoria all the weapons it needed. By strengthening the military might of South African racism, the United States of America was strengthening its own military bridgehead in Africa for the struggle against independent countries and progressive forces in the area. Despite the United Nations embargo, the already well-established military relations between the United States and the racists had rapidly expanded in recent years. Some 40 per cent of the South African air force was equipped with American aircraft and "Made in USA" was stamped on many other types of battle equipment. The United States had also actively helped to create the arms industry in South Africa.

17. Furthermore, despite declarations to the contrary, the United States of America had made a particularly ominous contribution to developing South African nuclear research, even though it was clearly not of a peaceful nature. Although Pretoria stubbornly refused to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the United States was training South African nuclear physicists and supplying South Africa with nuclear reactors and enriched uranium. There were alarming press reports that the Administration was relaxing a number of restrictions on nuclear co-operation with South Africa.

18. The United States of America was encouraging South Africa's acquisition of impressive military power because the régime had been allotted the role of imperialism's gendarme in the struggle against progressive States and national liberation movements in that area and throughout the continent. It was essential to condemn the policy and practice of political, economic and military support for the South African racist régime and to demand that the United States of America end them immediately.

19. Another basic line of action during the Second Decade would consist of measures to eliminate various well-established large-scale forms of racial discrimination. Despite numerous United Nations resolutions and other international documents, the shameful system of racial discrimination had taken deep root in a number of countries the representatives of which liked to lecture others on the subject of human rights and to boast about so-called Western democracy. No one could conceal the fact that that pretence of democracy today concealed the fact that millions of people of African, Asian and Latin American origin were victims of racial discrimination. Abstract hypocritical arguments about equality of opportunity under Western democracy could not

hide the tragedy of the many millions of people who were the first to lose their jobs, were condemned to live in slums and ghettos and were denied equal rights and real opportunities to exercise basic socio-economic rights. It was well known how those who fought against discrimination were victimized and repressed.

20. The continued activity of a wide network of racist organizations operating both openly and secretly in a number of countries was a dangerous manifestation of racism. They were a weapon of political terror intended to perpetuate racism and racial discrimination, and were used to carry out reprisals against opponents of racism. The eradication of racism and racial discrimination should begin with the total prohibition and elimination of all such organizations and their propaganda. Measures to that end should therefore be strengthened during the Second Decade.

21. Contemporary racism used disinformation and slander to conceal its criminal activities, using methods borrowed from the Hitlerite racists, and invented the dirtiest fabrications against socialism and the Soviet Union. They strove to create a distorted impression of real socialism and of the USSR's contribution to the struggle against all forms of national and racial oppression and racism. The Soviet Union remained the most resolute opponent of racism, inequality and discrimination. Inside the Soviet Union, the representatives of all races, nationalities and peoples enjoyed full and real equality. The Soviet Union was in the front rank of the opponents of racism and racial discrimination in the international arena. It was a party to the most important international instruments against racism and strictly fulfilled all their provisions. It supported and implemented all United Nations resolutions and recommendations aimed at eliminating *apartheid* and other forms of racism and racial discrimination.

22. The report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/16) presented a general picture of the great activity of United Nations bodies in the struggle against *apartheid* and racism. The report's basic propositions were a good reflection of the important work being done by various United Nations bodies to combat racism. However, it also contained a number of propositions which had nothing to do with the struggle against racial discrimination and should be removed.

23. It was important to implement United Nations resolutions and to widen the circle of parties to the international conventions against *apartheid* and all forms of racial discrimination. States should take steps to implement those resolutions, and those countries which had not yet done so should become parties to the international conventions immediately. The Economic and Social Council itself should outline further measures to activate and increase efforts aimed at realizing the aims of the Second Decade and at eliminating *apartheid* and racial discrimination.

24. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) said that there could be no relaxation in efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination, for those evils continued to undermine the social and humanitarian purposes of the United Nations which were essential to world peace. If delegations were agreed that peace was a matter of human rights they must do all they could to oppose racism and racial discrimination, which inevitably led to the debasement and gross abuse of such rights.

Racist policies, both overt and covert, also threatened national stability and regional and international peace and security.

25. The Programme of Action for the Second Decade rightly gave highest priority to measures to put an end to the *apartheid* system which used the constitution and laws of a police state to enforce its repugnant and oppressive policies in South Africa and Namibia. Forty years of racial discrimination in southern Africa had given the world community a graphic object lesson in the dehumanizing effects of racism. It was gratifying, therefore, that persistent United Nations efforts to inform world public opinion about *apartheid* were meeting with growing success. At the same time, Member States must give the widest support to such international instruments as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. Growing evidence that the activities of transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia came under the definition of the crime of *apartheid* illustrated clearly the potential of the latter Convention for effective, practical application.

26. Policies of racism and racial discrimination were not, of course, confined to South Africa but were evident in many parts of the world. His delegation therefore strongly supported measures aimed at protecting minority groups, indigenous populations and migrant workers, who were often subject to various forms of racial discrimination. It hoped that work on a draft international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families would be completed at the fortieth session of the General Assembly and strongly supported the goals of the forthcoming Geneva seminar to review and promote the work of community and race relations commissions.

27. His delegation joined in commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the overthrow of Nazi and Fascist forces. At such a time, the international community must rededicate itself to the task of resisting totalitarian and other ideologies based on racial or ethnic exclusiveness, intolerance, terror and the systematic denial of human rights. Only through constant vigilance and unswerving dedication to the principles of the Charter could such forces be held in check.

28. Mr. SHELDON (Observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that although the report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/16) bore witness to the efforts already made by the United Nations at various levels, the ideology and practice of racism and racial discrimination still existed and represented a constant source of tension and conflict poisoning the international atmosphere.

29. The *apartheid* practised by the racist régime in Pretoria was the most provocative form of racism. The bloodcurdling news of the recent wave of reprisals against the African population in South Africa had shaken the civilized world. Despite Sharpeville and Soweto, what had happened recently was unprecedented and represented convincing evidence of the profound crisis in the *apartheid* régime. The so-called constitutional reforms advertised by Pretoria had done nothing to ease the lot of the overwhelming majority of the indigenous population.

30. The special characteristic of South Africa was that both the imperialist monopoly and its colony of 23 million black people deprived of their human rights were in one and the same territory. The authorities spoke the language of State terrorism to their colonial slaves, and used the same terrorism in relations with neighbouring independent African countries. Their striving to obtain nuclear weapons had created a situation in southern Africa which concealed a real threat to international peace and security. That was why numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions emphasized that any co-operation with the South African régime constituted an act of hostility against the oppressed peoples of southern Africa and encouraged the régime to continue its inhuman policy.

31. Despite all those resolutions, many Western countries which condemned *apartheid* in words were constantly increasing their co-operation with the South African racists, instead of curtailing it. As a result of Western investments in the South African economy, Pretoria's army had increased 15 times and military expenditures 60 times over the last two decades. Imperialist circles, primarily those of the United States of America, had thus shown that they had no regard for the demands of the international community and were continuing to strengthen the *apartheid* régime. That policy had been condemned by the Special Committee against *Apartheid* in its Declaration adopted on 28 March 1985 (A/40/213 and Corr.1, annex, para. 16).

32. The constantly growing co-operation between South Africa and Israel could not be ignored either. Some 70 per cent of Israeli exports of military equipment went to South Africa and certain North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries were, together with Israel, helping Pretoria develop nuclear technology. Such aid and support were further strengthening the *apartheid* régime and its increasingly cruel oppression of the peoples of South Africa.

33. The problem of eliminating racism and racial discrimination was not limited to the system of *apartheid*. The Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had also demanded an end to the policy and practice of racial discrimination bordering on genocide pursued by Israel towards the Palestinian and other inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories.

34. Various forms of racism and racial discrimination remained an everyday occurrence in many capitalist countries. The restrictions on the rights of representatives of national minorities and of the non-white population as a whole and the racial discrimination against migrant workers from Asian, African and Latin American countries were examples of such discrimination. It would therefore be a contribution to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination if all States which had not yet done so became parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.

35. Since the Council was considering the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination at a time when the fortieth anniversary of the victory over nazism and fascism was being celebrated, he recalled that the Soviet people had borne the main burden of the struggle against fascism and had lost more than 20 million lives during the war.

Byelorussian towns and villages had been reduced to ashes, half of the national wealth had been destroyed and one in four inhabitants had perished. In remembering the victims of fascism, renewed emphasis must be placed on the need to strengthen the struggle against the ideology and practice of nazism, fascism and neo-fascism, which were based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror. The growth in the activities of groups and organizations guided by such ideas represented a threat not only to basic human rights and freedoms in those countries where it was taking place, but also to international peace and the security of other peoples. Such activities found expression in propaganda for racial superiority, in killings, in other terrorist acts and in the glorification of fascist régimes. Sometimes carried out with the tacit consent of the authorities, they were a flagrant violation of the principles underlying the practical implementation of human rights, and they must be ended.

36. Consideration of the subject under discussion should facilitate the further mobilization and co-ordination of efforts aimed at eradicating racial discrimination, eliminating *apartheid* and aiding the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic resolutely condemned racism and *apartheid* and supported the joint efforts of all States to eliminate those criminal phenomena.

37. Mr. SOERIAATMADJA (Indonesia) said that despite the activities of the United Nations to combat racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, particularly during the past decade, the South African régime had constantly refused to co-operate in eliminating discrimination based upon race.

38. With regard to activities to be undertaken in the context of the Second Decade, referred to in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/16), Indonesia welcomed the decision by the Commission on Human Rights, contained in its resolution 1985/11, to give thematic consideration, each year, to a selected item within the plan of activities for 1985-1989, and the decision that the topic to be focused on in 1987 should be international assistance and support to peoples and movements struggling against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. His delegation believed that the international seminar on that theme, which it was proposed to organize in 1986 in Africa, would be timely and would have great impact on the international community, thus helping to mobilize the resources necessary to achieve the common goal.

39. In deciding what activities were to be undertaken to combat those inhuman practices, his delegation considered that attention should be paid both to practical measures for that purpose and to the adverse consequences of the various forms of assistance that were being given to the racist régime of South Africa.

40. Indonesia attached great importance to Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/24, which authorized the carrying out of a study on the achievements made and the obstacles encountered during the Decade. The implementation of the suggestions concerning education, dissemination of information, research and advisory services contained in the plan of activities for 1985-1989 would help to bring about a situation more conducive to eradicating the inhuman practices of racism and racial discrimination.

41. With regard to immediate practical measures, his delegation considered that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to bring up to date the list of the banks, transnational corporations and other organizations that were assisting the racist régime should be renewed and brought to the attention of the international community in the form of a United Nations document. The initiative of the Special Rapporteur in co-operating closely with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Special Committee against *Apartheid* was significant for obtaining accurate and up-to-date information regarding the activities of those organizations. Every State should strive to implement, at the national, regional and international levels, the practical measures put forward in the Programme of Action.

42. With reference to action at the international level, he recalled that at the meeting held at Bandung to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Asian-African Conference, some 80 Asian and African countries had reiterated the imperative need for the Security Council to impose mandatory and comprehensive sanctions on the Pretoria régime to compel it to terminate its policies and practice of *apartheid* and its illegal occupation of Namibia. He hoped that call for action would stimulate the international community to redouble its efforts to implement all the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

43. At the national level, Indonesia would never tolerate any action that it considered cruel or degrading to the dignity of human beings. His Government had for some years been carrying out a nation-wide campaign to disseminate the universal values of equality and non-discrimination, enshrined in its State philosophy. The Indonesian people would always be at the forefront of the struggle against any policy based on racial or any other kind of discrimination.

44. Mr. WAKE (United States of America), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that accusations that the United States was providing all-round aid to South Africa were unfounded. In reality, limitations on a vast range of military and commercial transactions clearly dissociated the United States from the abhorrent policy of *apartheid*. To argue, as the representative of the Soviet Union had done, that the United States was in alliance with South Africa was nonsense, however often repeated and however much embellished. The United States did not have the same kind of relationship with South Africa as it had had, for example, with the Soviet Union during the Second World War, and did not provide the racist régime with arms on any terms. The representative of the Soviet Union had stated that United States companies were secretly providing arms to South Africa. It would be useful if he would provide the United States authorities with the facts available to him, so that they could take action to prosecute, as they had in the past, anyone taking action in violation of the Security Council embargo and of the United States embargo applied in 1963. With regard to the Soviet representative's allegations concerning the activities of racist organizations in some Western countries, there were persons with extreme ideas who were exercising their right of freedom of expression in a democratic society. In the United States, there were constitutional guarantees of free speech. Such persons were not placed in prison or psychiatric hospitals merely because they held different ideas

from the Government. But his Government did not support organizations with racist ideas as the Government of the Soviet Union supported the racist anti-Zionist groups in that country. His Government was prepared to take strong action when such persons crossed the threshold between free speech and illegal action.

45. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), exercising his right of reply, repeated the facts his delegation had already presented earlier in the meeting and in other forums. Four hundred major United States companies were operating in South Africa; capital investments in South Africa exceeded \$15 billion and recently loans and credits by the United States to South Africa had increased by \$2 billion. All those were facts that were confirmed by United States official and unofficial sources and openly discussed in the United States press. There was therefore no point in trying to give the impression that the Soviet Union had invented them. The United States had ignored the embargoes and was openly supplying weapons to South Africa. The representative of the United States had avoided giving any specific answers to questions raised in his delegation's statements. As for the existence of Nazi and neo-Nazi organizations in the United States and other countries, nothing had been invented in that regard either. It was a real and dangerous phenomenon that was discussed in the United States press. With regard to the statement that those organizations could not be combated because of the United States Constitution, the General Assembly had rightly said that no constitution could be used to support Nazi and Fascist organizations condemned by the Assembly. He did not wish to hear general remarks concerning democracy and freedoms but to hear that the United States had finally adopted decisive measures to eradicate the new wave of nazism and fascism. The assertions made by the representative of the United States concerning psychiatric clinics were rather naïve, since it was well known how such institutions were used to suppress people in the United States.

46. With regard to the activity of the Soviet committees against zionism, Zionist activities had been condemned in resolutions of the General Assembly and his delegation adhered to the concept that zionism was a variety of Nazi ideology.

47. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that in repeating what he had called facts the representative of the USSR had concentrated on economic relations between certain United States companies and South Africa. The United States had already stated its view that economic sanctions against South Africa would not promote peaceful change. With regard to the alleged military relationship between the United States and South Africa, the representative of the USSR had given no specific details. His statement that the activities of anti-Zionist organizations in the Soviet Union were based on a resolution of the General Assembly might be accurate, but the repetition of nonsense, whether in a statement by the representative of the USSR or in a resolution of the General Assembly, did not make it true.

48. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the fact that the United States had not proclaimed a boycott of South Africa, though it had proclaimed one against Nicaragua, showed that it continued to consider South Africa as its ally. The United States supplied South Africa with 40 per cent of its weapons, either directly or through American organizations, and with the tools of torture and of the police reprisal that was also a subject of discussion in the American press. With regard to General Assembly resolutions, the Soviet Union did not consider them to be nonsense. Resolutions concerning South Africa should be implemented. What was nonsense was the defence of South Africa which allowed that neo-Nazi régime to continue.

49. The PRESIDENT proposed that 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 14 May 1985, should be set as the deadline for the submission of draft proposals under agenda item 2.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

14th meeting

Tuesday, 14 May 1985, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.14

AGENDA ITEM 6

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (E/1985/56)

1. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Deputy Director, Centre for Human Rights), by way of introduction to the item, said that, in pursuance of Council decision 1985/105 of 8 February 1985, the Secretary-General was

submitting to the Council by document E/1985/56 the general comments of the Human Rights Committee relating to articles 1 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ which had been adopted by the Committee at its twenty-first session, and the general comment on article 6 of the Covenant, adopted by the Committee at its twenty-third session.

³For the text of the Covenant, see General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/40/45; E/1985/69-A/40/267)

2. Mrs. SHAHANI (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), introducing the item, said that since the first regular session of 1984, 10 more States had ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ namely, Bangladesh, Democratic Yemen, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Jamaica, Liberia, Mauritius, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Senegal. In addition, Mali had signed the Convention on 4 February 1985, indicating an intention to accede to it in the near future. As of 10 March 1985, 92 States had signed the Convention, 56 of which had ratified or acceded to it. The Council had before it the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fourth session (A/40/45). Since the work of the Committee depended on the timely fulfilment of the reporting obligations of States parties, she wished to make a strong appeal to those States that had not already done so to submit their initial reports as soon as possible. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had also discussed its contribution to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women and, in that connection, had made recommendations to the Council which were contained in paragraphs 281 to 291 of its report. The financial implications of those recommendations would be before the Council at the appropriate time.

AGENDA ITEM 9

University for Peace (E/1985/14; E/1985/L.25)

3. Mr. BERROCAL SOTO (Costa Rica), introducing draft resolution E/1985/L.25 on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Honduras, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal and Togo, said that the draft resolution on the University for Peace had been prepared in the light of the comments made on the explanatory memorandum contained in the annex to document E/1985/14. The work done so far by the University had focused on the establishment of an international network of associated institutions which would help to multiply the University's efforts in the field of teaching, research and dissemination of knowledge. As of July 1985, the University would initiate courses in its first programme of Master of Communications, Development and Peace, jointly with the University of Quebec. In addition, the University for Peace had during the past year organized several important international meetings with a view to strengthening its international status. The sponsors hoped that in the year of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council would adopt by consensus the draft resolution, which was intended to promote the noble objectives of the Charter of the United Nations.

⁴General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued) (E/1985/16)

4. Mr. CHIKETA (Zimbabwe) recalled the widespread hope that the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would provide the momentum to facilitate the fight against racism and racial discrimination. That hope had not been fulfilled. International action against racism and racial discrimination had not been harmonized, because some countries were not acting in good faith. While it had been agreed that the doctrine of racial superiority was a false one, and while it was understood that discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin was an obstacle to peace and friendship, the international community was still not united in its action to combat racism and racial discrimination. Many countries had been absent from the Second World Conference, held at Geneva in 1983, and his delegation wondered whether the reason was that they were not interested in peace and friendship. Many States, including those that had been absent at Geneva, had not yet ratified or acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination² and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.⁵ In addition, only a few concerned countries had contributed to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. To the contrary, many States were attempting to undermine the Programme of Action in order to further the interests of *apartheid*.

5. Investment in the private sector in South Africa would only serve to strengthen the *apartheid* régime because it would release funds for military purposes. It was well known that some countries were using spy planes and satellites to gather information for the South African Government. That was the meaning of "constructive engagement" which, rather than working towards the elimination of *apartheid*, would only help to strengthen it. That enabled the Fascists and neo-Nazis freely to pursue their goals. It should be remembered that racism and racial discrimination affected all continents and all States. No one was immune to that scourge. The difference between the countries of southern Africa, including Zimbabwe, and some other States was the determination of the former to eradicate *apartheid*. Peace was the key to the future of the States of southern Africa and the elimination of *apartheid* was the key to peace. To that end, the international community must maintain its unity and avoid a racial war that would be universal.

6. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that, as a free, democratic and multiracial society, Ecuador was opposed to all forms of racism and racial discrimination, in particular its most reprehensible manifestation, *apartheid*. Within Ecuador, racial discrimination was outlawed by the Constitution and domestic legislation and the rights of indigenous groups were fully guaranteed. Internationally, Ecuador was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Suppression and

⁵General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.⁶ Its record with regard to the elimination of racism had been praised by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its thirtieth session.

7. The activities described in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/16) augured well for the attainment of the objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, although much remained to be done. With regard to the special measures envisaged to combat discrimination against minority and indigenous groups and migrant workers, Ecuador fully endorsed the need for early completion of the draft international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families. The renewed consensus that had permitted the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and the revised plan of activities for the period 1985–1989 had been the international community's response to the resurgence of racist violence and human rights violations in various parts of the world and Ecuador would continue to support the United Nations in its struggle against all forms and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination.

8. Mr. HUANG Jiahua (China) observed that the activities described in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/16) would help to enhance the international community's efforts to achieve the objectives of the Second Decade. Racism and racial discrimination had long been recognized as a crime against humanity, their most barbarous current manifestation being *apartheid* in South Africa. The fact that the black majority in South Africa lived in appalling conditions and was the victim of vicious repression posed a tremendous challenge to the international community and it was appropriate, therefore, that the United Nations should continue to give highest priority, during the Second Decade, to the elimination of racial discrimination and *apartheid* in South Africa. The recent constitutional reforms in South Africa had been designed to defuse international criticism and deceive world public opinion, for they had in fact only entrenched the *apartheid* system further. The new Constitution simply legalized *apartheid* and had earned unanimous condemnation in various United Nations forums. At the same time, the South African authorities had intensified their bloody repression of the black masses, demonstrating that *apartheid* and its repressive apparatus remained intact.

9. The Chinese Government and people were resolutely opposed to the *apartheid* system, which violated the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and human rights and fundamental freedoms, and they condemned the racist crimes of the South African authorities. At the same time, they firmly supported the South African people in their just struggle against *apartheid* and endorsed international demands for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria régime, in accordance with the Charter and in response to that régime's disregard for Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and its repression of the South African people. Only through the total eradication of *apartheid* would the broad masses in South Africa be able to live in peace and tranquillity. Just as the world-

wide struggle against colonialism and racism had gathered momentum over the centuries and ultimately prevailed, so too the struggle of the South African majority would gain in strength so that *apartheid* would finally be consigned to the dustbin of history. China would continue to support that struggle, as it would the struggle of the Namibian people for independence.

10. Mr. COUMBASSA (Guinea) said that South Africa was an anachronism where a minority continued to adhere to the outdated concept that one race was superior to another. The international community must take up the challenge of *apartheid* by isolating South Africa, imposing mandatory sanctions against it, acceding to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, and supporting those liberation movements which had been granted observer status with the United Nations. It was hypocritical of South Africa's allies to preach non-violence to the victims of *apartheid*. They were concerned more with safeguarding the profits of the multinational corporations based on the exploitation of the African majority and the plundering of Namibia's resources. The argument that some countries which spoke out against *apartheid* were also guilty of human rights violations was no justification for the crime of *apartheid*.

11. His delegation welcomed the appointment of Mr. James Jonah to co-ordinate activities under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

12. Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) observed that millions of human beings the world over continued to suffer from the humiliating consequences of overt and covert racism and racial discrimination. The struggle against racism was therefore one of the most important aspects of the overall struggle for respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

13. The first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination proclaimed by the United Nations had helped to heighten public awareness of racism and its many causes and manifestations and of the need to create an international consensus for its elimination. Reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination pointed clearly to the impressive progress made by States in understanding racism and enacting legislation to combat it in such areas as education, employment, leisure and public relations. The total eradication of racism would take many years to achieve, however, and depended on countries' capacity to create institutions and enact laws which ensured that everyone enjoyed his rights without distinction. Accordingly, increased efforts must be made to educate future generations and familiarize young people with international human rights instruments as a means of breaking down cultural, social and racial barriers between individuals and peoples and promoting understanding, dialogue and co-operation. The measures envisaged to that end in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade therefore warranted the greatest attention.

14. The eradication of racism and racial discrimination also depended on States' willingness to mobilize adequate resources and make the necessary efforts to implement whatever legislative and educa-

⁶General Assembly resolution 260 A (III), annex.

tional measures they took. That such a willingness existed everywhere was again demonstrated by the reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In order for the struggle against racism and racial discrimination to be effective and reach all regions and all socio-economic systems, however, the United Nations should, during the Second Decade, give the many countries that requested it far more consistent support in the form of advisory and training services. More courses and seminars on humanitarian law should be organized for those who were responsible in third world countries for drafting, implementing and monitoring the implementation of laws to combat racial discrimination and human rights violations in general. His delegation welcomed the forthcoming Geneva seminar on community and race relations commissions but believed that, if the launching of the Second Decade was to have a decisive impact, that seminar must be followed by other activities. The Programme of Action for the Second Decade proposed many diverse approaches and his delegation hoped that specific proposals would be submitted to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

15. Algeria had repeatedly condemned all forms of racism and racial discrimination and worked tirelessly at the national and international levels for their total eradication. At the national levels, constitutional provisions recognizing the equal rights and duties of citizens and prohibiting all forms of discrimination found practical expression in the Penal Code, the Civil Code and the Nationality Code which prohibited all discrimination against both nationals and aliens and provided three levels of judicial recourse to protect citizens from abuse and enable them to enjoy all their constitutional rights. At the international level, Algeria was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. It believed that the former instrument could, if universally ratified and implemented, make a major contribution to eliminating all forms of racism. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should, in his delegation's view, give equal attention to all aspects and all forms of racism, particularly those which were the subject of General Assembly resolutions, and accordingly request States parties to include in their reports information on the action they had taken to combat those forms of racism. His delegation supported the work of the Group of Three of the Commission on Human Rights and endorsed its conclusions on the link that existed between the crime of *apartheid* and the crime of genocide.

16. Recent developments in the struggle against *apartheid* confirmed that that odious system could not be reformed but must be totally eradicated in order for a multiracial democratic society to be established in South Africa. His delegation therefore welcomed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to renew the mandate of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts dealing with South Africa and Namibia, the work of which helped to alert the international community to the shameless exploitation of the human and material wealth of South Africa and Namibia. His delegation also reiterated its support for the creation of the international penal tribunal to judge *apartheid* criminals.

17. The collusion between *apartheid* and Zionism was now proven and Zionist practices in Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories were reminiscent of *apartheid* practices in South Africa. The report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories showed that Zionist repression and discrimination against the Arab population in such areas as health, education, employment, housing and religion had intensified. It was thus clear that the celebration of the victory over fascism and nazism would achieve real significance only when the new racist ideologies of Zionism and *apartheid*, which threatened international peace and stability and all human values, had been eliminated for ever.

18. Ms. BAZIYAKA (Rwanda) said that the adoption by consensus of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and of the plan of activities for the period 1985–1989 demonstrated the determination of Member States to do everything to ensure the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

19. Unfortunately, much remained to be done. The black people of South Africa still did not enjoy their rights and were being increasingly subjected to violence. *Apartheid* and other forms of racism must be eliminated as quickly as possible. Her delegation supported totally the activities, reported in document E/1985/16 prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 39/16, that were being undertaken or planned by Member States, the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations to achieve the objectives of the Second Decade. In particular, it supported the seminar being prepared by the Centre for Human Rights, to be held at Geneva in September, and was pleased that its agenda included a separate item on the situation under the *apartheid* régime. Her delegation emphasized, once again, the importance of the implementation by all Member States of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, and appealed to States not yet parties to that Convention to ratify or accede to it. Obligatory sanctions must be adopted against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter, and the international community must make concerted efforts to isolate the hateful Pretoria régime in order to induce it to respect and implement the relevant United Nations resolutions.

20. Her Government had had no relations with South Africa for more than 20 years. She appealed to all States to end collaboration with that racist régime as a sign of their commitment to the fight against racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and of the victory over nazism and fascism at the end of the Second World War. She also urged them to encourage companies and banks which had relations with South Africa to take similar action.

21. Mr. BENNOUNA LOURIDI (Morocco) said that racism and racial discrimination manifested themselves in diverse ways against minority groups, entire regions, migrant workers or even, in the case of *apartheid* in South Africa, against the indigenous majority. To combat those diverse manifestations, the international community had chosen diverse activities to combat the problem during the Second Decade. The Economic and Social Council could contribute to the success of such action by adopting a

pragmatic approach, evaluating progress achieved, suggesting new measures and, in the context of its functions under Articles 63 and 64 of the Charter of the United Nations, co-ordinating the work in that field of the specialized agencies. Concerted efforts on the part of several agencies might be required in order for the Second Decade to succeed, in particular agencies concerned with social and cultural questions on the one hand and economic and financial questions on the other.

22. In the financing of social and economic projects and programmes, it was desirable that international organizations and States should take into account the need for financial and human resources in the fight against racism and racial discrimination.

23. Morocco was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and had fulfilled its obligations under article 9 thereof by submitting periodic reports on measures taken to implement the Convention. As indicated in the latest report, there was no racial discrimination whatsoever in any field in Morocco; it was incompatible with the precepts of Islam, on which the Moroccan State was founded. Situated at a geographical, cultural and ethnic crossroads, Morocco's openness to other cultures was reflected in its Constitution and in its legislation.

24. His delegation had frequently drawn the attention of the international community to the situation of migrant workers, particularly from developing countries, who were the victims of racial discrimination. In that regard, an international convention and protective governmental legislation were urgently required, as well as programmes for educating and informing public opinion.

25. The international community must take collective action to put an end to *apartheid*, the most extreme and condemnable form of racism and racial discrimination, to which the black inhabitants of South Africa were subjected in every aspect of their lives. All relations with South Africa should be made conditional on the ending of such a system of government.

26. The Palestinian population of the occupied Palestinian territories was also subjected to discrimination and relegated to the rank of second-class citizens. The international community must denounce all such acts of racism and racial discrimination. The Palestinian population had a right to a national life of its own and to an independent State.

27. Lastly, his delegation was convinced that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination and violations of human rights in general remained one of the most effective means of guaranteeing international peace and security.

28. Mr. ENKHSAIKHAN (Observer for Mongolia) said that various forms of racism and racial discrimination not only still existed but, in some parts of the world, were even flourishing and were a constant source of international tension and conflict. Forty years earlier, at the cost of tens of millions of human lives and the unprecedented destruction of national wealth, the forces of nazism and fascism, which had promulgated the racist theory of Aryan superiority, had been defeated. Bearing in mind the lessons of the Second World War, the peoples of the world should not allow such a tragedy to be repeated. History had shown that it was necessary to wage a constant

struggle against all ideologies and propaganda based on racial inequality and racial intolerance.

29. The recent bloody events in South Africa once again unmasked the racist nature of the *apartheid* régime, which could not be disguised by cosmetic reforms. There was a direct relation between the vitality of *apartheid* and the political, economic and military aid and support given by some Western Powers and their transnational corporations. As a result of the United States policy of "constructive engagement" in the Republic of South Africa, the Pretoria régime was receiving the necessary economic support for strengthening its rule. According to information in the world press, about 6,400 United States firms and companies were co-operating with South Africa. In recent years, capital investments in South Africa had increased by \$2 billion and, according to the same data, had reached \$15 billion.

30. The world community was concerned at the attempts to violate the United Nations embargo on deliveries of arms to South Africa. Military aid enabled the Pretoria régime to continue to commit acts of aggression against neighbouring States. That posed a serious threat to peace and international security not only in that region but throughout the world. Since the most dangerous consequence of aiding Pretoria was the development of its nuclear potential, all States should refrain from co-operating with that régime in that area.

31. On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Bandung Conference, the countries of Africa and Asia, including Mongolia, had stressed once again the need for the Security Council to impose mandatory and comprehensive sanctions to compel the Pretoria régime to terminate its policies and practice of *apartheid* and its illegal occupation of Namibia. The Mongolian delegation fully supported strict implementation of United Nations decisions and resolutions on southern Africa, as well as the specific provisions and recommendations of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade.

32. In the Middle East, the Palestinians and other inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories were being subjected to a State policy of racial discrimination and, in other capitalist countries, millions of people, especially national and racial minorities, were being subjected daily to such discrimination.

33. Mongolia strictly implemented the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. In 1982, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had examined Mongolia's seventh periodic report and had commended its implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

34. Mongolia was convinced that the accession of all States to the international instruments on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* would contribute to the elimination of such phenomena and, for that reason, called on the countries that had not done so to sign or ratify, as soon as possible, the international conventions on the elimination of racism and *apartheid*.

35. Mr. VILLAGRA DELGADO (Argentina) said that, of all the forms of racial discrimination which currently existed, *apartheid* was without doubt the most abhorrent because its denial of the fundamental

human rights to the greater part of the populations of South Africa and Namibia was based on the idea of the superiority of some races over others—ideas which in the twentieth century had caused untold suffering for humanity.

36. The system of *apartheid*, which was by its very nature immoral, must be eliminated through the combined efforts of the international community. Argentina condemned that system and believed that its continuation would lead only to more violence and destabilization in southern Africa. The international community should also support the elimination of other, subtler forms of discrimination, such as discrimination against migrant workers, which was practised in many countries.

37. Argentina, faithful to its egalitarian tradition, did not accept any *de facto* or *de jure* discrimination based on racial criteria, and supported the total elimination of such practices wherever they occurred. A bill had been submitted to Congress concerning Argentina's accession to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.

38. Mrs. ROCH (Observer for Cuba) said that her delegation considered the Programme of Action to be of great importance. Her country resolutely opposed any discrimination or oppression that limited fundamental freedoms. The Government of Cuba had eradicated all vestiges of racism inherited from imperialist domination and the right to freedom from racial discrimination was enshrined in the Cuban Constitution. The former legislative provisions, in which racial discrimination had been implicit, had been abolished.

39. At the international level, Cuba was maintaining its fight against imperialism and colonialism as the principal causes of racial discrimination. It was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. Cuba supported national liberation movements and the front-line States subjected to continuous aggression by racist South Africa, and vigorously condemned the abominable practices of which the peoples of South Africa and Namibia were victims. The Pretoria régime was defying resolutions of the Security Council and other United Nations bodies and world public opinion in imposing a government on Namibia, while ignoring the existence of SWAPO, the legitimate representative of the Namibian people. The Government of Cuba reaffirmed its support for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) as the only legal way of solving that conflict.

40. Cuban delegations in the Third Committee of the General Assembly and in the Commission on Human Rights had tirelessly condemned racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. Cuba had participated actively in the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and strongly supported the aims of the Second Decade. Her Government had no relations with the Government of South Africa in any field.

41. Mr. ODOCH-JATO (Uganda) said that, at a time when the international community was commemorating the decisive victory over the racist forces of Hitler's Nazi régime, millions of people throughout the world—especially indigenous peoples, minority populations and migrant workers—continued to

suffer extreme deprivation and degradation because of the colour of their skin. In many countries, especially in Europe and America, neo-Nazi and Fascist organizations were able to operate freely under the law.

42. Developments in South Africa during the current year confirmed the striking similarities between the ideologies and methods of Hitler's Nazi régime and those of the racist régime of Pretoria. Common to both régimes was the policy of systematic brutality and oppression. It was an incontestable fact that in South Africa the system of *apartheid* thrived on the brutal force of the police and paramilitary establishments.

43. Oppression under the *apartheid* régime was all-pervasive. The current reports of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on southern Africa had indicated that the racist régime had stepped up racial oppression, and had contained evidence of widespread cases of slave labour, mass arrests, detentions without trial, suppression of trade union rights, assassinations and executions.

44. The racist régime of South Africa, through its policy of bantustanization and the rigorous implementation of the Pass Laws, had created reserves for the black population that were similar to Nazi concentration camps. Hitler had adopted a policy of aggression and occupation to make the world safe for nazism; South Africa had adopted the same strategy in order to make the world safe for *apartheid*.

45. By reverting recently to the ploy of an internal settlement, South Africa had sought to make clear its intention to keep Namibia subject to the system of *apartheid* and to make it a permanent buffer against opponents of that evil system. Meanwhile, South Africa had continued its systematic aggression against independent African States.

46. The similarities between nazism and *apartheid* had a direct bearing on the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. While the world had moved with great resolve to defeat the Nazi régime, no such decisiveness had been demonstrated with regard to the struggle against *apartheid*. The Powers which had mobilized the whole world against nazism were unwilling to combat the racist régime of South Africa and to accept the legitimate right of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia to struggle against a system as oppressive as nazism.

47. The total eradication of *apartheid* depended to a large extent on the attitude and performance of the major Powers, particularly the Western Powers. Because of a lack of political will on the part of some major Powers, some of the more effective measures to combat *apartheid* had not been implemented.

48. Uganda had always considered that the total isolation of racist South Africa would be a most effective tool against *apartheid*, and to that end it imposed strict bans on commercial, diplomatic and cultural ties with South Africa.

49. With regard to the Programme of Action, Uganda noted with satisfaction the role being played by the various United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations. However, Uganda would have preferred that the seminar proposed by the Centre for Human Rights reflect one of the priorities stipulated in the Programme of Action.

50. Mr. TSVETKOV (Bulgaria) said that the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms was inconceivable without the definitive elimination of

racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, and his delegation fully supported the recommendation contained in the Programme of Action with regard to effective international action to achieve that end.

51. *Apartheid* was the most infamous example of racism and racial discrimination. It was a brutal and criminal violation of the norms of human morality and of international law. Certain circles in the West were claiming that there had been a so-called “democratization” of *apartheid* following “reforms”. But such claims deceived no one: the gap between the white minority and the non-white majority had widened. The racist régime, supported only by its political allies, was manoeuvring to consolidate *apartheid*. Black people in South Africa were deprived of their rights in their own country.

52. The South African régime’s policy of aggression and sabotage against neighbouring States gave justified cause for concern. It was seeking to destabilize southern Africa as an integral part of its global policy of imperialism, which constituted a threat to the peace and security not only of the African continent, but of the whole world.

53. In the context of racism and racial discrimination, South Africa’s continued illegal occupation of Namibia held a special place. It continued to oppress that Territory brutally, to exploit its natural resources and to use it as a base for acts of aggression against neighbouring independent States. In close collaboration with certain Western countries, it was undertaking propaganda exercises to consolidate *apartheid* in southern Africa. The proposal to form a puppet government in Namibia and the so-called plan for the withdrawal of its troops from Angola constituted a reinforcement of its colonial presence in Namibia and were just another diplomatic manoeuvre. The only possible way of resolving those problems was the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), with the participation of SWAPO, the legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

54. *Apartheid* was continuing unabated in spite of the efforts of the international community; the economic and military potential of the Pretoria régime was increasing constantly, because certain Western States were continuing to collaborate with it. Such collaboration in the nuclear and military fields, in defiance of the embargo called for in Security Council resolution 418 (1977), was a particular threat to international security.

55. Bulgaria strongly condemned *apartheid* as a crime against humanity and urged the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and the cessation of South Africa’s aggressive policy against neighbouring independent States. Bulgaria supported all United Nations initiatives aimed at settling the problems of southern Africa. It had no relations with South Africa, gave moral and material aid to the people of Namibia and in April 1985 had acted as host to a regional symposium on international solidarity with the just struggle of the Namibian people.

56. Racism and racial discrimination were not unfortunately limited to South Africa. Israel’s policy of genocide towards the Arab people of Palestine and in the occupied Arab territories was no less inhuman.

57. Manifestations of racism in certain Western countries with regard to migrant workers and, especially, the resurgence of fascism were also a cause for concern. On the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism, the international community should do

everything in its power to eliminate once and for all the repugnant manifestations of racism and *apartheid*. Bulgaria would co-operate constructively with all Member States to achieve that noble objective.

58. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Israel did not participate in the activities of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination because of the General Assembly’s infamous resolution 3379 (XXX) equating zionism with racism. His Government’s position on *apartheid* was clear. It categorically condemned all forms of racism, including *apartheid*. The Israeli people had suffered racism more than any other people. The allegations concerning nuclear collaboration between Israel and South Africa were without foundation. Repeating such lies would not make them true. The representatives of the German Democratic Republic and Algeria were merely trying to divert attention from the co-operation that existed between Israel’s detractors and South Africa.

59. The representative of the German Democratic Republic, who had professed to champion the struggle against racism, should examine his own conscience. Some of his compatriots who had participated actively in the crimes perpetrated by the Nazis continued to hold high public office. It would be interesting to know whether the representative of the German Democratic Republic to the Commission on Human Rights at its fortieth session—bearer of Nazi registration card number 9756141—continued to perform his “humanitarian” duties.

60. The representative of Algeria was in no position to preach about racism, for no one could forget the Berbers who had been massacred in Algeria in 1963 simply because they had wanted to preserve their linguistic heritage and cultural values. Moreover, some 20 per cent of the Algerian people continued to be oppressed on racial grounds.

61. Mr. RIACHE (Algeria) said that the international community had concluded that zionism was a form of racism on the basis of its observations, over a period of time, of the degrading effects resulting from the implementation of Zionist ideology in the occupied Arab territories. The situation in those territories had not improved; indeed it had deteriorated, thanks to the support given to the Zionist entity by some Powers.

62. He would not deign to respond to the allegations concerning events which had supposedly occurred in his country; those allegations were nonsense. The latest report of the Commission on Human Rights clearly demonstrated that the measures taken by Israel against the Palestinian people were racist in nature.

63. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel) said that he had no objection to the adjective “Zionist”. However, he was strongly opposed to the labelling of Israel, or any other State, as an “entity”. All Member States should be referred to as such and not be given discriminatory labels. He urged the President to make sure that that was done.

64. Several delegations had referred to political issues which had nothing to do with the items on the Council’s agenda. He called on the President to demonstrate his impartiality by forbidding further inadmissible digressions.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

15th meeting

Wednesday, 15 May 1985, at 3.35 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.15

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade: oral report by the Chairman of the Committee

1. Mr. DADZIE (Ghana), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, said that the first task of the Committee at its resumed session, held from 26 April to 14 May, had been to review and discuss the issues raised in the note prepared by the Secretariat in response to decision 1985/103, adopted by the Council at its organizational session (5th meeting). Members had expressed a variety of views which had served to provide guidance to the Secretariat for the elaboration and completion of its report. The discussions had also helped to deepen mutual understanding and had clarified a number of the substantive differences with regard to the nature and relative weight of the factors that had impeded the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Strategy, the prospects for the years ahead and the policy measures required to improve those prospects. There had emerged from the discussions a renewed sense of the continuing validity of the Strategy as a general framework for coping with prevailing uncertainties about the future and for the policy measures required to restore stability and growth in the industrial countries and to breathe new life into the development process in the developing world.

2. Particular attention had been given to the balance to be maintained in the review and appraisal exercise between domestic policies and the international environment. It had been generally accepted that the record of performance had been profoundly influenced by the deflationary impact on the developing countries of the recession in the major developed market-economy countries. Many members had noted that the interactions between domestic policies and the international environment were both complex and crucial.

3. The second main task of the Committee had been to consider and agree on the basis for its future work. Following intensive consultations, the Chairman of the Committee had been requested to prepare a new text, which would be available to members by mid-August, as a possible basis for that work. Such a text would comprise two sections. The first would cover, within the context of an overall review of the international economic situation, an assessment of the progress made towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Strategy and the identification and appraisal of the factors responsible for the shortfalls

encountered. The second would focus on the policy measures of the Strategy requiring adjustment, intensification or reformulation, as necessary, and would address the various sectors covered by the Strategy, taking full account of their interrelationships. Members had expressed a strong preference for a short, concise text.

4. In addition, members had agreed to recommend to the Council that the Committee should meet from 6 to 16 September to complete its work and to submit a final document on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Strategy for adoption by the General Assembly at its fortieth session. The Committee had considered, in view of the importance of its work, that an exception would have to be made to the requirement of the General Assembly that its subsidiary bodies should finish their work by 1 September.

5. In submitting the recommendations for approval by the Council, he expressed the hope, on behalf of the Committee, that the Secretariat would make every effort to provide conference services on a continuous basis during that period.

6. Mr. KHALIL (Observer for Egypt), speaking as Chairman of the Group of 77, thanked Mr. Dadzie for the efforts which he had made and the patience which he had demonstrated during difficult times, thereby paving the way for success in achieving the goal ahead.

7. Mr. LIU (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there would be no financial implications involved in the meetings of the Committee scheduled for September if services were to be provided on an "as available" basis. He had been informed that, given the current projection of conference-servicing requirements, there was good reason to believe that services would be available during that period for the Committee to continue its work.

8. The PRESIDENT said that, on the basis of the recommendations made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, he would like to propose that the Council should adopt a draft decision by which it would: (a) take note with appreciation of the oral report of the Chairman of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and endorse the recommendations of the Committee; (b) decide that the Committee should resume its session from 6 to 16 September 1985 and endorse the Committee's request to its Chairman to prepare a new text on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Strategy to enable the Committee to further its work with a view to its completion at that session.

9. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision, on the understanding that the text would be given its final form by the Secretariat.

It was so decided (decision 1985/116).

10. Mr. SCOTT (United States of America) asked for clarification as to whether the oral report of the Chairman of the Committee was included as part of the decision. It was his understanding, moreover, that, if no conference facilities were available, there would be no meetings.

11. Mr. LIU (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the oral report by the Chairman of the Committee would be reflected in the record of the meeting and that the decision had been based on the information that there would be no additional financial implications involved.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

16th meeting

Friday, 17 May 1985, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.16

In the absence of the President, Mr. Kumlin (Sweden), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*)* (E/1985/16; E/1985/L.26)

1. Mr. DAVANE (Observer for Mozambique) introduced the draft resolution contained in document E/1985/L.26, entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination", on behalf of the Group of African States. The sponsors attached great importance to the pledging by Member States of contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and therefore appealed to all Governments to make such contributions so that Decade programmes could be fully implemented.

2. The draft resolution had been prepared in keeping with the general consensus expressed in General Assembly resolutions 38/14 and 39/16, in view of the importance of the issue involved. In adopting it by consensus, the Council would reiterate its commitment to the eradication of the evils of racism and racial discrimination.

3. Mr. JONAH (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the co-ordination of Activities relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) said that no additional appropriations would be required under the regular budget of the United Nations in connection with the draft resolution which had just been introduced. While the anticipated cost of the media round-table scheduled to be held in Europe later in 1985 was \$35,600, that cost would be charged to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and it was expected that some contributions to the Trust Fund would be earmarked for that activity.

* Resumed from the 14th meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*continued*)* (A/40/45; E/1985/69-A/40/267)

4. Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand) said that New Zealand regarded the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as a corner-stone of international efforts to improve women's status. New Zealand had signed the Convention in 1980 and had ratified it in January 1985 following extensive consultations with the women's groups most directly involved.

5. Ratification of the Convention was part of a policy to improve the status of women pursued by the Government which had taken office in July 1984. The portfolio of Women's Affairs had been created and a woman cabinet minister had been appointed to hold it. Subsequently, steps had been taken to establish a Ministry of Women's Affairs; that measure had just received preliminary approval, and appointments to the Ministry staff were to be made in the near future.

6. A series of forums held in 1984 had given women the opportunity to participate in the establishment of priorities for the new Ministry and to discuss ways in which a dialogue between the Ministry and the women of New Zealand could be promoted. The forums had been of value in the formulation of policies and the establishment of mechanisms to promote women's rights in New Zealand, and he hoped that the intergovernmental and non-governmental forums to be held in conjunction with the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women at Nairobi would similarly promote the advancement of women throughout the world.

7. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was a significant human rights instrument and a major achievement of the United Nations Decade for Women. His delegation welcomed the fact that an increasing number of countries had ratified the Convention and were implementing its provisions and hoped that the Nairobi Conference would inspire more States to do so.

8. While much remained to be done to bring about complete equality between men and women in

Canada, the achievements made in that area thus far were a source of pride to his delegation. The Constitution of Canada guaranteed the legal equality of all individuals and contained a specific provision guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms equally to women and men. A growing number of Canadian women were pursuing advanced studies and training, and there had been a remarkable increase in the participation of women in the work force. In that connection, a parliamentary committee was preparing to consider the question of child care, and the Canadian Government was currently studying recommendations contained in a report on equality in employment. However, a major challenge facing the Government was the identification of measures to achieve *de facto* as well as statutory equality.

9. Canada had submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in January 1985; that report constituted the first comprehensive statement by a Canadian Government on the state of equality between Canadian women and men. He welcomed the fact that the Committee was working to develop and refine its procedures; it was to be hoped that the Committee would eventually become as influential as the other United Nations human rights bodies.

10. His delegation agreed with the recommendation made by the chairmen of four human rights bodies at their meeting on the reporting obligations of States parties to human rights conventions that the Chairperson of CEDAW should attend any such meetings that might be held in the future. His delegation supported such efforts to co-ordinate the work of human rights bodies and believed that co-ordination should also be increased between the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

11. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the adoption of the Convention had been an important international event which had contributed significantly towards improving the status of women. The fact that so many States, including all the socialist countries, had become parties to that instrument so soon after its adoption demonstrated its vitality.

12. In her own country, women's equality had been legally mandated in all areas since 1918, immediately following the socialist revolution of 1917. Moreover, in the Soviet Union, women's equality was not only enshrined in law but implemented at all levels of society. For instance, women's right to work was fully guaranteed, as evidenced by the fact that one half of all workers were women. The Soviet Union also sought to make it possible for women to combine their working lives with motherhood.

13. She drew attention to a number of examples of the way in which the Convention was implemented in the Soviet Union. More than 500,000 women held managerial posts in various institutes, and more than one half of all employed women were involved in intellectual work. Women currently accounted for 68 per cent of all specialists with advanced training. Social security allowances for pregnancy and childbirth had been increased annually. Under the current five-year plan, there had been a significant increase in the remuneration of women working in areas in which the majority of employees were female, as well as in social benefits for mothers and children.

14. The experience of the Soviet Union demonstrated the importance of women's participation in political and social activities. Some 487 women were members of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union; that number represented nearly one third of all members and was greater than the total number of women in the parliaments of all Western countries put together. Women also participated in significant numbers in local government and people's courts. An important event during the United Nations Decade for Women had been the establishment of permanent commissions of deputies dealing with women's affairs. Those commissions had been given broad powers and made recommendations for improving the status of women by means of legislation. The commissions received periodic reports from different sectors of the economy and enterprises on progress which had been achieved in implementing measures relating to women's equality.

15. Her delegation was concerned that the principle of equality was not implemented in a number of other countries. In view of the leading role which women played in family life and their increasingly important role in the life of their countries, it was unfortunate that many phenomena of contemporary society prevented the implementation of the Convention. She drew particular attention, in that connection, to the deterioration of the international situation, the acceleration of the arms race, neo-colonialism, racism, *apartheid* and measures of economic dependence and oppression exerted by Governments. In a number of countries with ostensibly democratic systems, women were frequently subject to legal acts of discrimination. Cuts in social programmes prevented women from seeking employment and resulted in a high rate of unemployment for women in such countries. In addition, the growing repression in those countries of women's organizations that were fighting for peace constituted a gross violation of the Convention. Women in those countries were also subject to discrimination in education, professional training and salaries compared with the opportunities offered to men.

16. It was therefore of the utmost importance that the Convention should be recognized by all States. States which were not parties should desist from obstructing its implementation, and States which were should be compelled to fulfil their obligations under that instrument.

17. She commended the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for its useful work and for its contribution to the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, and urged all States to participate in that Conference.

18. Mr. DICHEV (Bulgaria) said that the adoption of the Convention was clearly one of the most important achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. Bulgaria attached great importance to international efforts to improve the status of women and had consequently been one of the first countries to ratify the Convention. Moreover, a Bulgarian expert was one of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

19. For the Convention to be implemented effectively, it must be universally accepted and its provisions strictly observed by all States parties. His

delegation welcomed the fact that more than 40 per cent of all States Members of the United Nations had become parties to the Convention.

20. The work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had clearly become more effective. The Committee should give greater attention to the proposal made at the Committee's fourth session that the discussion of national reports should focus primarily on identifying the causes of discrimination against women in countries where it existed.

21. During the fourth session, the Committee had considered the initial report of Bulgaria; the participation of all experts in the consideration of that report and the number of questions raised were indicative of the interest in Bulgaria's achievements in the social sphere and in the enhancement of the role of women in public life. The Bulgarian Government had also informed the Committee of legislation enacted on behalf of women after the report had been submitted. His delegation had been deeply satisfied that the report had enabled many members of the Committee to discern a close link between social development and women's liberation in Bulgaria.

22. He commended the Committee's work in preparation for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women and welcomed in particular the attention which the Committee had devoted to the interrelationship of the key themes of the Decade: equality, development and peace.

23. Mr. BELYAEV (Observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that women in his country enjoyed rights under the law and in practice in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. The establishment of a system of permanent commissions of deputies on matters relating to women's working and living conditions and the protection of mothers and children, which proposed legislation and monitored compliance with legislation, had been an important step towards co-ordinating activities to improve the conditions of women.

24. His delegation was pleased to note that more and more States were acceding to the Convention. It had noted the interest taken by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in his country's initial report and its positive assessment of that report. The experience of his country demonstrated that creation of the necessary social and economic conditions was a vital prerequisite to ensure true equality between men and women.

25. A major prerequisite for the continued success of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was that it should work within the framework of its mandate, endeavour to take decisions that were acceptable to all members and avoid questions which intruded excessively on the competence of States.

26. He supported the recommendation that the Committee's report on the achievements and obstacles experienced by States parties in the implementation of the Convention should be presented to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women by the Chairperson of the Committee. In its decision on the matter, the Council should urge States to become parties to the Convention.

Mr. Kobayashi (Japan) took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 6

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*continued*)* (E/1985/56)

27. Mr. EINARSSON (Iceland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that discussion in the Council of the general comments of the Human Rights Committee (see E/1985/56) relating to articles 1, 14 and 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights³ would bring about a wider understanding of the Covenant's implications. It should also encourage many more countries to accede to the Covenant.

28. The Nordic countries agreed with the Committee that reports by States parties should contain information on each paragraph of article 1 (self-determination). They concurred with the Committee that article 14 applied both to criminal and to civil cases and that it applied to all courts within the scope of the article, whether ordinary or specialized, including military courts. They fully agreed with the view that the right to life (article 6) was basic to all human rights and were in favour of drafting a second additional protocol regarding the abolition of the death penalty.

29. While sharing many of the concerns expressed by members of the Committee, they believed that questions concerning disarmament should be dealt with in the forums designated for such questions. They therefore considered that comments regarding the production, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons were a political statement more than a legal interpretation of the Covenant. The role of the Human Rights Committee was somewhat similar to that of a court of law which, under the legal system of the Nordic countries, would usually defer to the legislature in matters involving major political judgement. They hoped that the Committee would continue to define and explain specific rights and duties under the Covenant as it had done in the past.

30. Mr. FURSLAND (United Kingdom) said that his delegation attached the highest importance to the fulfilment of its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Its recent experience, in connection with the presentation of its second periodic report to the Human Rights Committee, had reinforced its high regard for that body and its belief in the necessity to maintain the current exceptional quality of the Committee membership. That meant, *inter alia*, that Committee members must be paid a realistic recompense for their work. His delegation would pursue the question of increasing Committee members' honoraria in the General Assembly and in the context of meetings of State parties.

31. The Secretariat must do more to improve the services provided to the Committee, in particular by providing more and better publicity for its work. The administrative arrangements at the recent session—particularly the facility with which observers had been able to witness the Committee's proceedings—represented an improvement. Those improvements should be continued.

32. Mr. KAKOLECKI (Poland) reiterated the appeal contained in General Assembly resolution 39/136 to all States to become parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

33. The Human Rights Committee had done important work in implementing the Covenant and, on the whole, his delegation took a positive view of its general comments. It fully shared the Committee's view regarding the particular importance of the right of self-determination, which included the right of a people to determine its political, economic, social and cultural system. That position implied opposition to the violations of that right that were occurring in various parts of the world.

34. Poland also welcomed the general comment relating to article 6 and the Committee's concern at the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Safeguarding the right to life was a prerequisite for the enjoyment of all other rights. Accordingly, his Government continued to emphasize that the struggle for peace was crucial to the implementation of civic rights and freedoms. The general comment on article 14 was rather technical and would therefore require further study; his preliminary impression was that it might prove helpful to States parties in the preparation of their reports.

35. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that States' recognition of the right of citizens to take part in the conduct of public affairs, guaranteed under article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, was often mere rhetoric, since most of the working population did not possess the financial and other means for that purpose. In the Soviet Union, the right to participate in State and public affairs was guaranteed under the Constitution and workers had real opportunities to vote for candidates or be elected themselves to the Soviets of People's Deputies and other elective State organs and to take part in other national, public and communal activities. It was disturbing that some States continued to refuse to become parties to the Covenant. Such a policy was indicative of the gulf which existed between declarative pronouncements on "commitment" to freedom, and everyday reality in which fundamental human rights were flouted. The policy of boycotting the Covenant and other important agreements was currently one of the principal obstacles to the strengthening of international co-operation in the field of human rights. That obstacle must be removed. All States should become parties to the Covenant and adopt the necessary legislative and other practical measures for implementing its provisions.

36. The Covenant reinforced existing principles and norms and was a universally recognized international standard, which all States must implement through the pursuit of an appropriate State policy. The international community evaluated a State's respect for human rights by the way in which it implemented the provisions of the Covenant.

37. The Soviet delegation commended the Human Rights Committee, which had been active for over seven years, and drew attention to that Committee's general comments on article 40, paragraph 4, of the Covenant. Those comments were addressed to all States parties to the Covenant and reflected the Committee's experience of examining reports of States on the implementation of their obligations under the Covenant.

38. The Soviet delegation considered that the Council, at its current session, should take the necessary steps to ensure the universal acceptance of the Covenant and its implementation by all States.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia

39. Mr. MORSE (Director, Office for Emergency Operations in Africa) said that a total of 7.9 million people were affected by the drought in Ethiopia. The situation with respect to food pledges had improved considerably. Further pledges of 472,800 metric tons were needed to reach the target of 1.5 million tons. The capacity of the port of Assab—which handled the bulk of the imports—had approximately doubled since the beginning of the year. To date, the average quantity of food distributed per month had been 50,000 tons—well below the target of 110,000. More distribution points had been added, bringing the total to 270.

40. The main reason for the slow distribution had been inadequate logistic support, particularly trucks and spare parts. The amounts needed in that area had skyrocketed in the past two months from \$14.3 million to \$51 million. The situation was expected to ease slightly because a number of Governments had made commitments in cash or in kind at a meeting of bilateral donors earlier in the month. The Ethiopian Government was currently allocating 70 per cent of national transport capacity to moving relief supplies. A new technique of low-altitude air dropping of emergency food in remote areas had been initiated in January and was expected to be extended to new locations in southern Wollo, where access by road was currently impossible.

41. As critical as the need for logistic support was the need for agricultural inputs such as seeds, hand tools, draught oxen and veterinary drugs and vaccines. Immediate requirements for agricultural inputs for 1985 had been estimated at \$95 million. So far the response had been negligible. Unless Member States responded quickly, it would be too late to plant crops and the food shortage would continue for another year. While the seed requirements had largely been met, transporting them to where they were needed would be a problem. That was particularly true in the case of maize and sorghum, since the agricultural season in Ethiopia started in May. The situation with regard to the main crop, the cereal teff (*Eragrostis abyssinica*), was better in that the planting season for that crop began in mid-June.

42. In view of the deterioration of the health conditions of drought victims and the overcrowding in the refugee camps, the needs in the health sector had been reassessed. Urgent health requirements were currently estimated at \$6 million. A further \$4.8 million were needed for a sanitation programme. At a recent follow-up meeting, held at Addis Ababa on 23 April, all the participants had agreed on the amounts of various supplies needed.

43. While it could be said that there had been a major international response to the Ethiopian emergency, a significant food gap of 500,000 metric tons remained and must be met immediately. The need for trucks remained enormous, as did the need for agricultural inputs. Other essential requirements were health and survival items. He appealed to Member States for continued assistance.

44. Mr. WOLDE GIORGIS (Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia) said that, owing to the goodwill and generosity of peoples and

Governments, the emergency situation in Ethiopia appeared to be under control. The daily death tolls had been dramatically reduced, and most parts of the country were currently receiving adequate rainfall. Nevertheless, because they lacked the necessary agricultural inputs, the people of Ethiopia were unable to take full advantage of the rain. Efforts to help drought victims who wanted to return to their villages or to start a new life in other areas had been impeded by the shortage of seeds, fertilizers, tools, draught oxen and other agricultural needs. The Government of Ethiopia had begun to implement a rehabilitation programme which could contribute decisively to the long-term solution of the persistent problem of drought in Ethiopia, and it appealed to the international community to provide the additional resources needed to ensure the full implementation of that programme.

45. Disaster relief assistance was still urgently needed. Even those parts of Ethiopia which had recently received adequate rainfall would continue to be in dire need because of the time-lag between planting and harvesting. Similarly, the fate of Ethiopia's nomadic population would not improve in the near future unless resources were made available for them to replenish their decimated herds. Moreover, a recent revision of the annual food requirement for 7.5 million people for a period of 12 months—from December 1984 to December 1985—indicated a shortfall of 500,000 metric tons. Depending on crop production during the current season, that gap might widen.

46. The Ethiopian Government had taken a number of measures to expedite the delivery and distribution of international aid. For example, by mobilizing 70 per cent of the entire national civilian transport resource system and 250 military trucks, it had improved the situation at the ports. Appreciable progress had been made in the distribution of relief supplies, and inaccessible areas were being serviced by means of air drops. However, the problem of transportation still remained formidable. At a donors' meeting on 23 April 1985, an appeal had been

made for transport equipment as well as for cash contributions for meeting port and inland-transportation handling charges. Donors had also been requested to provide medical supplies and assistance for project proposals for water-supply and sanitation programmes.

47. The fight against hunger should not be seen in isolation from the fight to overcome underdevelopment, and added impetus and support should be given to the search for longer term and sustained development. The need to assist rehabilitation and development activities remained unfulfilled. Ethiopia still received the lowest per capita development aid.

48. The Government and people of Ethiopia fully realized that the most decisive factor in combating the drought effectively remained the efforts of the Ethiopian people. The Government of Ethiopia had taken wide-ranging institutional and financial measures to enhance and augment the relief and rehabilitation efforts, and it had recently announced severe austerity measures to ensure that all available resources were used to alleviate the consequences of the current tragedy. Various governmental and mass organizations, under the co-ordination of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, were making a concerted and sustained effort to contain the drought and to formulate lasting solutions.

49. The international community could show its concern by providing the necessary assistance to enable the Ethiopian people to become self-reliant and independent of relief assistance. It was still not too late to provide the resources needed for agricultural production for the long rainy season, and the Ethiopian Government appealed to the donor community to make the same kind of response as it had made in providing emergency assistance. In addition, resources for land reclamation, reforestation and water conservation were vital and must be considered urgently.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

17th meeting

Friday, 17 May 1985, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.17

AGENDA ITEM 7

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (*continued*)

1. Mr. ZUCCONI (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Economic Community (EEC), welcomed the decision of the Ethiopian Government to make more transport vehicles available so as to improve the distribution of relief supplies, with a view to reaching all regions of the country adequately.

2. The members of the Community were concentrating their efforts in the sectors of transport and

health, including water supply, and had noted the need for additional agricultural inputs. Because of the assistance provided by donor countries, to which the EEC countries had contributed heavily through both governmental sources and non-governmental organizations, the situation in Ethiopia was now less desperate. Much of the progress achieved was due to the co-ordination between the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa and the Ethiopian Commission for Relief and Rehabilitation. The personal commitment and ability of the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Jansson, had been noteworthy. The members of the Community also took note with satisfaction of the assurances given that all

major decisions concerning refugee camps would be taken by the central Government of Ethiopia.

3. Henceforth, immediate aid must be integrated with longer-term development assistance. Only that approach would avert a repetition of the current crisis. Concern for the survival of the people was what had prompted the large-scale effort now under way in Ethiopia, and the same concern would be the basis of any future action, in a spirit of full and open co-operation between the international community and the local authorities.

4. Mr. JOENEK (Observer for Denmark) asked whether the statement made at the previous meeting by Mr. Morse, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regarding the activities of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa could be made available to delegations since it contained many figures useful for donor countries.

5. Speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, he said it was encouraging that the international community had been able to begin to alleviate the tragic plight of the Ethiopian people, although much remained to be done, particularly in the areas of health and equipment.

6. The actions taken thus far by the United Nations system had prepared the ground for co-ordinated deployment of emergency assistance, and were to its credit. It was imperative to continue that assistance; the Nordic countries would contribute their share.

7. The PRESIDENT said that, if it was at all possible, the text of the statement by the Administrator of UNDP as Director of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa would be circulated; in any case, the record of the 16th meeting would contain the most important data given in his statement.

8. Mr. KAKOLECKI (Poland) said that, despite the demonstration of active international co-operation to combat the dramatic situation in the drought-stricken areas of Africa, not even the basic needs had yet been met. Beyond the emergency requirements, the real historical, economic and political causes of the crisis, that made tragedies of natural calamities, had to be addressed.

9. He paid tribute to the action taken by the Ethiopian Government not only to limit human suffering but also to restructure the economic, social and cultural conditions of the people. Under very difficult conditions, that Government was doing its best and, with assistance from abroad, was in control of the situation.

10. Despite its own economic problems, Poland had responded to the request for assistance to Ethiopia. Spontaneous local relief organizations had emerged in many factories and schools and fund-raising campaigns had been launched. A squadron of Polish heavy-transport helicopters had been made available to the Ethiopian authorities, and was co-operating with similar services provided by some other countries.

11. With regard to longer-term assistance to Africa as a whole, Poland was offering training opportunities both bilaterally and through the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in areas such as navigation, demography and remote sensing of natural resources. Polish experts had been made available to developing countries to assist them in training qualified national technical specialists, a

vital factor in strengthening their intellectual and technical infrastructure. Experts were also assisting in national economic management and in public administration. Poland intended to participate also in the future in international efforts to alleviate the protracted crisis in the developing nations of Africa.

12. Mr. FLEMING (United States of America) welcomed the efforts of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa on behalf of the devastated and homeless people of Ethiopia and other critically affected countries. The Office had been able to mobilize international support and overcome bureaucratic and political obstacles in order to help Governments in drought-affected regions reorient their priorities towards short-term and long-term solutions to drought, desertification and stagnating economic and social development. The task had not been easy, considering the traditional rivalries between operational agencies of the United Nations and given the priorities of some Governments which often appeared to favour urban monuments and urban populations at the expense of the agricultural sector and the poor farmer.

13. His Government and the American people were greatly concerned by the tragedy in Africa. At a time of great budget stringency, the United States had significantly increased its food aid to drought-affected countries to the point where levels for 1985 would reach almost \$200 million for Ethiopia—of which \$153 million had already been provided—and more than \$1 billion for Africa as a whole. His country would continue to provide assistance for water sanitation, medical supplies and transportation through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and various non-governmental organizations in the United States. Additional funds had recently been appropriated by the United States Congress for emergency assistance. Contributions from private citizens now totalled more than \$100 million and sales of records such as "We Are the World" were expected to bring in much more.

14. Governments and private groups in Western Europe, Japan and elsewhere had also been moved by the tragedy in Ethiopia and had mobilized considerable support. However, his Government was appalled by the low level of response by the Communist countries to Ethiopia—estimated at only one tenth of contributions from private citizens in the United States. Given Ethiopia's client relationship with the Soviet Union and the billions of dollars in arms which the Soviet Union had provided to the Ethiopian Government, the Soviet Union should be in the forefront of the humanitarian effort. Instead, the role of the Communist countries in no way measured up to the tremendous response of the world community.

15. His Government also questioned the many obstacles to the equitable distribution of food and other relief supplies in the regions of Eritrea and Tigre, which had blocked the efforts of United Nations emergency operations and relief teams on the ground. For example, the Ethiopian army had a large fleet of trucks which could be used to transport food. Instead, thousands of tons of donated grain had rotted on piers in Assab for want of transportation.

16. He was pleased to note that the rains had returned to Ethiopia. There was browse in many regions for the decimated herds, and his Government was currently working closely with the Office for Emergency Operations to obtain wheat seed and teff

(*Eragrostis abyssinica*) seed for Ethiopian farmers. It was nevertheless to be hoped that policies would be adopted in that country to encourage farmers and offer a fair return for their labour.

17. Mr. KOLEV (Bulgaria) said that his Government had long pursued a policy of co-operation and solidarity with the African countries and other developing countries, including Ethiopia. Bulgaria had been one of the first to respond to appeals for assistance to Ethiopia. It had offered grant-aid equivalent to over \$12 million and had donated many thousands of tons of canned food, cheese, flour and wheat, as well as medicines and means of air and land transport. While, admittedly, only a fraction of the needs had thus been met, Bulgaria's aid none the less represented the selfless assistance of a small country acting out of solidarity with the Government and people of Ethiopia. Bulgaria would do its best in the future as well to help African countries overcome the consequences of the grave economic crisis and the natural disasters that had afflicted them.

18. Mr. KULAWIEC (Observer for Czechoslovakia), recalling that Czechoslovakia had sponsored the text adopted as General Assembly resolution 39/201 on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia and supported other resolutions dealing with the critical situation in Africa, said that his Government regarded the action taken in that respect by the United Nations system as most valuable.

19. However, it should be recognized that the natural factors contributing to the current state of affairs had only aggravated its long-term cause: the backwardness inherited from colonialism. Without far-reaching changes in the structure of the economies of African countries that would do away with their neo-colonial dependence and the uncontrollable interventions of transnational monopolies, and without restructuring international economic relations on a just and democratic basis, the situation of the African countries would not be permanently remedied.

20. Thus, Czechoslovakia took a comprehensive view of the problem of assistance to the African countries—and to the developing countries in general—and considered it necessary to concentrate in the long run not so much on aid to drought-stricken areas as on aid to all facets of the national economies, by such steps as developing the State sector and State-controlled purchase of agricultural products, reforming the agrarian sector, developing the infrastructure and the processing industries, and establishing mass social and health care programmes.

21. Czechoslovakia admired the purposeful action taken by the revolutionary Government and the Workers' Party of Ethiopia to solve the problems of their country, with the active assistance of the socialist countries and the whole international community. A number of successes had already been achieved, for example in moving the most gravely afflicted groups of the population to more fertile regions.

22. Aware of the urgent need to deal with the current famine, Czechoslovakia had supplied Ethiopia with food, medicaments, tents and other materials. The Czechoslovak population had taken up the cause, and assistance to Ethiopia was being provided through trade unions and youth and women's organizations. In addition, the Czechoslovak Government was sending experts in education, health care and

agriculture to Ethiopia, offering free education to young Ethiopian specialists in Czechoslovak universities and helping Ethiopia construct industrial and agricultural plants. Eventually, after a basic reorganization, the country should be able to feed its entire population. That would be facilitated by the creation of a favourable international climate, the maintenance of peace, the transfer of funds spent on armaments to peaceful development, the strengthening of trust and the elimination of the misuse of economic relations and aid as a means of bringing political pressure to bear.

23. Mr. SADCHIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it was clear that the Ethiopian Government was making very considerable efforts to combat the effects of the drought, notwithstanding difficult international and domestic circumstances, and that all the necessary conditions for relief and rehabilitation had been created. The response of the international community was a good example of co-operation in the face of a tragic situation, and his Government welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General in mobilizing international support.

24. Emergency humanitarian aid could alleviate the situation but would not, of course, solve the essential problems. In that connection, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was carrying out useful work in seeking long-term solutions to Africa's agricultural problems. However, averting future tragedies was possible, at the world level, only through the radical restructuring of international economic relations on an equitable basis, enabling the African countries, in particular, to overcome the economic problems inherited from their colonial past and aggravated by current neo-colonialist exploitation. Furthermore, at the national level, progressive social and economic change was needed to help diversify agriculture, carry out agrarian reforms and stimulate domestic food production. Ethiopia had made considerable advances in that respect.

25. The Soviet Union would continue to co-operate closely with the Ethiopian Government. A long-term programme of technical co-operation, which the two countries had signed in September 1984, would provide assistance to Ethiopia in the form of agricultural development projects which included the building of irrigation systems, grain silos, refrigeration plants and farm machinery pools. The USSR was also extending emergency assistance to combat the drought. In the last three months of 1984, for example, it had provided the equivalent of \$114 million in aid for transport equipment and services, food, medicines and oil. In addition, significant funds had been provided by social organizations in the USSR.

26. The comments made earlier by the United States representative served to confirm his Government's fears that some circles in the West, and above all in the United States, were seeking to use the difficult situation in Ethiopia and other African countries as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign States and undermining the authority of their national Governments. The United States dollar, strengthened by imperialist plundering of the developing countries and exorbitant bank interest rates, was a major tool for that purpose. It was not surprising, moreover, that the United States had refused to reconsider participation in certain long-term agricultural development projects and

funds for Africa established under the auspices of FAO and the World Bank. As to the United States representative's concern about Soviet aid, the USSR had stated that it would continue to provide as much assistance as possible to the developing countries. Regrettably, its capacity to do so was limited, not least because of the arms race forced on it by United States imperialism. In that connection, he wished to draw attention to the Soviet Union's proposals for reducing military expenditures and diverting towards peaceful purposes resources currently absorbed by the arms race.

27. Mr. KAWASHIMA (Japan) said that the Government and people of Japan were gravely concerned at the critical economic situation being faced by Ethiopia and other sub-Saharan African countries. His delegation especially appreciated the strenuous efforts of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa in co-ordinating the related United Nations activities, and looked forward to having Mr. Morse's report in written form.

28. Japan had strengthened its assistance efforts in the sub-Saharan region. Its Minister for Foreign Affairs, upon visiting Ethiopia and other African countries in November 1984, had offered \$15 million in food- and agriculture-related aid, in addition to the \$115 million in food-related aid already committed earlier in 1984. According to statistics released by FAO, Japan ranked fourth among all countries providing food aid to Africa, despite the fact that Japan had no food surplus. Various non-governmental organizations in Japan had also been actively engaged in activities to assist Africa, including fund raising, dispatching volunteers to the field, and conducting a campaign to collect blankets.

29. In 1984, the international community had mobilized a great many resources to meet the needs of the drought-stricken countries, and it was working to maintain the momentum of assistance. Such efforts should be matched with proper arrangements on the part of the recipient countries. The provision and improvement of facilities and equipment for storage and transport of food was as urgent as the provision of food itself. He expressed the hope that early and effective arrangements would be made in order to enable drought-affected people to receive assistance promptly.

30. Mr. MANN (Canada) said that Canada had played an active and important role in providing assistance to drought-stricken countries in Africa even before the current tragedy, and would continue to do so. Despite the comments made by the representative of the Soviet Union, he felt that those countries would find it easy to measure where the real help was coming from.

31. He expressed support for the excellent work being done by Mr. Morse and his colleagues in co-ordinating assistance efforts, and stressed that those efforts must continue.

32. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that the people and Government of the German Democratic Republic had followed with great sympathy and a feeling of solidarity the struggle of Ethiopia against the catastrophic effects of the drought. Since the autumn of 1984, the relief assistance provided by the German Democratic Republic had reached more than 90 million marks, which had been used for, *inter alia*, food, transport vehicles and medicines. His Government continued to help the

Ethiopian Government cope with the problems of distributing food to the disaster-stricken areas by providing four transport aircraft. Funds for such relief action came not only from the Government but from the trade unions, the Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic and the church. Besides giving immediate assistance, the German Democratic Republic also supported the Government of Ethiopia in its long-term efforts to avoid the recurrence of similar disasters.

33. As a sponsor of the text adopted as General Assembly resolution 39/201, the German Democratic Republic felt that United Nations assistance should be carried out under strict adherence to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in close co-operation with the Government of Ethiopia. That excluded, of course, any attempt to use the emergency situation to exert pressure or to interfere in internal affairs.

34. Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand) paid tribute to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for his herculean efforts in co-ordinating the work of the United Nations and its agencies, and thanked the Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia for his account of his Government's response to the problems which it was confronting (16th meeting). The picture was not, however, reassuring. Although fewer people might be dying of starvation, the crisis was far from over. There was a formidable list of immediate and pressing requirements, such as the need for transport and for agriculture-related supplies.

35. The Secretary-General had succeeded in eliciting an enormous response from the international community. That response was far from even, however. The challenge was not only to deliver relief supplies but also to help the countries involved to get back on the road to economic stability. Despite its limited capacity to help, New Zealand had contributed approximately \$NZ 3 million in 1984, and it had made one of the first contributions to the Secretary-General's African Emergency Trust Fund. In 1985, the Government would allocate another \$NZ 2 million, and it had sponsored, together with private companies, voluntary bodies and individuals, the chartering of a ship which, loaded with relief supplies, was currently on its way to Port Sudan.

36. Mrs. FANG Ping (China) said that the relief work being carried out was encouraging, and her delegation appreciated the efforts being made by the Government of Ethiopia. However, assistance by the international community needed to be further mobilized, and considerable attention had to be paid to the question of adequate transport. Moreover, in addition to emergency relief operations, the long-term need to assist in the development of food production must not be overlooked, in order to avoid the recurrence of such a crisis. China sympathized deeply with the plight of the people of Ethiopia, and its Government would continue to contribute food and medicine to help alleviate their suffering.

37. Mr. ELHASSAN (Observer for the Sudan) expressed appreciation for the overwhelming international response from Governments, private bodies and individuals to the situation in Ethiopia and other African countries. He hoped that the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa would continue to receive support.

38. The experience gained in combating the crisis in Ethiopia had made it clear that, even if food was available, many logistical problems remained to be solved, such as how to provide agricultural inputs and other non-food aid. It was to be hoped that the lessons learned from the successes and failures in the management of the situation in Ethiopia would facilitate and make more efficient the operations in other affected countries, such as the Sudan and Chad.

39. The Government of the Sudan was devoting a great deal of attention to the drought situation and had recently declared the southern region of the country a disaster area. Accordingly, it was keeping in constant contact with donor countries and United Nations agencies.

40. Ms. DOZZI (Soroptimist International) said that work to alleviate the serious famine in Africa was a major concern of the non-governmental organization that she represented. At the international level, it had initiated a programme by which funds would be provided for the construction of a number of wells in Senegal. It was also deeply concerned at the dire effects of famine upon the people of Ethiopia, and recognized that the food scarcity in the area was the result not only of drought but of population growth, the inability of food producers to make use of improved agricultural technology, the lack of storage facilities and a poor infrastructure for effective food distribution.

41. Her organization accordingly urged the members of the Economic and Social Council to support all efforts to ensure that a long-term agricultural recovery programme of assistance to Ethiopia was launched as soon as possible, incorporating strategies such as public education programmes, provision of realistic opportunities for agricultural training and of overseas agricultural training fellowships, technical co-operation programmes, provision of appropriate and adequate supplies of agricultural inputs, enlargement and improvement of financial and credit arrangements to women, establishment of rural co-operative centres and of an agricultural pricing system to ensure that food producers received adequate and fair financial compensation for their work.

42. Mr. FLEMING (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, wished to comment on remarks made by the Soviet representative concerning United States long-term assistance programmes. The United States was a major supporter of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, both of which were concerned with long-term agricultural development and provided considerable assistance to sub-Saharan Africa. His Government was also the major contributor to the World Food Programme. Moreover, its bilateral development assistance programme would provide more than \$1 billion in 1985 for sub-Saharan Africa and half of that amount would be devoted to agricultural development, with priority given to poor farmers. That assistance was separate from any food aid or emergency relief.

43. He felt that the Soviet Union should not continue, as it were, to hide its light under a bushel. He had been interested to learn of the \$114 million of aid provided to Ethiopia by the USSR late in 1984, but could find no reference to the Soviet Union in recent lists of aid contributors. That was perhaps an oversight, in which case a more complete list was clearly needed.

44. Mr. MORSE (Director, Office for Emergency Operations for Africa) said that the general discussion in the Council concerning assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia had been extremely beneficial. He was heartened by the statements of support made by many delegations and he hoped that all Governments appreciated the gravity of the situation and the need for urgent efforts, particularly in view of the shortfall in supplies of cereals required for 1985. Some delegations had emphasized the importance of peace and national sovereignty: those were fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations to which all States should be devoted.

45. One of the most effective ways in which the United Nations could help was by seeking to ensure maximum co-ordination of aid inputs by the relevant authorities. In the course of the discussion, he had been made aware of certain contributions about which he had not previously been informed. Donors were urged to ensure that such information was made widely available. In conclusion, he requested all donor countries to indicate as soon as possible what contributions they proposed to make, and trusted that he could continue to count on generous support.

46. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had thus concluded its general debate on agenda item 7.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

18th meeting

Wednesday, 22 May 1985, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.18

AGENDA ITEM 3

Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1985/17, E/1985/18, E/1985/52, E/1985/69-A/40/267)

1. Mr. AIDARA (Senegal), Rapporteur of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, introducing the report (E/1985/18), said that the Working Group had considered 13 reports from States parties at its most recent session, and had noted a marked improvement in both their quality and presentation, which had facilitated more detailed analysis. It was, however, regrettable that there had been no reduction in the number of late reports. The Working Group had welcomed the participation of representatives of the specialized agencies and the provision of press coverage of its meetings.
2. The suggestions and recommendations in the report were all equally important, although the Working Group wished to stress the particular need to ensure that it had its full complement of members and that all members attended meetings. The Group had considered ways of improving its composition, organization and administrative arrangements, and hoped that the Council would take due account of its views. Finally, the Working Group had formulated two draft decisions, I and II: the first relating to its provisional agenda for 1986; the second to the composition of its Bureau for 1986.
3. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands) observed that the Economic and Social Council was currently reviewing the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group. The Group had made a number of recommendations which reflected the widely felt need for improvement and offered a useful basis for upgrading its status.
4. While the Human Rights Committee was effectively monitoring the implementation of civil and political rights, the Economic and Social Council had clearly fallen short in the exercise of its duties with regard to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.³ That was partly because implementation of the Covenant could not easily be measured by objective criteria. It represented a programme for the creation of conditions whereby everyone might enjoy economic, social and cultural rights. The elaboration of case law by a committee of experts similar to the Human Rights Committee would help to make the Covenant more than a declaration of intent.
5. Accordingly, his delegation intended to submit a draft resolution whereby the Sessional Working Group would be transformed into a Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, comprising 18 experts in the field of human rights serving in a personal capacity. The term of membership would be extended from three to four years in order to enable representatives to acquire the necessary expertise and to improve continuity. His delegation also intended to propose that the Council should consider the Group's recommendation that the periodicity of reporting under the second and subsequent cycles of the reporting procedures should be prolonged by one year. Longer reporting cycles would facilitate the preparation of substantive reports by States parties.
6. It was clear, as indicated by the Working Group in paragraph 26 of its report, that a State party's level of development as a country was of direct relevance to its report. Yet it should be recognized that there were provisions in the Covenant which required political action rather than resources: for example, exercise of the right to form trade unions. Such rights should be guaranteed regardless of the level of development or the socio-economic system of the country concerned in its capacity as State party.
7. His delegation had welcomed the provision of press releases at the Group's most recent session. Yet the limited capacity of the conference rooms made available had meant that the public had been virtually excluded from meetings which were technically open to all. Note should be taken of the need for publicity.
8. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) said that the Working Group's achievements demonstrated that recognition of the significance of the Covenant and a willingness to compromise could lead to important decisions. Consideration of the 13 reports before the Group had revealed the indissoluble link between the implementation of civil and political rights and that of economic, social and cultural rights.
9. His Government had submitted its second periodic report on the implementation of articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant, demonstrating the extent to which human rights were respected in the German Democratic Republic. The information provided on the comprehensive rights of trade unions and workers in a socialist society had been of note.
10. Particular attention had been paid to the report submitted by Nicaragua on articles 13 to 15. The statements made by the representative of Nicaragua had demonstrated the impressive achievements of a liberated people in fields such as education and health services. Nicaragua merited sympathy and admiration, all the more so in view of the daily attacks by counter-revolutionary forces and the imperialist plans to destroy it.
11. His delegation agreed that the reporting cycle might well be extended to three years. It was important for those States which had not yet acceded to the Covenant to do so, although progress was being made in that respect.
12. The Working Group had discharged its duties responsibly, owing in part to its practice of taking decisions by consensus. Proposals to develop the Group further should reflect the need to promote the rights established in the Covenant even more effectively. In that connection, equitable geographical distribution of seats in the Working Group was

important. Any financial implications raised by the proposed changes should be discussed with realism and restraint. In any event, the legitimate interests of all States parties to the Covenant should be taken into account.

13. Mr. HOPPE (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was a corner-stone in United Nations efforts to promote human rights. Implementation of the Covenant should be closely monitored by the United Nations to assess the extent to which States parties respected such rights.

14. It was clear that the Economic and Social Council had not fully discharged its responsibilities under the Covenant. The Group had not been able to elaborate a sufficiently satisfactory basis for the Council's deliberations. The situation was aggravated by the failure on the part of many States parties to submit their reports on time.

15. It should be stressed that the review of the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Group was to be conducted by the Council, which was not bound by the report of the Group (E/1985/18) or that of the Secretary-General (E/1985/17). His delegation supported the Group's recommendation that it should be renamed "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights", on the understanding that it would still operate under the authority of the Council. The fact that the Group was composed of governmental experts had resulted in a fairly high degree of absenteeism. Moreover, it would be preferable for experts to serve in a personal capacity, rather than to be responsible to national Governments. Once every two years, the Council should elect experts from a list of persons recommended by States parties from among their own nationals. The term of office should be four years, as in other human rights bodies. To ensure continuity, one half of the membership would be renewed every second year. The first such elections could take place in 1986.

16. The question of equitable geographical distribution was of great importance when considering the composition of the Group. His delegation wished the membership to be increased from 15 to 18, the original 15 seats being equally distributed among the five regional groups, with the three additional seats being allocated by the Council in accordance with the increase in ratifications of the Covenant.

17. To facilitate the work of the Council, the Group should be requested to provide an analytical summary of its consideration of the reports of States parties. The Group should also make recommendations to assist the Council. To that end, the Group should meet intersessionally, which would allow time for Council members to consider the Group's report before the Council session. Since the Centre for Human Rights was located at Geneva, it would be preferable for future sessions of the Group to be held there rather than in New York.

18. Mr. SCHWANDT (Federal Republic of Germany) stressed the need to give fresh impetus to the process of ensuring universal respect for human rights. It was a matter of grave concern to his delegation that only 83 States Members of the United Nations were parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He urged the international community to ensure that the

Covenant was truly universal in scope. Ratification of the Covenant was one way in which a State could demonstrate its commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

19. The fact that the Council was not yet in a position to carry out fully its responsibilities under the Covenant was further cause for concern. The efforts of the Sessional Working Group to assist the Council in that regard had been impeded by organizational obstacles and restrictions on the reporting procedures. The Council should take steps to ensure that the Group was able to function in a manner commensurate with its importance.

20. The report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/17) and the report of the Sessional Working Group (E/1985/18) would enable the Council to determine the most suitable way to discharge its responsibilities under the Covenant. It was hoped that a resolution based on those reports could be adopted without a vote. The changes suggested in the report of the Secretary-General would correct existing organizational shortcomings and considerably enhance the work of the Group.

21. Ms. CAO-PINNA (Observer for Italy) regretted that, in contrast to the reporting system established by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the one established under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was not entirely successful. Her delegation therefore hoped that decisions would be taken at the current session of the Council that would lead to a new approach with regard to reporting.

22. With regard to the membership of the Group, she recalled that the decision taken in 1978 that there should be equal distribution of the 15 members of the Group among the five regional groups had been a provisional one, but that it had not been reviewed as originally intended. Her delegation was of the opinion that there was no longer any reason to maintain equal geographical distribution. In addition, the number of States parties to the Covenant had since increased from 50 to 83 and there was now no reason for membership of the Group to be smaller than that of the Human Rights Committee, composed of 18 experts. The vacancies in the membership of the Group were due to the fact that the experts were not elected as such directly. The peculiar situation of the Sessional Working Group might become serious and reduce the importance of the Covenant, unless action was taken at the current session of the Council. The composition of the Group should not be reviewed at intervals of three years, as had been decided in Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/33. Starting at its first regular session of 1986, the Council could review the first results of the full revision of the criteria governing the composition of the Group. Such revision should be undertaken by the Council along the lines suggested in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the Secretary-General's report (E/1985/17). That would entail substituting equitable geographical distribution of membership of the Group for the current equal geographical distribution and it would also eliminate the unusual procedure by which the Group was currently constituted.

23. The Council should avoid a rigid approach with regard to the qualifications of the experts in the Group. They were usually members of permanent missions to the United Nations of differing rank—a fact which caused the Group certain difficulties.

Governmental experts found themselves in an awkward situation when reports of their Governments were being considered. Since members of other bodies entrusted with the consideration of reports of States parties to other human rights instruments were not governmental experts, there was no reason why the experts on economic, social and cultural rights should be governmental experts.

24. Unless the Group was able to prepare substantive reports, as did the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Council would not be in a position to fulfil its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant. Her delegation believed that the Group was willing to prepare such substantive reports, but was unable to do so mainly because of its composition and because of procedures related to the appointment of the experts.

25. Assuming that the Group's composition was modified along the lines she had indicated, her delegation would fully support the views expressed by the Secretary-General on the timing, duration and location of its sessions. It would merely like to point out that the current duration of the annual session might in the future be too short in comparison with sessions of other bodies entrusted with the consideration of national reports. Furthermore, the guidelines established for the preparation of the reports on economic, social and cultural rights were much more detailed than those established for the reports on civil and political rights and on racial discrimination. In that regard, her delegation fully shared the view expressed by the Group that the Council could consider the possibility of inviting the Secretary-General to revise the present guidelines.

26. Her delegation also fully supported the idea, envisaged by the Secretary-General, that the Group should meet as an intersessional body of the Council and that it should be renamed "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights". It was also in favour of the intersessional meetings either being held at Geneva or alternating between Geneva and New York.

27. Her delegation welcomed the Group's recommendation that the periodicity of the reporting obligations of States parties should be lengthened by one year. That change would contribute to improving the serious situation with regard to overdue reports, of which there were now some 100.

28. Lastly, her delegation wished to express its appreciation for the Group's comments concerning the link that existed between the progressive implementation of the Covenant and the level of countries' development, and concerning the negative impact of the current economic situation on developing countries. That comment was a promising beginning for the fulfilment by the Council of its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant.

29. Ms. SWORDS (Canada) said that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was unique in the complexity of the issues it addressed and in the role it entrusted to the Council as the body charged with reviewing its implementation. However, it was equal in importance to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and implementation of the two Covenants should be accorded similar weight, even if they did not necessarily have an equivalent review procedure.

30. The precise legal content of a number of economic, social and cultural rights and the specific nature of the obligations they entailed under article 2 of the Covenant were complex and to some extent ill-defined, particularly when compared with the more precisely drafted International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The task of reviewing reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was therefore all the more difficult and her Government was concerned that there might be a tendency to oversimplify the task. More analytical, thoughtful and careful reviewing was justified, to achieve which the Council must turn its attention to certain practical matters.

31. Overall, her delegation had been disappointed with the contents of reports of the Group, in spite of some improvements since 1981. The current report lacked an analytical summary of reports considered. In the view of her Government, the ultimate objective must be a substantive report that provided some analysis of implementation by States and indicated the type of review made by the Group of individual State reports. That objective had not been met by the 1982 modifications. Governments had all too often replaced their experts without prior approval by the Council. The result had been a lack of continuity and of opportunity to develop expertise. Her Government therefore supported the proposal that the newly formed Committee should consist of experts serving in a personal capacity for an increased term of four years. Such a group would be better able to produce a substantive report for consideration by the Council, thus enhancing the Council's supervisory role over the Covenant.

32. The timing and duration of meetings was also a matter of concern and the draft resolution to be submitted by the Netherlands delegation would make it possible for the newly formed Committee to meet earlier, well in advance of the beginning of the Council session, and thus to have time to prepare a substantive report.

33. If the Committee had insufficient time to carry out its task adequately meeting for only three weeks a year, the Council should consider the possibility of it meeting either in two sessions or for a longer period of time. In addition, in order to preserve the character of the group of independent experts, it was advisable that provision should be made for the filling of casual vacancies.

34. There had been much debate recently on the right to development. It would appear useful to explore the relationship between development and human rights. In that connection, her delegation urged that more attention should be given to the existing Covenants. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was a potent instrument for promoting national development in its economic, social and cultural aspects and international assistance towards that end. States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights undertook to maintain the political climate in which development could take place. The greatest contribution that a State could make to development was surely to become a party to those two Covenants and to ensure their effective implementation.

35. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the International Covenants on Human Rights confirmed the interrelationship between political and economic rights, the rights of

peoples and individual rights. Many States which belonged to different social systems and had different levels of economic development were parties to them. The virtual universality of those Covenants was irrefutable proof of their effectiveness. The fact that certain States continued to refuse to accede to them gave cause for concern and demonstrated their clear unwillingness to carry out international obligations with respect to political, social and economic rights. That policy demonstrated the gap between their professed "devotion" to freedom and the everyday reality of human rights violations in those countries and was a major obstacle to the further development and strengthening of international co-operation in the field of human rights.

36. The Soviet Union attached particular importance to the strengthening of international co-operation in that field in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and urged those States which had not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights.

37. The right to work, which was guaranteed under article 6 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, was the basis for other rights and freedoms. In that regard, the constantly expanding ranks of the unemployed in the developed countries were particularly alarming. Deprived of the means to earn a living, millions of workers and their families were doomed to a life of poverty. The statements referring to the alleged freedom, equality and prosperity in those countries were indeed ironical.

38. In the Soviet Union, the right to work, which was guaranteed under the Constitution, was implemented through a number of practical measures to ensure the systematic development of socialist soci-

ety and enhance the welfare of the population. Such a policy also created an effective material basis for ensuring the implementation of the other human rights.

39. The work carried out by the Sessional Working Group, particularly the recommendations on the future work of the Group and on enhancing its status, was especially useful.

40. In considering the periodic reports of various countries, the Group had been impressed by a number of developments in some countries. For example, the periodic report of Nicaragua had indicated the profound political reforms and nation-building that had taken place in that country, despite continuing external pressure and economic boycott. Nicaragua had been able to eliminate illiteracy and implement the provision of the Covenant on the right to work—developments that could be envied and emulated even by some developed countries.

41. Many experts had agreed that the Group's method of work was effective and that its organizational structure should remain intact. In putting together the "package" of basic points, the Group had taken into account the wishes of both developed and developing countries. All the points should be carefully studied and reflected in the draft decisions being prepared by the Council so that those decisions could be adopted unanimously.

42. The PRESIDENT suggested that the deadline for submission of draft proposals on agenda item 3 be set at 6 p.m. on 23 May 1985.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

19th meeting

Wednesday, 22 May 1985, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.19

AGENDA ITEM 5

Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (A/CONF.116/PC/25 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 and 3; E/1985/44, E/1985/45, E/1985/46, E/1985/60-A/40/188, E/1985/86)

1. Mrs. SHAHANI (Secretary-General of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace) drew the Council's attention to the report on the third session (A/CONF.116/PC/25) and the report on the resumed third session (A/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.1, Add.1/corr.1 and Add.2 and 3) of the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985. Although

the preparatory body had been unable to arrive at a consensus at its third session on all the issues before it, a number of encouraging trends had emerged, namely: the reaffirmation of the validity of the goals and objectives of the Decade and of the need to accelerate efforts beyond 1985 for their full achievement; a high level of awareness of the complexity of the women's issue and its implications for devising strategies and measures for the advancement of women; a recognition of the close interrelationship between global economic and political issues and women's issues and the need to identify the nature of that relationship more accurately; concern about the persistence of certain major obstacles and the need to eliminate them; and unanimous agreement on the importance of continuing to appraise periodically the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Decade. Accordingly, she was grateful to the General Assembly for having requested, in its decision 39/459 of 12 April 1985, a resumed third session of the

preparatory body to enable the latter to complete all the preparatory work in order to ensure the success of the World Conference.

2. Document A/CONF.116/PC/21 on the forward-looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, prepared by the Conference secretariat as a basis for the preparatory body's work, had first been considered by the preparatory body at its third session, following which proposals had been submitted by the Western countries (A/CONF.116/PC/CRP.2) and the Eastern European countries (A/CONF.116/PC/CRP.3) and amendments proposed by the Group of 77 (A/CONF.116/PC/L.18). The various proposals had reflected a serious attempt by all Member States to arrive at preliminary agreement under very severe time constraints. At its resumed third session, the preparatory body had revised the original document and had decided to transmit to the Conference those paragraphs on which there was a consensus and those on which there was not. While nearly three quarters of the document had been agreed by consensus, following intensive consultations within and among groups of countries on the basis of the various proposals, a number of important issues had not been resolved, including 15 of the rules of procedure contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/11. In view of the importance of the issue of the rules of procedure, she urged Member States to try to reach an understanding on the outstanding rules before the Nairobi Conference. Since not only those rules but also a number of key issues which could be decisive to the success of the Nairobi Conference had been left pending at the resumed session, she emphasized the importance of pursuing informal consultations both within and among groups of countries and of maintaining the spirit of co-operation shown by all delegations at the resumed session, in order to ensure that an agreed framework and a strong basis for negotiations were arrived at for Nairobi.

3. She was confident that the Council would give priority to recommending ways of ensuring that the period remaining before the Nairobi Conference was used to continue the informal dialogue and negotiations conducted during the resumed session.

4. With regard to the organization of the work of the Nairobi Conference, the Preparatory Body, at its second session, had adopted the agenda for the Conference and had decided that the plenary Conference should consider the item on review and appraisal, while the First Committee should consider national strategies and measures and the Second Committee regional and international strategies and measures. She now wished to suggest that the First Committee should consider chapters I to III of document A/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.2 on forward-looking strategies and that the Second Committee should consider the Introduction to that document and also chapter V, keeping in mind the recommendations of the regional preparatory meetings contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/9. In view of the lack of consensus on the structure of chapter IV, informal consultations should continue as to how that chapter should be taken up at the Conference.

5. She drew the Council's attention to the preparatory body's recommendation that the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the achievements of and obstacles

encountered by States parties in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ should be included under an agenda item of the World Conference and that the Chairperson of the Committee should be invited to introduce that report to the Conference. The preparatory body had also recommended that an exception to paragraph 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) should be made with respect to the Conference, to authorize the Secretary-General to accept special contributions to assist representatives of Governments of least developed countries, trust territories, land-locked countries and developing countries in the Caribbean to participate in the Conference. Lastly, it had recommended that the Secretary-General's report on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Decade for Women (A/CONF.116/PC/23) should be submitted to the Conference as a basic document and that the report entitled "Women and *apartheid* in South Africa and Namibia" (E/ECA/RCIWD/OAU/7), considered at the African Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the Conference, should be submitted as a background document.

6. She also drew the Council's attention to the report of the Working Group on Slavery of the Commission on Human Rights, contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/25, which recommended that issues of slavery-like practices and violence perpetrated against women within the family in many parts of the world and the situation of children as domestic workers should be brought to the attention of the Nairobi Conference. She suggested that, in recognition of their contribution to the goals of the Decade for Women, the President and the Secretary-General of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City in 1975, and the President and the Secretary-General of the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women, held at Copenhagen in 1980, should be invited to attend the opening of the Nairobi Conference as honorary guests. She hoped that the Council would give favourable consideration to that suggestion, on the understanding that it would not have financial implications for the United Nations. She wished to inform the Council that the report of the Special Rapporteur on the suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, prepared pursuant to Council resolution 1983/30, would be available shortly as a United Nations publication. She welcomed the cross-organizational review of the question of women and development (E/1985/45) conducted pursuant to Council decision 1984/101, which revealed the progress achieved by the United Nations system in implementing the goals and objectives of the Decade and would help to enhance the coherence and efficiency of the system's programmes and harmonize its approach to the issue of women in development. In that connection, she was deeply grateful for the continuing support received by the Branch for the Advancement of Women, acting as the Conference secretariat, from United Nations agencies and bodies, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in its efforts to achieve the goals of the Decade and, especially, to prepare basic documentation for the Nairobi Conference.

7. Preparations for the Conference had reached a crucial stage. Considerable progress had been made,

but she appealed to Member States to help overcome the remaining difficulties through patient consultation and careful negotiations, conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual understanding. Serious questions were being asked about the feasibility of adopting generally agreed forward-looking strategies for women at the global level when positions differed widely, and the ability of the United Nations to harmonize divergent views towards common goals. The implications of the success or failure of the Nairobi Conference were enormous and she therefore appealed to all Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Conference was a success, for the benefit of women the world over, and to reaffirm the validity of the United Nations as an effective forum for peace and international co-operation.

8. The PRESIDENT commended the Secretary-General of the World Conference for her tireless efforts in preparation for that Conference, which he hoped would be highly successful, and endorsed her appeal to members of the Council to follow up the preparatory body's recommendations and make every effort to ensure that preparations for the Conference were completed successfully.

9. Mrs. PASTIZZI-FERENCIC (Director, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women), introducing the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fifth session (E/1985/44), said that the Board's fifth session had been a particularly important one, in that it had evaluated the overall progress made by the Institute during its first year of operations from its headquarters at Santo Domingo. The session had also been a forward-looking one, for it had examined a number of questions relating to the Institute's future development at a time when the review and appraisal of the achievements of the Decade for Women showed that the Decade's objectives had yet to be achieved and that many challenges faced the implementation of forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women by the year 2000.

10. During the Decade for Women, the interrelationship between developmental and economic processes and the position of women, both as members of the labour force and in their reproductive and household functions, had been clearly established and had resulted in the adoption of a large number of innovative concepts, approaches and strategies relating to women and development. The Board of Trustees of the Institute had been unanimous in its assessment that many methodological approaches were needed if the objectives of incorporating women into development were to be translated into pragmatic action and that such a complex issue required the continuing attention of all development experts and the entire international community. The Board had also agreed that policy-makers and women must be made aware of how women's participation and needs related to existing developmental concerns and hence that increased research and training efforts should be a priority area for securing pragmatic action.

11. The Board had devoted considerable attention to the Institute's priority programme on women and international economic relations and had decided that the consolidated report on that programme, which the Institute would be issuing in conjunction with the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, should be given the widest possible dissemination as a useful contribution to the search

for changes in both the position of women and in existing development patterns at the international and national levels.

12. In view of the growing importance of research, training and information activities for the advancement of women, an adequate institutional framework was needed to implement the many objectives relating to women and development. From the very outset, the Board had recognized that operating through a network of co-operative arrangements with organizations and bodies within and outside the United Nations system could secure the successful implementation of the Institute's numerous activities. The efficiency of such an approach had been proved by the initial results presented to the fifth session. The Board had devoted full attention to further network-building through the establishment of focal points and correspondents for co-operation with the Institute at national level. It had approved the general framework and guidelines for establishing INSTRAW focal points and identified areas suitable for mutual support. Increased interaction between INSTRAW and its focal points, and among the latter, could in fact strengthen both the Institute and its focal points.

13. Strengthening developing countries' national research, training, information, documentation and communication capabilities through network-building was the main feature of the Institute's proposed medium-term plan, although co-operation with United Nations bodies, in particular the regional commissions, would continue to receive special attention. The specific goals of such co-operative arrangements were described in paragraph 146 of the report (E/1985/44). The proposed medium-term plan foresaw a close relationship between research and training programmes and combined a global and sectoral approach which would ensure continuity of work as well as the monitoring of new development trends. It would also reflect the relevant decisions of the forthcoming Nairobi Conference. The implementation of the medium-term plan, with its emphasis on network-building, training and communication, would require a steady flow of voluntary contributions. Thus far, government pledges had been the Institute's only source of financing and there was evidence of a rising trend in government contributions, with 49 countries having contributed thus far to the Institute's Trust Fund. At the fifth session, it had been generally agreed that Governments should remain the prime target group of fund-raising activities for the next period and that every effort should be made to widen their base contributions. The Board therefore wished to request the Council to appeal to Governments and other potential donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in order to help the Institute, *inter alia*, to disseminate its documentation more widely in additional languages.

14. The establishment of INSTRAW had been one of the many outstanding achievements of the Decade for Women. The Institute had played and would continue to play a catalytic role in developmental changes which would benefit women and every effort should be made to support and strengthen United Nations activities for the advancement of women so that the objectives of equality, development and peace might be attained.

15. Mr. BAUDOT (Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) introduced the report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/45) prepared in response

to paragraph 7 of Council decision 1984/101, which contained, in the context of women and development, a review of selected major issues in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system. The report was based on medium-term plans or, as far as possible, equivalent documents. Many organizations of the United Nations system engaged in medium-term planning, but some formulated only medium-term objectives and a number had no formal programme objectives. For those reasons, where other information was not available, major policy reports to intergovernmental bodies and programme budgets indicating a programmatic trend had also been used in the analysis. From the methodological point of view, the exercise was thus somewhat "hybrid" in nature, but the report should nevertheless be useful in assisting the Council in recommending steps to harmonize future policies.

16. The report also attempted to see whether existing plans, taken together, constituted a coherent whole. In that respect, the main conclusion which emerged, in particular from paragraph 4 of the report, was that there existed no joint inter-agency medium-term programme for the integration of women in development and no formally adopted programmatic strategy which could serve as a framework for harmonizing the sectoral plans of the organizations of the system. In the absence of such a joint programme, it was nevertheless possible that individual medium-term plans, statements of objectives and other elements, taken together, might constitute an integrated approach. As far as activities relating to the role of women in development were concerned, however, that did not appear to be the case. Moreover, it was felt that certain issues were dealt with more adequately than others, but that some were largely ignored. Paragraphs 75 to 78 of the report gave specific examples in that respect. Lastly, the overall picture—not actually reflected but to some extent suggested in the report—was one of fragility: without broader and more effective planning, it was not clear whether, by the end of the United Nations Decade for Women, system-wide commitment on the whole range of issues would be sufficiently consolidated to resist changing perceptions, caused by different political and cultural factors, that might jeopardize the achievement of the Decade's generally accepted goals.

17. The recommendations placed before the Council—some six or seven in all—were contained in paragraphs 80 to 86 of the report and required no comment. Concerning the possibility, mentioned in paragraph 82, of undertaking a cross-organizational programme analysis in the area of women and development, he wished to draw attention to the letter from the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1985/86), which indicated that the Committee had decided to undertake such analyses in other areas in both 1987 and 1988. The Council should bear that decision in mind in any recommendation which it might make to the Committee.

18. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that the United Nations Decade for Women had been invaluable in bringing women's concerns to the forefront of public policy; the current review and appraisal was also an important contribution in that regard. For women throughout the world, the Nairobi Conference symbolized the political commitment towards change on their

behalf. His Government looked forward to Nairobi with a great sense of optimism, not because the World Conference would be without politics, differences or conflict; rather, because the recent resumed third session of the preparatory body had demonstrated a collective political will on the part of all Governments to achieve agreement on forward-looking strategies and development issues. Progress was equally impressive in many other areas, offering the possibility of a successful outcome.

19. A great deal of preparation nevertheless remained to be done. Substantive work must begin with the draft document on forward-looking strategies, which was expected to be the major achievement of the Conference. Many bracketed paragraphs remained in the draft text and, in seeking to narrow differences, a certain national self-discipline was needed in order to avoid introducing new elements or additional complexities at such a late stage. However, not all of the brackets represented significant differences, and in some cases a relatively simple drafting exercise might be able to express the common ground. In areas where agreement appeared more difficult to achieve, he wished to suggest a rule of thumb. The themes and sub-themes of the Decade were a constant reminder of the mutually reinforcing nature of international and national policies, the content and direction of which had an impact on women which in many cases was different from their impact on men. The secret of success at Nairobi would reside in the ability to translate that difference into the treatment of the most difficult issues—to approach the substance from women's special viewpoint.

20. First, forward-looking strategies should underline the need for Governments to demonstrate their political commitment to increase women's participation as representatives of their Governments and, secondly, the strategies should focus on those aspects of issues which bore disproportionately on women. Before the formal opening of the Conference, it was necessary to review the outstanding parts of the draft strategies and resume the mutual search for an acceptable consensus on substance. His delegation was prepared to join in examining the draft rules of procedure with a view to working out an agreed approach. In that connection, as in the case of other major conferences, his delegation had been impressed with the importance of consensus in encouraging concrete and effective follow-up.

21. His delegation urged that active efforts should be made as soon as possible on other outstanding organizational matters. The size and composition of the Bureau could be tackled immediately. It was also necessary to know the detailed arrangements for the meetings and for facilitating the negotiating process at Nairobi. He hoped that the secretariat of the Conference would be able to clarify some of the practical aspects of those arrangements during the Council session.

22. Canada was a major supporter of preparations for and participation in the Conference. It had already contributed over \$1.2 million for those purposes and had great hopes for the establishment of a constructive dialogue and the elaboration at Nairobi of mutually acceptable forward-looking strategies for women. Canada would play a full and active part in contributing to that objective.

23. Mr. PERUGINI (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the 10 States members of the European Economic Community (EEC), said that those States were actively preparing for the forthcoming World Conference and would contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to improve the status of women throughout the world through the elimination of all forms of discrimination and through the promotion of equal opportunities. The Ten welcomed the initiatives which the United Nations had taken thus far on behalf of women, in particular, the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women. United Nations efforts had encouraged intensified action during the United Nations Decade for Women at the national, regional and international levels as well as the substantial strengthening of political, legal, social, economic and cultural structures, permitting genuine and lasting improvement in the status of women.

24. However, serious problems remained to be solved, and the forthcoming World Conference should undertake an objective and realistic analysis of those goals which had not been attained and of the obstacles involved. The analysis should yield strategies which should be followed in order to complete the task undertaken.

25. At the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the World Conference, the delegations representing EEC member countries had outlined the legislative and political measures adopted and actions taken or envisaged within the framework of the Community's programme of action for the promotion of equal opportunities, the results of which would be transmitted to the World Conference as one Community contribution to the Decade. The members of the Community had already made a number of suggestions which should be taken into account in elaborating strategies for the future, particularly with regard to ensuring equal opportunities for women in the work force, and in increasing the value placed on work performed by women and on their essential contribution to development.

26. He welcomed the fact that considerable efforts had been made at the resumed third session of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the World Conference. However, some issues remained in dispute and he pledged the willingness of the members of EEC to participate in constructive negotiations in order to find solutions to the remaining problems that would be acceptable to all. The members of the Community looked forward to future efforts that would faithfully reflect the demands and expectations of women and their desire to participate on an equal basis with men in the political, economic, social and cultural life of their countries. By focusing on the problems of women rather than on issues the substance of which was dealt with in other bodies, the Conference would be in a position to achieve its goals. It should therefore strive to find the most effective ways to resolve the problems affecting women in specific parts of the world. The members of EEC also hoped that efforts would be made to reach a consensus in all Conference documents, with a view to ensuring a better future for all women.

27. Mrs. ABRAHAMS (Venezuela) commended the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the World Conference for its dedicated efforts, which had been particularly evident at the resumed third session. Her delegation had

co-operated actively in the Commission's work, in keeping with the priority which it attached to women's issues.

28. Her country had experienced massive urbanization and substantial population growth, and women continued to be short-changed in respect of income distribution, educational and cultural opportunities, access to employment and inclusion in the decision-making process. The Venezuelan educational system had been expanded, since education was considered a key factor in the integration of women in society. Her country's experience had taught it that a society offering equal opportunities and options was impossible without the participation of women, that a democratic and egalitarian society must include women—who accounted for 50 per cent of the Venezuelan population—in the decision-making process, and that the contribution made by women within the home to the quality of life of society must be acknowledged.

29. Moreover, in 19.3 per cent of Venezuelan homes, women were the heads of household and the sole source of support for the family. Her country recognized that women must be permitted to participate in society on an equal footing with men and that the family and women played critical roles in shaping the human resources of the country, 44 per cent of the population of which was under 14 years of age.

30. Her country had encouraged greater participation by women in society through a display of genuine political will, through the expansion of the educational system, and by means of changes in family attitudes and the integration of women into the economy, particularly in the service sector. Nevertheless, women had not yet assumed their rightful role in the management sector. Her country was keenly aware that growth alone did not constitute development, and that a more equitable distribution of income was also essential in order to guarantee a better quality of life for all members of society.

31. Whereas women had accounted for 15 per cent of university enrolments in 1960, the figure had risen to 48.9 per cent in 1981, and a growing number of women were specializing in technical fields, a national priority for human resources training. Moreover, in 1983, 48 per cent of the public officials had been women, with 61 per cent of them holding university degrees and 50 per cent occupying supervisory posts.

32. In the rural sector, although household work was not yet attributed adequate importance, as a result of the process of agrarian reform 15 per cent of the women holding university degrees were from rural areas, and rural credit policies which treated men and women equally had been developed.

33. The likelihood that there would be little growth in the labour market in Latin America during the current decade did not augur well for Latin American women, given the traditional view that men, as heads of the family, should receive priority in job allocation. Her delegation was very concerned at that situation, since it would increase the already high level of unemployment among women, who were the heads of families in many developing countries. The special skills which women displayed as they discharged their role of silent protagonists in the traditional sector of the Latin American labour market must be accorded adequate weight if the

countries concerned were to be able to establish more equitable social and economic structures.

34. Lastly, she emphasized that equality of opportunity and equal access to training for a role in society could pave the way for peace and development.

35. Miss SENCION (Observer for the Dominican Republic) expressed the hope that the forthcoming World Conference would arrive at conclusions and recommendations that would accelerate the structural changes needed to ensure the all-round development of women. The Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975,⁷ and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year⁸ in particular had done a great deal to raise the world's consciousness on the issues involved. Her delegation endorsed the general view that the international community should firmly support the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), which through its activities had already proven its worth. With regard to her country's efforts to attain the goals and objectives of the Declaration of Mexico and the World Plan of Action, she noted that her Government had volunteered her country as the permanent headquarters of INSTRAW, that it had signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ on 21 January 1985, and that in 1982 it had established an Office for the Promotion of Women which worked with the various State sectors carrying out programmes for women. In the private sector, women had established various groups which were striving to attain the goals and objectives of the Decade.

36. In conclusion, she said that there could be no doubt that the attainment of equality for women would be a major contribution towards peace.

37. Mr. MANSFIELD (New Zealand) said that the forthcoming World Conference would be of great importance in sustaining and encouraging further progress in attaining the goals of equality, development and peace for women everywhere. The Conference would provide the last opportunity in the foreseeable future for women to agree within a United Nations framework on a basis for regional and international strategies to achieve the goals after the Decade had ended.

38. Because the social, political and legal changes that must be effected to realize the goals of the Decade demanded major sustained efforts, a sense of unity and common purpose should be one of the principal objectives at Nairobi. That, in turn, would require a spirit of goodwill, forbearance and compromise, and his delegation was fully prepared to work in a constructive spirit to ensure that the task of adopting forward-looking strategies to improve the quality of life for women all over the world was achieved. It hoped that the strategies would be formulated so as to attract the widest possible support in the international community. The rules of procedure for the Conference should be designed, as far as possible, to facilitate that result.

39. His delegation hoped that close links would be established between the Conference and the non-

governmental organizations' forum to be held in conjunction with it, since such organizations carried much of the burden of bringing about real improvements in the status of women. Representatives of such organizations should have the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Conference itself.

40. Mr. HARHOFF (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and his own country, said that one of the primary goals of the forthcoming World Conference must be an in-depth evaluation of the results of the Decade, including the extent to which the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women,⁹ adopted at Copenhagen in 1980, had been implemented. The Nairobi Conference should also adopt constructive and realistic forward-looking strategies for achieving further progress in order to meet the legitimate aspirations of women.

41. The Nordic countries were pleased to note that the resumed third session of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the Conference had generally been positive and constructive, the result of hard work on a myriad of complex issues. However, many issues relating to both substance and procedure remained unresolved, and informal consultations should be initiated during the current session of the Council and should continue in the weeks thereafter in order to facilitate the work of the Conference. The delegations of the Nordic countries were prepared to play a constructive role in serious negotiations on all outstanding issues, and hoped that all other participants would approach the negotiations in a similar spirit.

42. Non-governmental women's organizations and trade unions played an important role in raising women's consciousness, and the Nordic countries therefore were pleased that a non-governmental organizations' forum would be held at Nairobi in conjunction with the World Conference. They looked forward to extensive, mutually beneficial interaction between the two and hoped that such organizations would be able to express their views at the Conference.

43. During the Decade, the Nordic countries had striven to eliminate any remaining barriers to the full participation of women in political, economic, social and cultural life. Women were already actively engaged in those spheres, but all too often their essential contributions were not fully recognized and they tended to have responsibilities and burdens without equivalent rights and influence. The primary objective of the Decade had been to increase the opportunities and choices open to women everywhere and to give them a greater say in determining the present and the future. That was not a simple task, for changes in the social fabric of countries and a reallocation of political power were required. The specifics, priorities and pace of change differed from country to country and must reflect the desires of the people of each nation.

44. The Nordic countries attached great importance to the innovative and catalytic functions of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and fervently hoped that the Fund would be

⁷See *Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year*, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. I.

⁸*Ibid.*, chap. II, sect. A.

⁹See *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I.

provided with sufficient financial support to enable it to continue and intensify its efforts.

45. The Nordic countries followed with keen interest the work of INSTRAW, one key task of which was to prepare statistics on the status of women for consideration at the Nairobi Conference. Those countries also noted with satisfaction that 66 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established in pursuance of the Convention, played a highly important role in monitoring efforts to achieve equality between men and women.

46. The Nordic countries were prepared to support proposals at the Nairobi Conference to ensure that women's issues would continue to be considered at a high level, within and outside the United Nations system, in the years following the Conference.

47. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) said that the recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women had demonstrated the usefulness of constructive dialogue. The resulting document proposing forward-looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women (E/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.2) contained important statements on the economic role of women and their equal participation in employment and education, as well as on the protection of their health, together with suggestions on how to overcome hunger, illiteracy and epidemics. In addition, strategies for the advancement of women must not exclude key political questions crucial to equal rights for women, such as their participation in the struggle for peace, for the elimination of *apartheid* and for human rights. His delegation therefore supported the proposals submitted by the Group of 77 aimed at overcoming colonialism, racism and *apartheid*, which were a helpful contribution to efforts to complete the drafting of the strategies to be adopted by the World Conference at Nairobi.

48. The Nairobi Conference, which would appraise the achievements of the Decade, would also consider ways of further implementing its aims by devising strategies for the period up to the year 2000. The Decade had certainly served to focus world attention on women's issues and had made it clear that overcoming existing discrimination against women was an urgent social problem in many countries. The major international documents adopted during the Decade provided valid guidance for the period beyond 1985. The World Conference would also deal with central questions such as social problems affecting women, greater participation by women in the struggle for peace and disarmament, and the situation of women under *apartheid* and in Palestine. The Conference must adopt decisions that would mobilize world action on those important issues. It should also consider the situation of women oppressed by imperialism or by fascist dictatorships.

49. It should be possible to adopt the proposed rules of procedure for the World Conference without lengthy discussion, since they were patterned on the practice of other world conferences, including the provision specifying that the work of the Conference should be accomplished by general agreement.

50. Mrs. GUO Yuanhui (China) said that it had been the aim of the United Nations Decade for Women to focus greater attention on women's issues,

advance the status of women, safeguard their rights and interests and solve problems confronting them, so that women could be more effectively integrated into the processes of political, economic and social development and decision-making. The Decade had had some success, especially in the areas of national legislation, international law and the exchange of experiences. Yet it had to be acknowledged that discrimination against women still existed, particularly in the case of those living under foreign occupation or under *apartheid*. The rich human resources that women represented were not yet fully developed; women still lacked the same opportunities and rights as men, especially in the two most critical areas of education and employment and in access to decision-making for development and peace.

51. Action was more important than words. The proposed forward-looking strategies rightly underscored the need to exert political will and make a broader effort to alter the current unequal situations and structures. The final formulation of the strategies, which would be the major document of the forthcoming World Conference, should be undertaken in a positive spirit of consultation, on the basis of the work done at the recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The appraisal at the Conference of the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered during the Decade would be of far-reaching significance.

52. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women and the activities undertaken in that connection at the national, regional and international levels had, together with the fundamental international instruments and programmes adopted within the context of the Decade, made a large contribution to ensuring equal rights for women and enhancing their role in development and the struggle for international peace and security. To a considerable extent, however, the most important goals and objectives of the Decade, as proclaimed at the conferences at Mexico City and at Copenhagen, had still not been attained in various parts of the world because of the spiralling arms race, the burden of the economic crisis shouldered by the developing countries and continued violations of fundamental rights and discrimination against women.

53. The draft forward-looking strategies to be adopted at the Nairobi Conference recognized the need for additional measures and the importance of the fundamental documents of the Decade. In the course of preparatory work for the Conference, it had been pointed out that the Declaration of Mexico,⁷ the World Plan of Action,⁸ the Programme of Action⁹ adopted at Copenhagen, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ and the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Cooperation¹⁰ should form the central component of United Nations strategies of implementation for the advancement of women up to the year 2000.

54. In many countries, there were still major obstacles to the attainment of that goal due to illiteracy and hunger, unemployment and the curtailment of social programmes. Discrimination against women remained typical of political and economic life in those countries which paid lip-service to human

¹⁰General Assembly resolution 37/63, annex.

rights without taking effective action to improve the lot of women.

55. During the preparatory work, some delegations had also sought to avoid discussion of problems related to the serious economic difficulties of the developing countries. The Soviet delegation wished to stress that the question of women's rights must be seen in the context of the overall development process. Economic, social, political and other issues were closely related, and equal participation was an essential prerequisite not only for improving the status of women and the family as a whole, but also for rapid national economic growth.

56. With a view to ensuring genuine equal rights, future strategies should be aimed at eliminating all forms of oppression, exploitation and discrimination against women. That goal was inseparable from the struggle against *apartheid* and racism and the occupation of the Arab territories, and from the struggle for national liberation and independent development. Women and children living under *apartheid* and other political systems based on racial inequality were the victims of terror and murder, hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy. Some delegations had opposed provisions in the draft strategies concerning *apartheid*, and had also sought to exclude provisions concerning the rights of the Palestinian women and children kept for many years in refugee camps who, like the Palestinian nation as a whole, were struggling for their survival. The World Conference could not ignore the appeals to eliminate the inhuman *apartheid* régime and protect the rights of Palestinian women and children.

57. The Commission on the Status of Women had done a great deal of work in preparing for the World Conference and the documents which had been drafted would ensure the discussion of a broad range of important issues and the adoption of recommendations for the advancement of women at the national, regional and international levels. Participation by a majority of Member States had been an important factor in the Commission's work and the interest which they had shown in the Conference demonstrated its urgency and importance.

58. The World Conference would coincide with the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism and nazism in the Second World War. Women could not forget the sacrifices and suffering caused by Nazi claims to world domination and were today in the forefront of those struggling against the threat of thermonuclear war and for equal rights and social progress. The Soviet Union attached great importance to the Conference and hoped that the review and appraisal of the Decade and the strategies and other decisions which it adopted would help to improve the status of women and promote their more rapid integration into political, economic, social and cultural life.

59. Mr. RAHIM (Bangladesh) observed that, regrettably, as the Decade drew to a close, widespread discrimination against women still existed around the world, even in the developed countries. None the less, the situation was very different from what it had been at the outset of the Decade. A tremendous awareness had been created of the need to ensure equal opportunities for women in all spheres. As a result, women were at least no longer prepared to accept a lot inferior to that of men.

60. He was pleased to inform the Council that his country had recently acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ one of the important milestones of the Decade. In most countries, far-reaching legislative changes had been made, granting equal status to women. Yet, unfortunately, the equality granted on paper had not been automatically translated into the elimination of discriminatory practices. Because of the high level of illiteracy among women in developing countries, most of them remained ignorant of their rights, and even when they were aware of those rights, they could seldom enforce them in the courts because of their extreme poverty.

61. The forthcoming World Conference would provide an opportunity to recognize the achievements realized and the obstacles encountered during the Decade, and to formulate strategies for the future in the light of that experience. His delegation fully endorsed the agenda for the World Conference.

62. At least in the developing countries, the elimination of discrimination against women was closely linked to the establishment of the new international economic order. Consequently, the formulation of the forward-looking strategies should be linked with an appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.¹¹

63. It was an acknowledged fact that peace was a prerequisite for development. General and complete disarmament would release billions of dollars for development, which, in turn, would help to eliminate discrimination against women. His delegation therefore believed that the establishment of peace in the world should be dealt with appropriately in the forward-looking strategies.

64. As recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conference would have before it a report on women and children living in the occupied Arab and other occupied territories and a report on the situation of women under *apartheid*. Those especially disadvantaged groups deserved particular attention in the strategies. The Commission, acting as preparatory body for the World Conference, had succeeded in adopting by consensus most of the draft forward-looking strategies, and it was to be hoped that an agreement satisfactory to all would be reached at the Nairobi Conference on the remainder of the text. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh would lead the delegation of his country to the World Conference and Bangladesh intended to participate actively in its deliberations.

65. Mr. KAKOLECKI (Poland) observed that, as a result of the activities carried out during the Decade, progress had been made in promoting the equality of women, women had become involved in development processes and their political awareness had been enhanced. The Decade had also mobilized national and international women's movements for peace and disarmament. Nevertheless, its main strategic goals had not been fully achieved.

66. The Polish delegation supported the proposal of a number of delegations that the forthcoming World Conference should decide that the period up to the year 2000 should be devoted to the theme "Women for Equality, Development and Peace". While reviewing the achievements of the Decade, the Nairobi Conference should decide to what extent the expecta-

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

tions of millions of women had been fulfilled and why the decisions of the previous World Conference held in 1980 had not been fully realized. In so doing, the Conference should specify priority areas for further efforts. The draft documents for the Conference submitted for consideration to the preparatory body had reflected neither the significant achievements of the Decade nor the major obstacles encountered and had not taken into consideration all the adverse political and economic aspects of the current international situation.

67. Poland was convinced of the significance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁴ The more States ratified it, the better would be the prospects for achieving equality for women throughout the world. He welcomed the recommendation to include the report by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the implementation of the Convention under an agenda item of the World Conference.

68. His delegation viewed the formulation of the forward-looking strategies as the main task of the Nairobi Conference. The strategies should reflect the goals set by the World Conferences held in 1975⁸ and 1980⁹, which were still valid, and should take into account the specific draft proposals of the preparatory body. The strategies should also focus on the consequences of halting the arms race, on social development and, particularly, on the status of women. They should emphasize more clearly the regional differences that affected equality and development, reflecting the recommendations of the regional intergovernmental preparatory meetings and the regional plans of action. In that connection, it was regrettable that the preparatory meeting in the

European region had not taken place; the seminar that had been held on the economic role of women could not be regarded as a regional preparatory meeting because of its limited focus. Some delegations to the seminar had tried to discuss other aspects of women's lives, and it would be useful if the entire report of that seminar could be submitted to the World Conference.

69. The forward-looking strategies should also reflect other important documents dealing with social and economic inequalities, such as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,¹² the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,¹³ the various documents of conferences held by non-aligned and developing countries and the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, which was a report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.116/4).

70. The Nairobi Conference should give priority to the issue of the implementation of the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation,¹⁰ and to ways of encouraging women to speak out on issues such as peace and racism and current political developments. Poland intended to submit a draft resolution to the Conference relating to the role of women in preparing societies for life in peace. One of the key political issues of the time was greater representation of women at decision-making levels both nationally and internationally.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

¹²General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

¹³General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

20th meeting

Thursday, 23 May 1985, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.20

In the absence of the President, Mr. Kumlin (Sweden), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*continued*)* (E/1985/L.28)

1. Ms. BOGÄRDE (Sweden), introducing draft resolution E/1985/L.28, said that China, Australia, Mexico, Ecuador and Rwanda had joined the sponsors. In paragraph 6, the words "including redeployment as required" should be deleted. Since there were no programme budget implications, the sponsors trusted that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

2. Mr. ANDERSON (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) said that, should the

*Resumed from the 16th meeting.

draft resolution be adopted, the Secretary-General would ensure adequate servicing of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women without any administrative or financial implications.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*)** (E/1985/17, E/1985/18, E/1985/52, E/1985/69-A/40/267)

3. Mr. QUINN (Observer for Australia) said that his delegation wished to stress the relevance of the Covenant to the current discussion on economic rights.

4. Australia welcomed the Sessional Working Group's preparedness to contemplate reform of the

**Resumed from the 18th meeting.

reporting process under the Covenant. For his Government, the process was two-way: Australia could inform the international community of its experience—which might be of interest to other countries—in implementing economic, social and cultural rights, while learning from the experience of others.

5. The process of preparing reports and responding to questions was particularly valuable, since the Covenant touched upon many areas of government. The task of putting together a report was onerous, and his delegation agreed with the Group that the reporting period should be extended to three years. There was also a need to examine the question of attachments to reports, which often provided necessary detail.

6. The Group could function at optimal performance only with the full participation of all its members and more should be done to ensure that its members had adequate resources. In particular, more input from the Centre for Human Rights would be desirable. Australia would support revised electoral arrangements to improve continuity of composition of the Group, and believed that it was essential for Governments to nominate independent experts to the Group.

7. The Group faced time constraints: it was impractical for it to produce a report for the Council when it met during Council sessions. As a result, it was impossible for the Group to develop analyses and draw conclusions on the interpretation of articles of the Covenant. The experience of the Human Rights Committee was instructive in that regard.

8. The specialized agencies should make a more effective contribution to the work of the Group, by making available the wealth of information they possessed. Further, more attention should be paid to publicity. Greater awareness and stricter implementation of the provisions of the Covenant would provide new impetus to the international debate on economic rights and the right to development. It was clear that there was a link between the right of the individual to enjoy the fruits of development and implementation of the Covenant.

9. Mrs. KUROKOCHI (Japan) said that almost two decades after the adoption of the Covenant it was far from being universally accepted, in that only 83 States were parties to it. The late submission or non-submission of reports was also of concern to her delegation: 30 States parties had not submitted a single report. The Working Group would become powerless to fulfil its monitoring function if States parties failed to discharge their reporting obligations.

10. Japan warmly welcomed the introduction of press coverage for the Working Group, and the active participation in the Group's proceedings by the International Labour Organisation. Other specialized agencies should participate in future sessions. Her delegation endorsed the Working Group's proposal to extend the reporting cycle by one year.

11. It had been assumed that the rights covered by the Covenant were such that they could not be immediately achieved, and that States parties were to take appropriate measures aimed at their progressive implementation. It had been further assumed that developing countries might encounter particular difficulties, and that international co-operation through the United Nations system would be necessary to assist them, which was why the Council, aided by the

Working Group, had been designated as the supervisory body.

12. The proposals advanced to support the transformation of the Working Group into a committee had some validity, but her delegation was not convinced that governmental experts were necessarily inferior in promoting human rights to experts serving in a personal capacity. The main reason for the Working Group's failure to formulate a basis on which the Council might make general recommendations was not the composition of the Group but, rather, the content of reports submitted by States parties. Had the latter, especially developing countries, indicated the difficulties they faced, the Working Group might have been in a better position to make appropriate recommendations. Nevertheless, Japan would endorse whichever arrangements commanded the widest support.

13. Her delegation was also concerned by the possible financial implications of the change in composition. With respect to the proposal to hold meetings at Geneva rather than in New York, care should be taken to assess the actual expenses involved. The decision on the scheduling of the Working Group's meetings should be left to the Committee on Conferences.

14. Mr. MARÍN-BOSCH (Mexico) said that his delegation supported the Working Group's recommendations that Member States which had not done so should accede to the Covenant, that States parties should submit their reports in accordance with the recommended guidelines and that the Working Group should be replaced by a committee, with due regard for equitable geographical distribution.

15. Fewer than half of the developing countries were parties to the Covenant, and the vast majority of those that were had been late in submitting their reports, which indicated the difficulty most developing countries faced in discharging their responsibilities under the Covenant. Accordingly, appropriate measures should be taken to assist them, and, in that context, his delegation endorsed the Working Group's recommendation that international co-operation for development should be further strengthened. The role of the organs monitoring implementation of the Covenant should be to identify the difficulties facing developing countries and to recommend international co-operation measures which could enable States parties to implement the provisions of the Covenant more fully.

16. Mr. ZURITA (Spain) said that the Working Group's relative lack of success could, possibly, be attributed to its composition. It would be preferable for experts to act in their personal capacity, and they should be elected by the Council, for a term of four years, in order to ensure continuity. His delegation supported the recommendations which the Group had made in an effort to improve its effectiveness, and the proposal to increase the size of the Group. Adoption of the various proposals would merit the proposed change in name.

17. It was important to provide the Group with appropriate resources. Further, the current timing of the sessions was inconvenient. His delegation agreed that inter-sessional meetings should be held, at Geneva and in New York alternately. It would be important for the Council to assess the effect of the changes to be introduced.

18. The persistent late submission of reports was disquieting, and had posed difficulties for the Working Group. His delegation endorsed the Group's comments in that connection. The preparation of reports under various international instruments represented a considerable burden for States, and it would therefore be appropriate to extend the reporting cycle under the Covenant by one year.

Mr. Kobayashi (Japan) took the Chair.

19. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France) said that France, which was represented in the Working Group, had noted with satisfaction an improvement in the quality of the reports submitted by States during the Group's most recent session, and the seriousness with which those reports had been discussed (see E/1985/18, para. 24). Although it was true that there had been delays in the submission of the reports, the preparation of documents of that nature, on the right to work, the right to education and the right to culture, for example, required great effort and time on the part of Governments.

20. The Group's recommendations concerning the submission, content and consideration of the reports were extremely pertinent. With regard to publicity, her delegation felt that extra efforts should be made to draw further attention to the purpose of the exercise, that was to say, the analysis of the situation of economic, social and cultural rights in countries which had acceded to the Covenant, and also to the often very rich content of the reports submitted.

21. Some difficulties remained, however. The Group of Experts had been unable as yet to hold as productive a dialogue as would have been desirable with the States parties which had submitted reports. Moreover, not enough information had been submitted to enable the Group of Experts to evaluate the progress made and the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Covenant and to help it in fulfilling the tasks assigned to it in article 21.

22. She noted that divergent opinions had been expressed with regard to the question of including in the reports to the Council brief summaries of the consideration of each country report (*ibid.*, para. 41). Her delegation regretted that the Group of Experts had been unable to provide more information in that respect.

23. Her delegation also felt that if the spirit of the reforms introduced in 1982 with regard to the method of appointment of the experts had been respected, it would have been possible to improve the quality of the Group's work. Of the Working Group's suggestions designed to promote that objective, her delegation agreed with the proposal that the Group should meet at an earlier date and strongly supported the idea that it should meet at Geneva, in view of the more intensive facilities available and the presence of many non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights. It would also be in favour of enlarging the Group to take into account equitable geographic distribution and the increase in the number of States parties to the Covenant since 1978.

24. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that, at the recent session of the Working Group, notable progress had been made in comparison with previous sessions in the number and quality of reports and in the variety and thoroughness of the resulting commentary and dialogue. Ecuador, as a participant, had found it very encouraging to listen to the reports of the older as well as of the recently independent

countries, at various levels of development, which showed the clear progress being made in international co-operation and the growing implementation of universal principles which were reflected in the constitutions and laws of many countries in the language of the Covenant itself.

25. The Group of Experts should be given the same support as that given to other bodies which had a parallel function within the system. His delegation therefore agreed that it should become a committee, and should hold two sessions a year, particularly if they could be held in New York, or at least alternately in New York and at Geneva. It also supported the suggestions made concerning reporting intervals, the increase in the number of members of the Group to 18, with equitable geographical distribution, and their election by secret ballot. It would, however, be more appropriate for such elections to be carried out by the States parties, rather than by the Council.

26. Moreover, his delegation strongly endorsed the recommendation of the Group of Experts that the progressive implementation of the Covenant should be closely linked with the development process of the country whose report was being considered. It hoped that the number of States parties to the Covenant would increase as an expression of the determination to achieve the full realization of the rights established therein.

27. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded the general debate on item 3.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (*continued*)* (E/1985/L.27)

28. Mr. HOUFFANE (Djibouti), introducing draft resolution E/1985/L.27, said that its purpose was to draw the attention of the international community to the need to continue mobilizing aid to help alleviate the suffering of the people in the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia. The sponsors, who had been joined by Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Japan, Lesotho and Sweden, hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (*continued*) (A/CONF.116/PC/25 and Add.1-3; E/1985/44, E/1985/45, E/1985/46, E/1985/60-A/40/188, E/1985/86)

29. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said that although institutionalized inequality between women and men continued to exist in all parts of the world, the Nairobi Conference would take place against the background of important achievements. Progress had been made in such areas as legislation and the improvement of living conditions of women in developing countries. The women's movement had become world-wide, and in developing countries women were increasingly taking initiatives themselves to improve their situation.

30. The fact that problems faced by women were different in many countries implied that no single

*Resumed from the 17th meeting.

blueprint for the road towards equality could be designed. The formulation of policies and plans for improving the situation of women in developing countries was thus first and foremost a task for the women, communities and Governments of those countries. In formulating forward-looking strategies, the Nairobi Conference should, like the preparatory process, pay particular attention to the recognition of women as an autonomous factor in development, the importance of improving the status of women in relation to population and development and the improvement of the implementation capacity of national and international development organizations, and should recognize that integration and equal partnership between women and men remained the ultimate goal. His delegation also welcomed the attention given to the need to eradicate violence against women.

31. A number of highly controversial issues had yet to be solved, however. His delegation was ready to discuss those issues, provided that the discussion focused on improving the status of women, rather than allowing political differences to predominate. Every effort must be made to achieve a consensus: regardless of what happened at the Conference, however, the Decade's achievement of making women a strong positive force in their societies would remain.

32. The cross-organizational review of selected major issues in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system (E/1985/45) showed clearly the great need for cohesion and priority-setting among the various organizations of the United Nations system. To avoid diffusing the focus on other activities as they affected the position of women, focal points for women's affairs should be located close to the organizations' decision-making centres.

33. The Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, should exercise leadership in formulating a system-wide medium-term plan for women and development so as to encourage the United Nations organizations to develop internal implementation strategies, with clear objectives and time frames for implementation to promote accountability. The plan should recognize through staff training one of the key factors, where women were concerned, in the gap between development policies and their implementation, namely, the fact that many staff members in development agencies continued to be ignorant of women's needs and concerns. To strengthen the position of women in their own right was to contribute to building a world in which people lived together in equality and peace.

34. Mr. MASALE (Observer for Kenya) said that the Economic and Social Council could help in resolving all outstanding preparatory issues so that the Conference would be able to concentrate on its agenda rather than procedural matters. In particular, the bracketed paragraphs of the forward-looking strategies and several parts of the rules of procedure required urgent attention so that a consensus could be reached before the Conference began. Consensus could be reached on such subjects as economic development and peace if all delegations adopted a positive approach. The advice of experts in the First and Second Committees of the General Assembly might be sought regarding those specific areas.

35. Where generally acceptable formulations and terminology were required, an effort should be made to employ the same type of language as that employed in past conferences on similar issues. General consensus could be reached on the rules of procedure by borrowing from those of previous United Nations conferences. While it had been suggested that outstanding matters relating to the rules of procedure could be discussed and agreed upon during the pre-conference consultations at Nairobi, he felt that it would be more useful for such negotiations to take place within the Council so that the consultations at Nairobi might proceed more smoothly.

36. Ms. REAGAN (United States of America) said that the United States was committed to activities which would foster the full and equal participation of women at all levels. The United Nations could play an important catalytic role in the achievement of that goal. The report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/45), while painting an impressive picture of progress during the Decade, pointed to clear deficiencies, particularly in co-ordination among the relevant United Nations bodies. The Council should act upon the report's recommendations to improve co-ordination through inter-agency consultations and a systematic review, at the earliest opportunity, by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

37. The involvement of women in project formulation and execution was the only way to ensure that adequate attention was paid to the role of women as both agents and beneficiaries of economic growth. Since 1973, the Agency for International Development had been required by the United States Government to consider the potential impact on women of every development project. In addition, other United States agencies had programmes focused on women and development, a topic which, together with literacy, the tragic situation and unique circumstances of women refugees, and the long-term suffering caused by family violence, was among the priority themes her Government had identified for the Nairobi Conference.

38. While disappointed by the failure of the March meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, she had been greatly heartened by the subsequent efforts to conclude the preparatory work for the Conference. The meeting held in New York was a source of renewed hope for success at Nairobi. However, the draft forward-looking strategies still contained many bracketed paragraphs involving very important and highly emotional subjects on which the identification of common ground was quite difficult.

39. The success of the Conference depended not only on resolving the outstanding substantive differences but also on creating the machinery necessary to achieve that goal. Her delegation had therefore proposed that the current provisional draft rules should be changed to establish consensus as the basic decision-making method of the Conference. The Conference could be viewed as a success only if its substantive results enjoyed universal support. As they stood, the proposed rules appeared to be based on a view that emphasized contention, polarization and, ultimately, the crystallization of differences rather than their resolution. It was the women of the world who would suffer if the Conference failed to produce documents commanding universal support. There was a need to maintain the spirit of compro-

mise and the willingness to negotiate patiently that had led to the consensus already achieved.

40. Miss EMARA (Observer for Egypt) said that much remained to be done to achieve all the goals of the Decade. The Conference had to examine and assess the achievements to date in order to determine the steps necessary for future progress. While the main themes of the Decade remained valid, special importance might be given to additional aspects such as the improvement of the status of women in rural areas.

41. With regard to the agenda of the Conference, women could not be prevented from showing an interest in political conflicts, which affected women just as much as men. Women and children were the major victims of armed conflicts, policies of racial discrimination and *apartheid*, as could be seen from the situation in the occupied Arab territories, southern Africa and Lebanon.

42. She was gratified that the climate of dialogue had been re-established in the preparatory body and hoped that the same spirit of good will would prevail so that agreement could be reached on the outstanding issues.

43. In conclusion, she reiterated her delegation's whole-hearted support for the Institute for the Training and Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and its full approval of its programme of work. She was convinced that the Institute's work was necessary to ensure the full participation of women in development activities at all levels.

44. Mr. BUBEN (Observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the Decade had stimulated efforts to ensure the full equality and advancement of women and had helped involve women in the struggle for peace and international co-operation, national liberation, and the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. It had also promoted the participation of women in efforts against the arms race and the threat of nuclear war, including plans for the militarization of space, as well as against colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and *apartheid*, and all forms of exploitation and inequality. Some success had also been achieved in meeting the objectives of the Decade relating to employment, health and education. At the international level, special mention should be made of the adoption and entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ which his country had ratified, and also the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation.¹⁰

45. Unfortunately, not all the goals and objectives of the Decade had been achieved. The main obstacles to the realization of those goals included colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and *apartheid*, aggression and interference in the internal affairs of States, and all forms of foreign domination. Recently, the situation had become even more difficult, as the escalation of the arms race, especially the nuclear-arms race, had increased the threat of nuclear war and led to a deterioration in the international situation, with an inevitable impact on the social and economic position of women. The diversion of massive financial resources for military purposes meant the elimination of social programmes, inflation and unemployment, and increased discrimination against women and the denial of their most basic rights,

including the right to work. Women in the developing countries suffered particularly from the consequences of the crisis in the capitalist economies. The position of the developing countries was also deteriorating because of the constant rise in their foreign debt. The forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women focused on those obstacles.

46. It was clear that measures to improve the status of women could not be put into effect unless peace was ensured. The interdependence between the three goals of the Decade—equality, development and peace—must be kept in mind. It was therefore astonishing to hear the appeals that political questions should not be considered in relation to activities to improve the status of women. According to the Charter, the main task of the United Nations was to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, including the equal rights of men and women. Therefore, women, who comprised one half of the population of the world, could not ignore the main problems affecting mankind, those of war and peace. Any attempt to prevent women from participating in the solution of those problems and to limit their activities to family questions and secondary social issues had to be seen as an effort to belittle the role of women in the modern world.

47. His delegation did not, of course, ignore such subthemes of the Decade as employment, health and education. His country paid great attention to those questions and had accumulated much useful experience in dealing successfully with them. It was prepared to continue appropriate activities in that area at the national and international levels.

48. Among the fundamental problems that had not been solved during the Decade were those related to the rights of women living under *apartheid* and in the occupied Arab territories as well as the very important question of the establishment of equitable international economic relations. The World Conference should pay due attention to those problems.

49. The preparatory body for the World Conference had made some progress in its work. The removal of obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Decade depended to a large extent on how clearly the strategies for future activities were prepared. That was why the preparatory body had devoted so much attention to the preparation of the forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women. He regretted that the negative position of a number of Western countries on the proposals submitted on behalf of the Group of 77 for strengthening the report of the Secretary-General on those strategies had prevented the matter from being resolved at Vienna. The resumed session in New York would have been more fruitful had the group of Western States submitted their proposals and amendments at an earlier stage. Unfortunately, those amendments had not been distributed until the beginning of the resumed session and had not been available in Russian until the end of that session. In addition, they passed over a number of important parts of the forward-looking strategies relating to the situation of women and children under *apartheid* and Palestinian women and children. Inevitably, that had had a negative impact both on the work of the resumed session and on the results achieved. However, significant progress had been made in the preparatory work and in resolving the outstanding differences on the

rules of procedure. The remaining questions could be resolved at the Conference itself.

50. The Economic and Social Council, having taken note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women, should transmit the materials prepared to the World Conference. The Conference should be a logical continuation of the previous world conferences, and its decisions should duly reflect the fundamental principles of the Declaration of Mexico,⁷ the World Plan of Action⁸ and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women.⁹

51. Mrs. KUROKOCHI (Japan) said that the Nairobi World Conference was extremely significant, since it would take stock of what had been achieved during the Decade and determine what should be done until the year 2000 to achieve the objectives of the Decade.

52. Although much remained to be done, the Decade had contributed significantly to improving the status of women all over the world. Japan, for instance, in keeping with the objectives of the World Plan of Action⁸ and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women,⁹ had established a Headquarters for the Planning and Promotion of Policies Relating to Women, headed by the Prime Minister, to maintain close co-ordination among the relevant administrative bodies, and the national plan of action drawn up by Japan after the Mexico World Conference had affected every section of the country. Furthermore, the Japanese Government, having already amended its Nationality Law and passed an Equal Employment Law, was resolved to ratify, by the time of the Nairobi Conference, the epoch-making Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁴

53. If a spirit of constructive dialogue prevailed at the Nairobi Conference, it should be possible to reach agreement on the full text of the forward-looking strategies proposed by the preparatory body and to adopt the document by consensus. However, the time available at the Conference would be limited and the Council should endeavour to agree at its current session on the parts of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference that were still pending.

54. One of the achievements of the Decade had been the recognition of the critical role that women in developing countries could play in economic and social development. Women were responsible for a large part of agricultural production and distribution, and they also comprised a significant part of the urban labour force. The developing countries should consequently attach more importance to programmes for women, particularly in rural areas, in order to integrate them fully into development as both agents and beneficiaries, and the developed countries should assist them in carrying out those programmes.

55. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General, the United Nations system had not formally articulated a programmatic strategy for implementing global objectives with regard to women (E/1985/45, para. 3), although a number of separate strategies and broad objectives for international action did exist. The report suggested some useful steps that the United Nations might take to co-ordinate future policies on the question of women. Her delegation noted with particular interest the recommendation

contained in paragraph 81 of the report, because it firmly believed that the Commission on the Status of Women should continue to play a central policy and advisory role within the United Nations system. Also interesting was the recommendation in paragraph 82 that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should undertake a cross-organizational programme analysis, since such an analysis would provide an impetus for efforts to harmonize the work of the various United Nations bodies involved in women's issues.

56. Japan's historical experience in modernization had convinced it that technical co-operation activities on behalf of women had to be linked with national development objectives and priorities, and that human resource development was absolutely central to nation-building. Women had to be integrated into all stages of development activities, and to that end Japan was carrying out human resource development projects with special emphasis on women, which included training courses for women administrators from developing countries.

57. The Voluntary Fund for the Decade had provided valuable support to the activities of the Decade and could serve as an effective catalyst for efforts to ensure the integration of women into the development process. Japan believed that the Fund would work most effectively in an autonomous relationship with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/125. Japan had thus far contributed approximately \$1.9 million to the Fund and would contribute some \$300,000 in 1985.

58. Japan noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by INSTRAW during its first year of operation at its new headquarters and expressed its satisfaction with the role the Institute had been playing in enhancing the status of women in developing countries.

59. Mr. FISCHER (Observer for Austria) said that, for the great majority of Governments, the advancement of women was an issue of serious concern. Some very intense negotiations during the final session of the preparatory body for the World Conference had resulted in considerable progress. Several important questions, however, had been left pending. Among them were the rules of procedure for the Conference, in particular those concerning the decision-making process. It was essential that the rules of procedure should be agreed upon at the outset of the Nairobi Conference, and Austria hoped that a solution acceptable to all delegations would be found.

60. Progress had been made during the Decade, particularly with regard to legislation on equal rights for women and men. However, it had been clearly shown that improved legislation alone did not necessarily guarantee actual changes in the status of women. Women still had very little or no access to the decision-making process in any sector, in either the industrial or the developing countries. The absence of formal barriers was not enough in many cases to offset the force of custom or prejudice.

61. Given their weaker economic position, it was also hardly surprising that recessions frequently hit women harder than men. With respect to the technological changes currently taking place in various fields, women were again at a disadvantage because they had considerably less access to education and

training programmes and very little encouragement to avail themselves of existing opportunities. All the problems mentioned related to women as a whole, but specific groups of women—the elderly, the disabled and refugees—deserved particular international attention.

62. Austria hoped that the Nairobi Conference would devote sufficient time specifically to women's issues. In so doing, it should examine not only what had been done or should be done for women but also what contributions women themselves had made with regard to the crucial issues of the times. The proposed forward-looking strategies should provide a good point of departure for such a discussion.

63. The situation of women in developing countries was particularly critical. Their important economic role—in food production, for example—was often not sufficiently acknowledged when it came to development efforts. In striving to improve the situation of women, sight must not be lost of the specific consequences for women who were living under situations of famine and drought, armed conflict, foreign occupation and institutionalized racism.

64. If the potential of women was to be realized, the main focus should be on employment, education and health, as it had been during the Decade. The institutional framework also had to be adjusted. Many Governments, including that of Austria, had established ministerial posts dealing exclusively with women's issues. Within the United Nations system, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women must continue to advance the cause of women.

65. Ms. ZACHAROPOULOS (Observer for Greece) said that the task of the forthcoming World Conference would be to provide guidance for the remainder of the century since, despite the progress achieved in many areas during the Decade, the international community was far short of meeting its goals.

66. At the most recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women, all groups, especially the Group of 77, had worked in a spirit of good will and collaboration to elaborate the text of the proposed forward-looking strategies and to identify the difficulties which were still to be overcome. Only a few points remained pending in the text concerning equality and development. The text on peace contained more pending points. The Nairobi Conference would have to review all those areas of difference, bearing in mind that the goal of peace was inseparable from the goals of equality between men and women and development. Other areas of special concern, such as the situation of Palestinian women and women living under *apartheid*, also remained to be discussed. Greece's position on both those issues was that they represented a serious obstacle not only to the advancement of the women concerned but to their enjoyment of fundamental human rights.

67. The challenge for the World Conference would be to reach a consensus on strategies which would enable the international community to move forward during the remainder of the century in advancing the status of women.

68. Mrs. ROCH (Observer for Cuba) said that her country attached great importance to the work of INSTRAW, the establishment of which had been one of the achievements of the Decade. It was also

important for all States to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ and Cuba urged those which had not yet done so to become parties to it, for the benefit not only of women but also of countries.

69. The forthcoming World Conference would be the culmination of 10 years' work and the beginning of a still more strenuous endeavour to achieve in coming years the three goals to which women aspired: equality, development and peace. The various plans, programmes of action and declarations that had been issued in the course of the Decade remained a valid basis for activities during the next 15 years.

70. The preparatory intergovernmental regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean held at Havana in 1984 under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, both United Nations bodies, had been broadly attended and had adopted important recommendations for future national, regional and international strategies.

71. Each region had its specific problems which impeded the advancement of women and those should be taken into account in the forward-looking strategies to be discussed at the Nairobi Conference. Furthermore, women who were particularly disadvantaged by the world economic crisis and those living under particularly oppressive and difficult circumstances had to be given hope of a less uncertain future. The developing countries, like Cuba, could not accept the insistence by some delegations that the issues which were the most sensitive ones for women and which blocked their possibilities for development should be considered political questions. The final session of the preparatory body had managed to achieve a hard-won agreement on parts of the text of the forward-looking strategies thanks in part to the flexibility of the developing countries, but, owing to some delegations' lack of understanding, other sections of the text were still in dispute. Her delegation endorsed the proposal that those parts, and the strategies as a whole, should be adopted in final form at the Conference itself.

72. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) said that the Mexico and Copenhagen conferences, other international meetings on women and, in particular, action taken at the national level had had a positive effect on the advancement of women. The activities carried out during the Decade had strengthened the view that women's problems could not be solved in isolation from the context of overall social and economic development, and that the key issues of contemporary socio-economic development could not be resolved without their active and equitable participation in that process. Moreover, efforts to improve the position of women were inseparably linked to the questions of equality and human rights, peace and disarmament.

73. Despite the progress made, the results obtained during the Decade had fallen short of initial expectations, in particular where the position of women in the developing countries was concerned. The world economic crisis and the deterioration of the international situation had seriously jeopardized the development of those countries, thereby adversely affecting the position of women. Additional efforts at the national level, a further democratization of interna-

tional economic and political relations and the establishment of a new international economic order were pre-conditions for a genuine improvement in the status of women and their full integration in development.

74. Although the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the Conference had, at its resumed third session, succeeded in harmonizing a large part of the document on forward-looking strategies, a number of important and sensitive issues remained unresolved, including some key articles of the rules of procedure of the Conference. The remaining issues could be resolved without much difficulty at the Conference if delegations demonstrated the same spirit of flexibility that they had shown at the resumed session.

75. The Conference should give priority to the forward-looking strategies, which should focus on current priorities and practical measures to achieve them. His delegation attached special importance to the broader and more equitable inclusion of women in various forms of popular participation, which was a significant factor for development and for the enjoyment of all human rights, as well as to the role of women in the industrialization process in the developing countries, the impact of the activities of transnational corporations on the female work-force, and the deterioration of the agricultural and food situations in developing countries, which could be alleviated by providing more assistance to rural women and by introducing structural changes in the economies of those countries. Due attention should also be paid to the position of women in the service and informal sectors and to the issues of scientific and technological development, since inappropriate technologies had often adversely affected women. His delegation also attached particular importance to improving the situation of migrant women.

76. At the ministerial conference of the non-aligned and other developing countries on the role of women in development, held at New Delhi in April 1985, the role of women had been examined in depth and co-operation had been explored and experience in the field exchanged in preparation for the Nairobi Conference. The report adopted at New Delhi could contribute greatly to the implementation of the forward-looking strategies, and it should be made available to delegations at Nairobi.

77. His delegation shared the view expressed by the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/1985/44) that the Institute had made significant achievements in a short period of time. Given the need to concentrate on elaborating a firm methodological framework for research on women and development, to prepare training materials for women and those responsible for development decision-making, and to secure more information and statistics on women, the activities of INSTRAW should be further strengthened, particularly its activities in co-operation with United Nations and national bodies. His country had established a national focal point for co-operation with the Institute. It noted with satisfaction that INSTRAW's medium-term plan would focus on intensified operations at the national level in developing countries. His delegation fully supported the Board's request that the Council appeal to Governments and other sources to increase their contributions to the Trust Fund of INSTRAW in order to enable it to achieve those objectives.

78. Baroness GARDNER (United Kingdom) said that although many Governments, including her own, had devoted substantial effort to improving the status of women, by, *inter alia*, adopting legislation, much remained to be achieved, and it would take generations before all societies completely accepted the fact that women were entitled to equal status, rights and opportunities. While it was generally accepted that men's attitudes were changing, women themselves must learn to expect equal status, rights and opportunities. They could be held back as much by their own diffidence and lack of expectations as by resistance from men.

79. The appearance in United Kingdom newspapers of many stories covering issues of particular relevance to women showed the greatly increased interest in women's affairs in her country. In one reported case, a woman scientist had received compensation because she had been discriminated against because she was a woman.

80. Violence in all societies was a genuine problem for women. Although the number of actual cases of violence on the street in her country was not very high, the fear and anxiety which women felt was very great. Women and children were particularly vulnerable to domestic violence. Fortunately, increasing public attention was being focused on that issue.

81. While there was no more violence in the home today than in previous eras, what had changed was the fact that such situations were now recognized in many countries to be a matter of legitimate concern to public authorities. There was thus an instructive parallel in the evolving relationship between domestic violence and public authorities, on the one hand, and human rights violations and the international community, on the other hand. The United Kingdom representative in the Second Committee (Social) of the Council had recently drawn attention to the fact that over the past 40 years it had for the first time become accepted that human rights violations within States were of legitimate concern to the international community. Those parallel developments had not solved all the existing problems in the areas concerned, but in many cases they had helped to prevent human suffering and, more generally, they had contributed to a far broader public awareness of the problems.

82. The forthcoming Nairobi Conference had a crucial role to play in promoting public awareness of women's issues. It was the responsibility of national delegations to ensure that the high hopes and expectations of women around the world were not disappointed. Non-governmental organizations had a vital contribution to make in that regard. United Kingdom Government representatives had been working closely with national non-governmental organizations interested in the Conference for several years and, on a number of key issues, the interaction had proved a productive stimulus to Government thinking. A committee was currently being established in the United Kingdom to raise money for the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. The Fund had an outstanding record of promoting sensible cost-effective projects of practical benefit to women, and her country was proud of the part it had played in its work. Her delegation warmly welcomed the decision by the General Assembly, contained in its resolution 39/125, to establish the Fund as a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with UNDP. Her Government had

already made a substantial further contribution to the Fund and would be making another one during the current financial year. It hoped that those countries, particularly those developed countries, which had not yet contributed to the Fund would do so in the very near future and that other countries which had contributed in the past would find it possible to make further contributions. She had been encouraged by the statements on the subject during the current session of the Council.

83. She stressed the importance of reaching an understanding on the rules of procedure for the Conference during the current session of the Council. Failure to do so would produce a confused and possibly difficult procedural discussion at the start of the Conference which would hamper its prospects for success. Effective drafting mechanisms were also important to the Conference's prospects, and a small drafting group similar to the one which had worked in such a dedicated manner during the resumed session of the preparatory body could play a similarly vital role in producing results which would satisfy all delegations at the Conference.

84. Miss ABAS (Indonesia), referring to the proposed allocation of items among the plenary Conference and its two committees, said that in view of the correlation between each chapter of the forward-looking strategies, it was unlikely that the national strategies and measures, on the one hand, and regional and international strategies and measures, on the other hand, could be discussed separately in two committees. Informal consultations on the matter should continue.

85. Her delegation earnestly hoped that delegations to the forthcoming Conference would show maximum flexibility, which was particularly important if a consensus was to be reached on issues of common concern. Although it favoured the adoption of decisions by consensus, it recognized the need to accommodate the views of delegations which expressed difficulties in joining a consensus. The formulation on decision-making contained in the provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders could be used as a guide in that regard.

86. Although the Conference could not be expected to be apolitical, delegations should not overlook the fact that the primary objective was to advance and improve the status of women all over the world, and only such an approach would permit a consensus on major issues.

87. Indonesia had made concerted efforts for the advancement of women. Although equality for women was guaranteed in its Constitution and national legislation, much remained to be done. Progress had been achieved in the integration of women in development activities, with great emphasis on improving the quality of their lives, particularly in rural and remote areas. Indonesian women now enjoyed greater access to the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, were participating in decision-making at high levels, and were taking their own initiatives to help the Government overcome the difficulties encountered in implementing the Fourth National Development Plan, particularly in efforts to improve social welfare. Her delegation viewed the Conference as an opportunity to sustain the momentum women had already gained in the development process.

88. The deterioration of the world economy had undeniably affected all countries, the developing countries in particular. If that situation persisted, the impact on efforts for the advancement of women would be profound. Her delegation therefore agreed that the detrimental impact of the world economic crisis on development should not be permitted to affect efforts to achieve the goals and objectives of the Decade. The Conference would provide a useful opportunity for participants to discuss the implications for women of the current economic crisis.

Mr. Hadid (Algeria), Vice-President, took the Chair.

89. Mr. HOGUE (Observer for Australia) said that, as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women, Australia had fully supported the decision taken by the General Assembly to request the Commission in its capacity as the preparatory body for the Nairobi Conference to resume its third session in an effort to resolve outstanding difficulties. The decision of the preparatory body to focus Conference deliberations on the document containing forward-looking strategies (A/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.2) had been a wise one. He was confident that minor adjustments to a number of controversial areas of the text would provide a basis for consensus at the Conference.

90. While some delegations felt it was inappropriate for the Economic and Social Council to consider the rules of procedure for the Conference, the Council had traditionally concerned itself with organizational matters and was, in fact, responding to a request from one of its subsidiary bodies. In any event, a major debate on rules of procedure at Nairobi would waste much time in unproductive argument.

91. The most controversial point relating to the rules of procedure was the question of consensus. If the forward-looking strategies were to be effective and of lasting importance, they must be adopted by consensus. At the same time, his delegation recognized that agreement might not be reached on certain issues relating to those strategies; he therefore suggested that any controversial issues which threatened the consensus should be dealt with in separate resolutions which could, if necessary, be voted on. Perhaps delegations might agree that the forward-looking strategies would be adopted by consensus without specifically stating that in the rules of procedure. The approach which had been adopted at the International Conference on Population in 1984 was a precedent for such a solution, and he invited other delegations to express their views on the subject. His delegation wished to avoid a repetition of the procedural abuses which had occurred at Copenhagen in 1980 in determining whether an issue was substantive or procedural in nature. The suggestion made by Denmark on behalf of the Nordic countries (19th meeting, para. 41) seemed to offer a feasible way to circumvent that problem.

92. The political issues which had been raised during the meetings of the preparatory body should not be ignored. For example, the debate on *apartheid* had been useful and would make it possible to reach an agreement on that question quickly at the Nairobi Conference. The *apartheid* system clearly imposed special burdens on women, and it was the duty of a conference on women to draw attention to those problems, something which could be done without weakening the universal condemnation of *apartheid* in all its forms.

93. Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/28, which sought to ensure the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference, should not be interpreted to mean that the Conference should address all issues of interest to those organizations. He expressed the hope that informal discussions would continue on the issues which the preparatory body had set aside for further consideration and urged all delegations not to lose sight of the real goals of the Conference and the Decade.

94. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that the cross-organizational review allowed the Council to evaluate the way in which policies relating to women were being translated into programme activities in the organizations of the United Nations system. The United Nations Decade for Women had made the United Nations system more aware of the important role that women must play in economic and social development, as both agents and beneficiaries. Prior to the Decade, women's programmes had addressed only the questions of discrimination and social equality. While those questions remained fundamental, it had become clear that the exclusion of women from the development process would have adverse consequences for all the world's people. The role of women in development must be an integral part of the sectoral issues, such as food and agriculture, population assistance and science and technology, which were being dealt with by United Nations bodies. The forward-looking strategies to be discussed at the Nairobi Conference would address sectoral issues and would relate them to women's role in development.

95. The women-in-development policy of the Canadian International Development Agency was based on the premise that development must involve both women and men if it was to be effective. While development assistance must help women realize their full potential in the development process, it must also be responsive to the priorities of development partners, many of which were committed to women's participation in development. One of the major challenges facing development policy was the transformation of policy objectives into workable plans of action. That could best be done by viewing policy from a programme-management perspective that emphasized accountability for the achievement of policy objectives and evaluation of results.

96. Although the international community was devoting greater attention to the integration of women in development, it was difficult to assess whether activities for that purpose had brought about any change in the condition of women in the developing world. Unfortunately, the cross-organizational review had not provided a clear sense of the importance of each organization involved in development. While the report did provide a useful overview of ongoing activities within the United Nations system, information about the policies and activities of each individual organization had not always been presented in a consistent manner. His delegation understood the difficulties in conducting such a study, but none the less would have found useful more statistical information regarding the amount of resources allocated by each organization for women in development. Quantifiable data could have been obtained from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

97. A co-ordinated approach must be found to the question of women and development by international organizations and the Governments of Member States. First, sectoral and intersectoral plans and priorities must be established to address the question of women in development. Secondly, those priorities must be converted into guidelines for policy implementation and strategies for project management. Thirdly, existing information regarding the role of women in development must be quantified wherever possible to facilitate effective planning in the medium and long terms; the organizations concerned must develop systematic monitoring and reporting procedures. Finally, periodic reviews must be conducted of achievements in policy implementation that would make it possible to identify areas for further work.

98. The cross-organizational review constituted a first step towards establishing a programmatic strategy within the United Nations system for the advancement of women. Much remained to be done, however, if United Nations programmes for women were to become more coherent and efficient. His delegation therefore strongly supported the recommendation contained in paragraph 81 of the report (E/1985/45), since it would enable the Commission on the Status of Women to review the ways in which the needs and concerns of women could be integrated into planning and programme activities throughout the United Nations system. His delegation also supported the recommendation that a cross-organizational programme analysis should be undertaken and urged the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination to study that possibility.

99. Mr. RATHORE (India) said that, while the International Women's Year and the United Nations Decade for Women had done much to improve the status of women throughout the world, there was evidence that traditional discriminatory attitudes towards women persisted. It was therefore necessary to ensure that rights that were guaranteed in legislation were fully enjoyed and that economic and social development, progress and prosperity were shared equally by men and women.

100. The objectives of the Decade could be realized only through concerted and sustained efforts. The non-aligned countries were firmly committed to those objectives, as the holding of a ministerial conference of non-aligned and other developing countries on the role of women in development at New Delhi in April 1985 demonstrated. The report of that meeting would be available at the Nairobi Conference.

101. At its resumed third session, the preparatory body for the World Conference had made substantial progress. However, some delegations had expressed disappointment that political issues were being introduced into matters relating to women. Such an attitude seemed illogical, since unless women participated comprehensively in politics, they could not be truly emancipated. There was in fact no issue which did not concern women to the same extent that it concerned men, and there might indeed be some issues which concerned women even more than they did men.

102. While much work remained to be done in preparation for the Nairobi Conference, his delegation hoped that, given the positive approach that had been evident during the resumed third session of the

preparatory body, it might be possible to look beyond transient political considerations and view the issues in the totality of the context of human interests. All delegations should endeavour to obtain the widest possible support for the forward-looking strategies; for its part, his delegation was fully prepared to work in a constructive and co-operative spirit and hoped that the Economic and Social Council would be able to recommend a set of rules of procedure to the Conference.

103. Mrs. BOTOKA (Congo) said that the various programmes of action and legal instruments adopted on behalf of women during the United Nations Decade for Women had drawn world-wide attention. In that connection, her delegation was particularly appreciative of the women's programmes of the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Training and Research Centre for Women. The regional mechanisms which had been established constituted an important system for the promotion of women's rights in Africa.

104. In most African States, legislation had been adopted to eliminate discrimination against women in all fields, while some countries, including the Congo, had signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁴ It should be noted, however, that the Convention only reinforced the gains made by Congolese women under their country's Constitution.

105. Nevertheless, the conclusions of the various regional and subregional meetings held in Africa showed that much remained to be done to improve the status of women throughout the world, and in Africa in particular. The status of women in Africa was linked to the overall development of the region, a region faced with problems in almost every area.

106. For African men and women, the Nairobi Conference would symbolize not only the significant efforts that had been made to raise African women to their current status and to involve them in the development and liberation of Africa, but also their solidarity and sympathy with their suffering sisters. African women suffered under a series of natural disasters, the *apartheid* system in South Africa and the colonial system in Namibia. Women could make no progress under those conditions, and their fate consequently deserved the attention of the international community. The Nairobi Conference must bring a glimmer of hope to those women.

107. The struggle waged by African women was part of the developing countries' struggle to bring about a new international order based on liberty, justice and solidarity. Any strategy that did not fall within such a framework ran the risk of becoming a series of idle pledges that lacked any definite impact. Her delegation therefore called upon all delegations to work constructively to adopt the rules of procedure and other pertinent documents of the Nairobi Conference by consensus to ensure the success of that meeting.

108. Mr. POLICHTCHOUK (Observer for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, as had been pointed out in the report of the preparatory body (A/CONF.116/PC/25 and Add.1-3) and already stressed by many delegations, the most important goals of the Mexico and Copenhagen World Conferences were still unfulfilled in various parts of the world because of the arms race, the effects of the

economic crisis on developing countries and the continuing gross violations of basic human rights in the area of discrimination against women. The strategies should recognize those obstacles, and incorporate possible measures for their eradication. In addition, the strategies relating to women were inseparable from the struggle against *apartheid* and racism, the occupation of the Arab territories and the struggle of peoples for liberation and independent development. His delegation was convinced of the need to concentrate all efforts at every level on giving women the opportunity of being included in the economic and social development process and in the struggle for equality and development in the world.

109. The Commission on the Status of Women had accomplished a great deal of work in preparation for the forthcoming Conference at Nairobi. The Council should take note of that work and transmit the material prepared to the World Conference.

110. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) said that her Government attached great importance to the Nairobi Conference and hoped that it would succeed in adopting, in a spirit of understanding, far-sighted measures and strategies for the future. In preparing for the Conference, account should be taken of the fact that time would be very limited. Its work should therefore not be diluted by subjects that could be resolved at the current stage. It would be regrettable if Governments which had made great economic sacrifices should not see their hopes fulfilled.

111. Referring to the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the work of its fifth session (E/1985/44), she said that the Institute was one of the successes of the World Plan of Action approved at the Mexico Conference in 1975 and she supported the appeal by the representative of the Dominican Republic (19th meeting, para. 35) to the international community for its firm support to the Institute, which had proved its worth through its various programmes and activities, promoting an improved understanding of women's problems in the development process.

112. The Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica had recently ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ bringing the number of States parties to 67. The Convention had been incorporated into her country's legislation wherever it was more far-reaching than Costa Rica's own legislation in matters relating to women. That approach had been adopted in order to enable women to participate effectively in every aspect of the life of her country.

113. Ms. von ROEMER (Observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) said that her organization was looking forward to participating in the Nairobi Conference as a unique opportunity of focusing attention on the deterioration in the situation of working women brought about by the economic crisis and on efforts to reverse that trend. In the industrialized countries, hard-won gains towards the achievement of equality were being threatened by policies promoted by Governments in response to the crisis: measures which undermined minimum wages and cut-backs in social services were having a devastating effect on the living standards of working women. In the developing countries, working women, in particular, had suffered greatly during the past

four years of world recession. Rural women were severely affected by increasing poverty and deteriorating living standards. In many of the least developed countries, they were fighting a losing battle to feed their households.

114. Transnational corporations had used the recession to restructure their activities at the expense of women workers in both developing and industrialized countries. The situation of women in the so-called export-processing zones, working long hours at low-paid and often dangerous work, was a cause for concern. In some countries, Governments were restricting the rights of such workers to organize and engage in collective bargaining.

115. The erosion of labour standards in industrialized countries had meant a reversion in some instances to conditions not unsimilar to those in developing countries, a fundamental contradiction of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women whereby the situation of developing countries should progress towards the standards enjoyed by women in the industrialized countries. The fourth

World Women's Conference of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), held a few weeks previously, had adopted a statement enumerating the most important elements of a strategy for employment and development in regard to women. The measures proposed at the Conference covered a wide range of areas. The importance of the role of women in development, particularly their key role in food production, had been stressed and a special statement on women workers under *apartheid* had been adopted. The South African régime's increasing resort to violence had been condemned, and mandatory and economic sanctions against South Africa called for. A statement on peace and international co-operation had also been adopted. The results of that Conference would represent the contribution of ICFTU to the World Conference at Nairobi. It was encouraging to see a number of matters that were of concern to ICFTU at least partially reflected in the draft of the forward-looking strategies.

The meeting rose at 7.35 p.m.

21st meeting

Friday, 24 May 1985, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.21

AGENDA ITEM 18

Narcotic Drugs (E/1985/23 and Corr.1, E/1985/47, E/1985/48, E/1985/83; A/39/646, A/40/260)

Statement by the Secretary-General

1. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that drug abuse presented as destructive a threat to the current and coming generations as the plagues which had swept many parts of the world in earlier centuries. Unless controlled, its effect would be more insidious and devastating. He had spoken to the Third Committee of the General Assembly in November 1984 in appreciation of action being taken by the General Assembly to assist in the fight against drug abuse and to indicate what he was doing to mobilize greater efforts by the United Nations system. He had asked to address the Economic and Social Council on the same subject because he believed an even more concerted and determined struggle on the part of the entire international community was now required. Indeed, in his view, the time had come for the United Nations to undertake a bold new offensive to combat drug trafficking and abuse.

2. Wherever they were produced or used, illicit drugs contaminated and corrupted, weakening the very fabric of society. Increasing world-wide abuse was destroying uncounted useful lives. Those problems had already profoundly afflicted every region in the world. Individual cases of drug abuse now ran into the millions. Tragically, many of those most seriously affected were young people to whose concerns and interests the current year was particularly

dedicated. All too frequently the abuse of drugs, often in combination with alcohol, could lead to death, bringing grief and pain to countless families around the world.

3. The suffering of individuals was not the only cost. Illicit drugs and crime went hand in hand. The enticement of tremendous profits constituted a potent attraction to criminals, and drug trafficking frequently entailed other criminal acts, including bribery, larceny, the corruption of public officials and even murder. Moreover, there might well be links between illicit international drug networks and armed terrorist groups which had sought to subvert Governments.

4. It must also be stressed that trafficking in illegal drugs took a heavy toll on many national economies. The cost must be counted in literally billions of dollars traceable to the time lost in the workplace, to the substantial burden imposed on judicial and penal systems, and to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

5. The personnel, raw materials and equipment used in the illicit manufacture and transport of narcotic drugs were all too readily obtainable. Even as the demand for older drugs spread to new markets and regions, new drugs were being developed. Many of those drugs were both easy and cheap to synthesize, and sometimes more lethal than the older ones. Thus, as one looked towards the future, the potential for even more widespread danger was evident.

6. There had long been awareness in the United Nations of the drug menace, and, with near unanimity, Member States had called for a wide range of counter-measures. At its thirty-ninth session, the

General Assembly had adopted a series of resolutions, including a proposal for the preparation of a new convention designed to combat more effectively the traffic in illicit drugs. Moreover, new international initiatives involving the highest levels of government had been devoted to the issue during 1984. But it was evident that the existing instruments and resources were inadequate to deal with a problem of such magnitude. A more concerted, more comprehensive and truly world-wide effort to reduce the plague of illicit drugs was needed. He believed the moment had arrived for the international community to expand its efforts in a global undertaking to meet the peril.

7. He accordingly proposed that a world conference should be convened at the ministerial level in 1987 to deal with all aspects of drug abuse. The conference should be multi-disciplinary in nature and focus on the following key areas: the promotion of education and community participation in preventing and reducing the demand for illicit drugs; crop substitution and other methods of reducing supply; improved methods to limit the use of narcotics to medical and scientific purposes; the forfeiture of illegally acquired proceeds and the extradition of persons arrested for drug-related crimes; the strengthening of the resources of law enforcement authorities; and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

8. The conference should serve to raise the level of world awareness of the dangers being faced, mobilize the full potential of the United Nations system, reinforce other intergovernmental and non-governmental and regional initiatives, and encourage Governments to concert their efforts and to devote greater resources to combating drug abuse and trafficking.

9. He believed the United Nations was uniquely qualified to play a major catalytic role in enhancing efforts to deal with the problem.

10. He hoped that Member States would consider his proposal favourably and thereby give new impetus to the struggle to free the world of the deadly scourge of drug abuse. In the current fortieth anniversary year, such action could constitute a major contribution to the common good, in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

11. The PRESIDENT thanked the Secretary-General for his statement. He said that drug abuse, a major problem which had been on the Council's agenda for many years, was a matter of universal concern and that members would reflect on the Secretary-General's proposal with great interest.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*) (E/1985/18, E/1985/L.29, E/1985/L.30)

12. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands) introduced draft resolution E/1985/L.29 on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Sierra Leone. On the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1985/18), it was being proposed to transform the Working Group into a Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, consisting of 18 human

rights experts elected by the Council, who would serve in their personal capacity and receive per diem and other travel allowances. The members' term would be extended to four years to enhance continuity and expertise. The Committee would meet alternately at Geneva and in New York, in order to enable delegations from developing countries which were not represented at Geneva to become familiar with its work.

13. He also introduced draft decision E/1985/L.30, which took up the recommendation contained in paragraph 34 of the report of the Sessional Working Group (E/1985/18) regarding the periodicity of reporting under article 16 of the Covenant.

14. The sponsors of both texts hoped that they would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 6

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*concluded*)*

15. The PRESIDENT proposed that, within the framework of agenda item 6, the Council should adopt a draft decision by which it would: (a) take note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/1985/56) transmitting the general comments of the Human Rights Committee relating to articles 1 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted at its twenty-first session, and those relating to article 6 of the Covenant, adopted at its twenty-third session; (b) authorize the Secretary-General to transmit the annual report of the Human Rights Committee directly to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

16. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision, on the understanding that the Secretariat would give it its final form.

It was so decided (decision 1985/117).

17. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 6.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (*concluded*) (E/1985/L.27)

18. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/1985/L.27, entitled "Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia", and announced that Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Norway and Sweden had also joined in sponsoring it.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1985/1).

19. Mr. WORKU (Observer for Ethiopia) expressed deep gratitude to the United Nations for its sustained support of the drought victims in Ethiopia, a support which had saved millions of lives. He was confident that the international community would undertake the needed long-term activities that would allow the Ethiopian people to build a better future and never again experience such a disaster.

*Resumed from the 16th meeting.

20. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 7.

AGENDA ITEM 9

University for Peace (*concluded*)* (E/1985/L.25)

21. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to turn its attention to draft resolution E/1985/L.25, entitled "University for Peace", which was being sponsored also by Australia, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Thailand and Togo.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1985/2)

*Resumed from the 14th meeting.

22. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica), on behalf of the sponsors, thanked the Council for having adopted the draft resolution by consensus.

23. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not objected to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus on the understanding that the consideration by the Council of the University for Peace at the first regular session of 1986 would take place in accordance with the mandate assigned to the University under General Assembly resolution 35/55.

24. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 9.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

22nd meeting

Tuesday, 28 May 1985, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.22

Expression of sympathy in connection with the recent cyclone in Bangladesh

1. The PRESIDENT, on behalf of the Council, expressed sympathy in connection with the recent cyclone in Bangladesh.

2. Mr. WASIUDDIN (Bangladesh) thanked the President for his words of sympathy. He also expressed his country's gratitude for the relief which had been provided by the international community, and noted that further assistance would be welcome, particularly food and medicines.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. The PRESIDENT suggested that the deadline for submission of proposals under agenda item 5 should be 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 29 May. The Council had before it the reports of the First (Economic) Committee on agenda items 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 and the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 18. He suggested that the Council should consider first the reports of the First Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Population questions (E/1985/20-A/40/190, (E/1985/25, E/1985/89)

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1985/89)

4. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the report of the First (Economic) Committee on agenda item 10. Paragraph 22 of the report contained

four draft resolutions recommended to the Council for adoption, namely: I, "Population structure"; II, "Implications of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population"; III, "Work programme in the field of population"; IV, "Status and role of women and population". Paragraph 23 of the Committee's report contained two draft decisions recommended to the Council for adoption, namely: I, "Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Population Commission"; II, "Population questions".

5. He invited the Council to take action on the proposals.

Draft resolutions I, II, III and IV were adopted (resolutions 1985/3, 1985/4, 1985/5 and 1985/6).

Draft decisions I and II were adopted (decisions 1985/118 and 1985/119).

6. The PRESIDENT suggested to the Council that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the world population situation (E/1985/20-A/40/190) and of the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-third session (E/1985/25).

It was so decided (decisions 1985/120 and 1985/121).

AGENDA ITEM 11

Statistical questions (E/1985/26, E/1985/90)

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1985/90)

7. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution I, "International economic classifications", and draft resolution II, "1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme", contained in paragraph 10 of the report of the First

(Economic) Committee on agenda item 11 (E/1985/90), and on the draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission" contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the First Committee (*ibid.*).

Draft resolutions I and II were adopted (resolutions 1985/7 and 1985/8).

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1985/122).

8. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the two resolutions and the decision. Canada supported the initiative of the Statistical Commission in giving priority to the study of development concepts and statistical methods applicable to special population groups. In particular, more work needed to be done with regard to statistical information on women. He trusted that attention would be given to obtaining better and more structured statistical information in order to enable the Council to monitor and review the work in that area more effectively in future.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Transport of dangerous goods

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1985/91)

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods", recommended by the First (Economic) Committee in its report (E/1985/91) for adoption by the Council.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1985/9).

10. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) said that his delegation attached great importance to the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, as the Committee's recommendations served as a basis for the formulation of requirements and regulations by Member States, specialized agencies and other international organizations. The Committee's recommendations should be published in a timely fashion, as called for in paragraph 2 of the resolution which the Council had just adopted. The United States supported the broadening of the geographical distribution of membership of the Committee. It noted, however, that the five seats allocated to developing countries remained vacant and hoped that the report called for in paragraph 7 of the resolution would address all the reasons behind the non-participation of developing countries and provide a substantive basis for encouraging their participation. Lastly, his delegation insisted that the staff necessary for adequate servicing of the Committee of Experts should be made available within existing resources, as called for in Council resolution 1983/7, and as reiterated in paragraph 6 of the resolution just adopted.

11. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) said that his Government had always supported the expansion of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to allow wider geographical representation, and drew attention to the fact that attempts had already been made to achieve that objective in Council resolution 1983/7. It was essen-

tial, however, that participation should be at the informed, technical level. His delegation hoped that, in preparing the report, the Secretariat would take that point into account, together with all the other factors relevant to the effective working of the Committee, bearing in mind that the Committee's recommendations were currently used by Governments when drafting their own legislation. His delegation further hoped that the Secretariat would frame its proposals in such a way as to keep them within existing budgetary resources.

12. Mr. HANTKE (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had always been in favour of enlarging the membership of the Committee of Experts, especially through participation of developing countries, so that more substantial, informed input could be provided for the work of the Committee. His delegation hoped that the Secretary-General, in his report, would take into account all the relevant factors which had prevented a broader participation of developing countries. In that respect, his delegation considered it important that the proposal of the Secretary-General should be formulated in a way that would not involve additional expenses. In implementing the resolution, the Secretariat should provide, within existing resources, the staff necessary for the adequate servicing of the Committee of Experts.

13. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reiterated his delegation's hope that the Secretary-General would take into account the need to guarantee a wider participation in the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Moreover, inasmuch as no document had been presented to the Council with regard to any financial implications of the resolution, it was his delegation's understanding that there were no such implications.

14. Mr. DE LA TORRE (Argentina) said that his delegation had played an active role in the work of the Committee of Experts, believing that the transport of dangerous goods was an issue of far-reaching importance and that the thinking of developing countries should be brought to bear upon it. He hoped that the report envisaged in paragraph 7 of the resolution which the Council had just adopted would take into account the full range of opinions that had been voiced on the issue.

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Note by the Secretary-General on the enlargement of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods", contained in paragraph 11 of document E/1985/91.

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1985/123).

AGENDA ITEM 13

Cartography

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1985/92)

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision I, entitled "Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas", and draft decision II, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas", recommended for adoption by the Council by

the First (Economic) Committee in its report (E/1985/92, para. 11) on agenda item 13.

Draft decisions I and II were adopted (decisions 1985/124 and 1985/125).

AGENDA ITEM 14

Public administration and finance

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1985/93)

17. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Public administration and finance for development" and the draft decision entitled "Mobilization of personal savings" recommended to the Council for adoption by the First (Economic) Committee in paragraphs 13 and 14 of its report (E/1985/93) on agenda item 14.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1985/10).

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1985/126).

AGENDA ITEM 15

Transnational corporations

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1985/94)

18. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Organization of public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia" recommended to the Council for adoption by the First (Economic) Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (E/1985) on agenda item 15.

19. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that it was the understanding of the Secretariat that the experts to be appointed in that regard would be selected jointly by the Chairman of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and by the Secretary-General. The formal notification and announcement of the appointment would be made, in accordance with normal practice, by the Secretary-General.

A recorded vote was taken on the draft decision contained in paragraph 9 of document E/1985/94.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Luxembourg, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The draft decision was adopted by 42 votes to 1, with 7 abstentions (decision 1985/127).*

20. Ms. PIETERS KWIERS (Netherlands) said that her delegation had abstained in the vote; however, its vote had not been recorded by the voting machine.

21. Mr. LEE (Canada), speaking in explanation of vote, said that Canada had abstained in the vote on the draft decision: the presumption by a number of delegations that all activities of transnational corporations were necessarily supportive of *apartheid* was a premise that inevitably prejudiced the prospect for balanced hearings. Canada continued to hope, however, that a distinguished and objective panel would be appointed to conduct the hearings; it would in that case have no hesitation in having Canadian organizations, corporations or individuals participate in the hearings, and would itself follow them with interest.

22. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) said that it was clear to his delegation that those who supported the hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa based their support on the premise that such activities were inherently bad and only contributed further to the suffering of the people of South Africa, and that they were therefore looking forward to what was intended as a show trial with an attendant massive publicity campaign for disinvestment in South Africa. It was all too easy to support measures which, rather than furthering the goal of helping suffering black South Africans, would actually increase their misery.

23. The United States could not support the concept of the hearings because it believed that American corporations operating in South Africa, and the Sullivan principles to which they adhered, had produced and would continue to produce positive change in that country. Under the Sullivan principles, United States firms had initiated development and training programmes to prepare blacks, Coloureds and Asians in South Africa for supervisory, administrative, clerical and technical jobs. In 1983 alone, over 13,000 blacks had participated in those programmes at a cost of over \$6 million. Between 1979 and 1983, the percentage of blacks in supervisory positions in those companies had risen from 16.7 per cent to 21.2 per cent. It was doubtful that those so anxious to see the hearings take place would like to hear those facts.

24. In addition, United States companies were spending millions annually in support of education and training of blacks in the general population: the Sullivan signatories had contributed over \$24 million between 1978 and 1983 to improve health care and living conditions, and had spent a total of \$78 million on programmes outside the work force.

25. Those supporting the hearings also ignored the negative effects that disinvestment would have on the neighbouring States in southern Africa, since there were over 350,000 registered workers from those States in South Africa.

26. Too many delegations had supported the draft decision simply because they, like the United States, abhorred *apartheid* and wanted to do everything possible to dismantle that evil system. The United States fully supported their motives, but could not support their methods. The strategy being offered was one of negativism and violence, which might lead to the destruction of *apartheid* but would also in the process destroy South African society itself. What was needed was positive pressure for peaceful change, which could grow within the framework of co-operation between the private sector and the black population, with the corporations serving to build the potential of the population.

*See paragraph 20 of the record.

27. The United States had voted against the hearings because it did not feel that they would be balanced and objective or advance the universally supported goals. It also remained opposed to the budgetary implications of the massive publicity campaign involved.

28. Mrs. GIRARDIN (France), speaking on behalf also of the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, said that their delegations had abstained in the vote on the draft decision just adopted because they disapproved of the use of an exceptional budgetary procedure which was authorized only in the case of unforeseen expenses. If the normal budgetary procedure had been followed, the General Assembly could have taken a decision in September and there would simply have been a slight postponement of the hearings.

29. Their delegations had not voted against the draft decision, as they would undoubtedly have done in a technical body such as the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, only because of the particular sensitivity of the question of the public hearings and the political nature of the Council.

30. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision because the hearings on the activities of transnational corporations should mobilize world public opinion and ensure that the corporations ended their relations with South Africa, in accordance with the will of the international community. The proposed hearings would further the objectives of eradicating *apartheid* and ending the illegal occupation of Namibia.

31. Ms. ERIKSSON (Sweden), speaking on behalf also of Finland and Iceland, said that they had voted in favour of the draft decision because they shared its general objectives and had themselves taken measures in line with those which it proposed. In the past they had had to abstain in votes on similar proposals, because they had felt that the Commission on Transnational Corporations itself would not be an appropriate forum. It was now a question of establishing an independent panel, and they trusted that the Secretary-General would appoint a balanced, fair and objective panel.

32. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision, which was in full accord with the position of its Government against *apartheid* and the illegal occupation of Namibia. The draft decision offered a sound basis for fair hearings, which were timely and would unmask the collaboration of transnational corporations with the racist régime, leading to concerted measures serving the objectives to which the United Nations was deeply committed.

33. Mr. MOTAI (Japan) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the draft decision because of its political nature and its financial aspects. The Council should have been given an opportunity to consider the financial implications before taking action on the draft decision.

34. As to its own policy with regard to South Africa and Namibia, Japan prohibited direct investment in South Africa and Namibia by Japanese nationals and corporations under its jurisdiction, while making every effort to increase its own economic and technical assistance to other African countries.

35. Mr. GAFAI (Nigeria) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision and regretted that certain delegations were more concerned with financial implications than with the contribution that the hearings would make to the elimination of the evil system of *apartheid*. The figures that had been cited as an argument for the beneficent action of transnational corporations represented assistance to a ludicrously small percentage of the black population of South Africa.

36. Nigeria thanked those Governments which had promised to work for balanced hearings or had said that they would allow some of their national agencies to participate.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Narcotic drugs (*continued*) (E/1985/23 and Corr.1, E/1985/47, E/1985/48, E/1985/83; A/39/646, A/40/260)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1985/83)

37. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 18. Paragraph 19 of the report contained seven draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Council, namely: I, "Co-operation for the control of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse in the African region"; II, "Measures against the diversion in international commerce of specific precursors, chemicals and solvents used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances"; III, "The need to reduce the risk of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances carried by commercial carriers"; IV, "Promotion of preventive education and community participation against drug abuse"; V, "Improvement of the control of international trade in psychotropic substances listed in Schedules III and IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances"; VI, "Supply of and demand for opiates for medical and scientific needs"; VII, "Special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".

38. He invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions.

Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV and V were adopted (resolutions 1985/11, 1985/12, 1985/13, 1985/14 and 1985/15).

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 35 votes to none, with 15 abstentions (resolution 1985/16).*

39. The PRESIDENT said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Council, in accordance with the recommendation of the Second (Social) Committee and with the decision adopted by the Council itself at its 7th meeting, referred to in the report of the Committee (E/1985/83, para. 16), wished to defer consideration of draft resolution VII, as well as of the draft provisional agenda for the ninth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, until its second regular session of 1985, in the context of its consideration of the calendar of conferences for 1986-1987.

It was so decided.

40. The PRESIDENT said that paragraph 20 of the report of the Second (Social) Committee contained

*See 23rd meeting, para. 31.

three draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council, namely: I, "Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs"; II, "Report of the International Narcotics Control Board"; III, "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".

41. He invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions.

Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted (decisions 1985/128, 1985/129 and 1985/130).

42. The PRESIDENT recalled the important statement on narcotic drugs made by the Secretary-General at the preceding meeting. Full consideration of the proposal made by the Secretary-General required consultations among delegations and Governments, and appropriate action could not be taken at the current session. He therefore suggested that the Council should take note of the statement made by the Secretary-General at the 21st meeting, on 24 May 1985, under item 18.

It was so decided (decision 1985/131).

AGENDA ITEM 3

Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (concluded) (E/1985/18, E/1985/L.29, E/1985/L.30, E/1985/L.31)

43. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands) said that, following consultations with various delegations that had problems with draft resolution E/1985/L.29, the sponsors had agreed to insert the words "of a general nature" after the words "suggestions and recommendations" in subparagraph (f) of the operative paragraph. He expressed the hope that the draft could be adopted by consensus.

44. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was acceptable to the Soviet Union, which supported the suggestion that it should be adopted by consensus, especially as all the statements on the item had emphasized the important role of the Covenant and the efforts made by States to implement its provisions. According to the statement of programme budget implications in document E/1985/L.31, the draft resolution might even enable savings to be made in the expenses of the Committee, while ensuring the participation of experts from all States, even if the United Nations bore the related expenses.

At the request of the representative of the United States, a vote was taken on draft resolution E/1985/L.29, as orally revised.

Draft resolution E/1985/L.29 was adopted by 43 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions (resolution 1985/17).

45. Mr. WAKE (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution. It was not convinced that the conversion of the Sessional Working Group into a committee of experts, serving in their personal capacity and meeting alternately in New York and at Geneva, was the most appropriate manner for the Economic and Social Council to fulfil its responsibility under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. At a time of extreme budgetary austerity, the proposals in the draft resolution did not justify the related expense.

46. While the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been established pursuant to the specific provisions of the instruments the implementation of which they were responsible for monitoring, the drafters of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had expected that the Economic and Social Council, made up of Governments, would play an active role in reviewing its implementation. In fact, the Council had delegated some of its responsibilities in that regard to a Sessional Working Group. He understood that some delegations were not entirely satisfied with the way in which the Working Group had functioned and that it might be desirable to make some adjustments. The main result of the resolution would, however, be simply to create new financial obligations for the United Nations. Under subparagraph (e), the 18 experts serving in their personal capacity would be entitled to receive travel and subsistence expenses from United Nations resources, which were estimated at \$179,100 for the forthcoming biennium. That amount represented an entirely new category of expenditure for the United Nations, since the expenses of the governmental experts serving on the current Sessional Working Group were borne entirely by their Governments. That expenditure was not justified, and his delegation was not convinced that it would have a significant effect on the quality or even the identities of the experts in the new Committee.

47. He welcomed the fact that, for each session of the Committee held at Geneva rather than in New York, some savings would result from a reduction in the travel of staff members from the Centre for Human Rights. It also might appear from paragraph 6 of the statement of programme budget implications (E/1985/L.31) that substantial savings in conference-servicing costs would result every other year from holding meetings at Geneva instead of in New York. That paragraph, however, presented the full-cost estimates of conference-servicing requirements. He expected the Secretary-General to absorb fully the conference-servicing costs of those meetings, when presenting his consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to the General Assembly at its fortieth session. Furthermore, as the established headquarters of the Committee would be at Geneva, the decision to hold meetings in New York was an unjustifiable exception to the terms of General Assembly resolution 31/140. His delegation believed that it might have been appropriate to have a working group of governmental experts meeting regularly at Geneva to assist the Economic and Social Council in carrying out its responsibilities under the Covenant. He was disappointed that his delegation's concerns and suggestions had not been taken into account in the draft resolution. Such a body, meeting as he had suggested, could have benefited from the expertise of the Centre for Human Rights, while unnecessary costs for staff travel would have been eliminated, and the United Nations would not have been burdened with the travel and subsistence expenses of the experts. Since the draft resolution had called for the United Nations to bear that additional expense, his delegation had voted against it.

48. Miss ATTWOOD (United Kingdom) said that her delegation was pleased to have been able to vote in favour of the draft resolution, as it believed that it was important for the Covenant to be treated with due respect, seriousness and diligence. The proposed

changes would enhance the application of the Covenant and the attitude of States towards it. In accordance with her Government's policy of ensuring that there was no unrestricted growth in United Nations expenditure, she expressed the hope that efforts would be made to cover by redeployment the new, and not inconsiderable, expense outlined in the statement of programme budget implications.

49. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objections he would take it that, to conclude its consideration of agenda item 3, the Council wished to adopt draft decision E/1985/L.30.

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1985/132).

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*concluded*)* (E/1985/L.28)

*Resumed from the 20th meeting.

50. The PRESIDENT announced that Australia, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Rwanda had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1985/L.28. He recalled that the sponsors had revised paragraph 6 of the draft, deleting the words "including redeployment as required", and said that if he heard no objections he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1985/L.28.

The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 1985/18).

51. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that it was his delegation's understanding that the resolution did not have and would continue not to have, any financial implications.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

23rd meeting

Wednesday, 29 May 1985, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.23

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*concluded*)** (E/1985/L.26)

1. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1985/L.26.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1985/19).

2. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that his delegation had not participated in the adoption of draft resolution E/1985/L.26 because, while his country had fully supported the launching of the first Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, it had not participated in the activities of either the first or second decades against racism since the adoption in 1975 of General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX), which contained the false and obnoxious statement that zionism was a form of racism and racial discrimination.

3. For that reason, his country had declined the Secretary-General's invitation to nominate a participant for the seminar on community relations commissions which was mentioned in paragraph 8 of document E/1985/16.

4. Mr. JONAH (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Co-ordination of Activities relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) said it was the understanding of the Secretary-General that the reports called for in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution that had just been

**Resumed from the 16th meeting.

adopted were the same as those called for in General Assembly resolution 39/16.

5. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 2.

AGENDA ITEM 17

Social development (E/1985/8, E/1985/24 and Corr.1, E/1985/96)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1985/96)

6. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 17 (E/1985/96). In its report, the Second Committee recommended to the Council for adoption 17 draft resolutions, namely: I, "Ensuring the timely distribution of conference documents"; II, "World social situation"; III, "National experience in promoting the co-operative movement"; IV, "Youth in the contemporary world"; V, "Welfare of migrant workers and their families"; VI, "International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade"; VII, "Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes"; VIII, "Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the rights to life, education and work"; IX, "First review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging"; X, "The family"; XI, "Co-ordination and information in the field of youth"; XII, "Social aspects of development"; XIII, "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and eco-

conomic changes for the purpose of social progress"; XIV, "Capital punishment"; XV, "Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development"; XVI, "United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons"; XVII, "Progress of work of the Commission for Social Development".

7. He invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I TO XII

Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII were adopted (resolutions 1985/20, 1985/21, 1985/22, 1985/23, 1985/24, 1985/25, 1985/26, 1985/27, 1985/28, 1985/29, 1985/30 and 1985/31).

DRAFT RESOLUTION XIII

8. The PRESIDENT said that the Second (Social) Committee had adopted draft resolution XIII by 46 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions. He took it that the Council wished to put it to the vote also.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution XIII.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft resolution XIII was adopted by 46 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions (resolution 1985/32).

9. Mr. HENAR (Suriname) said that if his delegation had been present during the vote on draft resolution XIII it would have voted in favour of the text.

DRAFT RESOLUTION XIV

Draft resolution XIV was adopted (resolution 1985/33).

10. Mr. AL-MERDAS (Saudi Arabia) said that the abolition of capital punishment ran counter to the Islamic Shariah, which permitted retaliation in kind in cases of premeditated murder, although the family of a victim could choose instead to forgive the murderer or to accept indemnification. Retaliation in kind was not imposed against individuals who killed in self-defence, or in defence of their property, children or women. The practice protected society from revenge, which in certain societies led to the extermination of many persons. The crime rate in his country was very low compared with that of States which did not impose capital punishment.

11. There was no justification for protecting a murderer's right to life. The abolition of capital punishment would have the effect of encouraging professional criminals to commit murder. His delegation would not participate in that encouragement, and therefore had reservations concerning the draft

resolution, which, besides running counter to the Islamic Shariah, also violated both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 217 A (III), which guaranteed freedom of religion, and the principle of national sovereignty.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS XV TO XVII

12. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolutions XV, XVI and XVII.

Draft resolutions XV, XVI and XVII were adopted (resolutions 1985/34, 1985/35 and 1985/36).

13. The PRESIDENT said that in its report the Second (Social) Committee also recommended to the Council for adoption two draft decisions, namely: I, "Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission for Social Development"; II, "Provisional rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders".

14. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft decisions.

Draft decisions I and II were adopted (decisions 1985/133 and 1985/134).

15. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt two other draft decisions: one by which it would take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the social aspects of rural development (E/1985/8) and the other by which it would take note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its twenty-ninth session (E/1985/24 and Corr.1).

16. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft decisions.

It was so decided (decisions 1985/135 and 1985/136).

17. Mr. WAKE (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that although the United States had joined the consensus on draft resolutions I to X and had worked actively in the Commission for Social Development on their formulation, his delegation had certain reservations regarding elements of those resolutions which referred to matters outside the mandate and expertise of the Commission.

18. His delegation had voted against draft resolution XIII on the grounds that the interregional seminar and the additional report requested were wasteful of scarce resources. The reports prepared on the subject for the past several years had proven to be of no practical value, and the United States could not support the continuation of such a useless exercise.

19. Similarly, although his delegation had not voted against draft resolution XV, it believed that the request for a substantive report contained in paragraph 5—a report which would be read by very few and would contribute nothing to social development—represented a failure to heed the call to control excessive documentation made at the opening of the session by the Secretary of the Council.

20. With regard to draft resolution XIV, on capital punishment, the United States did not have a national policy favouring the abolition of the death penalty. Since the laws and practices of individual states within the United States differed, his delegation could not have supported a resolution placing

undue stress on either the abolition or the retention or reinstatement of capital punishment; however, the resolution just adopted was essentially neutral in that regard. His delegation wished to emphasize that the most important aim of the United Nations in relation to capital punishment should be the elimination of abuses of capital punishment such as summary execution or denial of due process prior to the application of the death penalty.

21. Mr. FURSLAND (United Kingdom) stated that his delegation had joined the consensus on the various draft resolutions just adopted, not because it endorsed all their provisions but because of its general policy not to disrupt a consensus reached by specialist bodies.

22. It none the less believed that a number of the draft resolutions were seriously unbalanced and that few, if any, would contribute to social development. It was especially concerned over the continued proliferation of reports called for in the draft resolutions. Once an initial report had been requested, the Council rarely questioned the usefulness of having further reports. The United Kingdom had particular reservations regarding the report requested in draft resolution XIII.

23. It was regrettable that the Second (Social) Committee had been unable to reach agreement on a number of draft resolutions and had relegated them to annex III to its report (E/1985/24 and Corr.1), so that they had been reintroduced in the Council. That was a bad precedent which should not be pursued in future years.

24. The reports submitted by other specialist bodies, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Human Rights, contained elements which would significantly contribute to the improvement of the human condition. That was not the case where the report of the Commission for Social Development was concerned, and his delegation hoped that the Commission would in future produce more useful reports.

25. The PRESIDENT observed that the statements by the representatives of both the United States and the United Kingdom had provided matter for reflection with regard to the revitalization of the Organization and the rationalization of work.

26. Mr. TANASA (Romania) proposed that the current paragraph 22 of the report on social development (E/1985/96) should be deleted because it did not accurately reflect the proceedings.¹⁴

¹⁴Document E/1985/96/Corr.1 of 4 June 1985 was issued to delete paragraph 22 of the report (E/1985/96) and renumber the subsequent paragraphs.

27. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), expressing his delegation's satisfaction over the adoption of the draft resolutions on social development, which the Soviet Union had supported because it believed they would promote activities in that area, said that he concurred with that proposal.¹⁴

28. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that the secretariat would make the appropriate change.¹⁴

AGENDA ITEM 20

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985

29. Mr. GUDA (Suriname) reported that the consultations held to identify the second priority issue on the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985 had not led to a consensus, and that most delegations felt the consultations should be continued.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (*continued*)*

30. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden) reported that more time would also be needed for consultations on the rules of procedure for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held at Nairobi.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Narcotic drugs (*concluded*)

31. Mr. RATHORE (India) said that, had his delegation been present during the vote on draft resolution VI contained in the report of the Second (Social) Committee on narcotic drugs (E/1985/83 and Corr.1), at the 22nd meeting, it would have voted in favour of it.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

*Resumed from the 20th meeting.

24th meeting

Thursday, 30 May 1985, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.24

AGENDA ITEM 19

Elections and nominations*

STATISTICAL COMMISSION (E/1985/L.2 AND CORR.1)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect eight members of the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.

2. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the secretariat had been informed by the Chairmen of the regional groups and, in the case of the Group of African States, the secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) of the following candidates for the vacancies on the Statistical Commission: Egypt, Togo and Zambia for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; and Argentina for the vacancy to be filled by a Latin American State. In addition, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland and Spain were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled from the Group of Western European and other States.

3. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from African, Eastern European and Latin American States was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by States from those groups, he would take it that the Council elected those candidates by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Samory (Congo) and Mr. Shukla (India) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	51
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	51
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	50
Required majority:	26
Number of votes obtained:	
Federal Republic of Germany.....	46
France.....	42
Spain.....	39
Ireland.....	19

*Having obtained the required majority, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Spain were elected members of the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.**

POPULATION COMMISSION (E/1985/L.2 AND CORR.1)

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect nine members of the Population Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.

6. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by the regional groups: Burundi and Malawi for the two vacancies to be filled by African States; China and the Islamic Republic of Iran for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Cuba and Mexico for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for the two vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. In addition, for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States, the candidacies of Japan and Pakistan had been withdrawn.

7. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from each regional group was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by States from those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (E/1985/L.2 AND CORR.1)

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 14 members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.

9. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by the regional groups: Algeria, Ethiopia and Mozambique for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; and Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American States. In addition, Bangladesh, Cyprus, India and Pakistan were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States, while Belgium, Ireland, Norway and Turkey were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

10. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from African, Eastern European and Latin American States was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by States from those groups, he took it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Asian States and three members from the Group of Western European and other States.

*See decision 1985/160.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Meltke (German Democratic Republic) and Miss Rovirosa-Priego (Mexico) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Western European and other States:	
Norway.....	46
Belgium.....	45
Ireland.....	36
Turkey.....	19

*Having obtained the required majority, Belgium, Ireland and Norway were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.**

Asian States:	
India.....	44
Bangladesh.....	41
Cyprus.....	33
Pakistan.....	33

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, India and Bangladesh were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.**

The two remaining candidates having received an equal number of votes, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Meltke (German Democratic Republic) and Miss Rovirosa-Priego (Mexico) acted as tellers.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Cyprus.....	28
Pakistan.....	26

*Having obtained the required majority, Cyprus was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.**

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (E/1985/L.3)

12. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 19 members of the Commission on Human Settlements for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.

13. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Congo, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria and Swaziland had been nominated for the five vacancies to be filled by African States; Indonesia and Malaysia had been nominated for two of the four vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Hungary and Poland had been nominated for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Panama had been

nominated for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden had been nominated for the five vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. All candidates had been endorsed by their respective regional groups.

14. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from each group was equal to or, in the case of the Group of Asian States, less than the number of vacancies to be filled by States from each group, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation and to postpone the election of two members from the Group of Asian States.

*It was so decided.**

ELECTIONS POSTPONED FROM PREVIOUS SESSIONS

15. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the Group of Western European and other States had endorsed the candidacy of Norway to fill one of the two seats remaining vacant for that group for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1987. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Norway by acclamation to fill that vacancy for the term specified.

*It was so decided.**

16. The PRESIDENT said that no candidate had been proposed for the other vacancy to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States or for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1987. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to postpone those elections.

*It was so decided.**

COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (E/1985/L.4)

17. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.

18. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by the regional groups: Benin, Kenya, Nigeria and Swaziland for the four vacancies to be filled by African States; Cyprus and Indonesia for two of the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Cuba and Mexico for the four vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for the four vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

19. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from each group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled by States from those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
(E/1985/L.2 AND CORR.1)

20. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 20 members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1986 and drew attention to the special criteria used in electing members to the Commission, which were specified in Council resolution 845 (XXXIII) and outlined in paragraph 4 of document E/1985/L.2 and Corr. 1.

21. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were four members from the Group of African States retiring from the Commission and four candidates endorsed by that regional group: Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Zambia. For the Group of Asian States, there were four members from that group retiring from the Commission and four candidates endorsed by the group: China, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia. There were three members from the Group of Eastern European States retiring from the Commission and three candidates endorsed by the group: Bulgaria, Hungary and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. For the Group of Latin American States, there were four members from the group retiring from the Commission and six candidatures: Argentina, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela. The candidature of Panama had been withdrawn. For the Western European and other States, there were five members of the Group retiring from the Commission and six candidates: Australia, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

22. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States and the Group of Eastern European States was equal to the number of members retiring from those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

23. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot four members from the Group of Latin American States and five members from the Group of Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Samory (Congo) and Mr. Shukla (India) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
<i>Group of Latin American States:</i>	
Mexico	43
Venezuela	39
Ecuador	38
Argentina	36
Bahamas	29
Bolivia	27
Panama	2
<i>Group of Western European and other States:</i>	
Turkey	49
Australia	46
Belgium	45

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	45
Spain	42
Switzerland	31
Ireland	1

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes in their respective groups, Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela; Australia, Belgium, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.**

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CHILDREN'S FUND (E/1985/L.6)

24. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 21 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 August 1985.

25. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been proposed by their regional groups: the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mali and Tunisia for the six vacancies to be filled by African States; Bangladesh, Japan, Oman and Pakistan for the four vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Bulgaria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico for the four vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for the five vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. The candidature of the Philippines had been withdrawn.

26. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by States from each group, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL
EXPERTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1985/L.9/REV.1)

27. The PRESIDENT announced that five members of the Sessional Working Group of Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were to be elected.

28. Pursuant to its resolution 1982/33, the Council was to elect one member from each regional group from among the States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to fill the vacancies in the Sessional Working Group which would occur at the end of 1985, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.

29. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by the regional groups: Iraq for the vacancy to be filled by an Asian State; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Peru for the vacancy to be filled by a Latin American State; and France for the vacancy to be filled by one of the Western European and other States. No nomination had been received for the vacancy to be filled by an African State.

30. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed and to postpone to a future session the election for the vacancy to be filled by an African State. As no candidates had been proposed for the vacancies to be filled by Asian States for terms expiring on 31 December 1985 and 31 December 1987, the elections to fill those vacancies would have to be postponed again.

*It was so decided.**

COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES (E/1985/L.5)

31. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.

32. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been proposed by the regional groups: Cape Verde for the vacancy to be filled by an African State; and Finland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the two vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. Argentina, Colombia and Mexico were candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American States.

33. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from African and Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by States from those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

34. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Latin American States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Meltke (German Democratic Republic) and Ms. Eriksson (Sweden) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Argentina	40
Colombia	34
Mexico	31

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Argentina and Colombia were elected members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.**

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (E/1985/L.7)

35. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.

36. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by the regional groups: Burundi, Came-

roon, Cape Verde, Malawi and Mauritius for the five vacancies to be filled by African States; Bulgaria for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Brazil for the vacancy to be filled by a Latin American State; and Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, New Zealand and Spain for the six vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Korea were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by the Asian States and Yugoslavia.

37. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from African, Eastern European, Latin American and Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by States from those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

38. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Asian States and Yugoslavia.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Samory (Congo) and Miss Roviroso-Priego (Mexico) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Indonesia	44
Kuwait	34
Republic of Korea	33
Lebanon	22
Iraq	14
Syrian Arab Republic	14

*Having obtained the required majority, Indonesia, Kuwait and the Republic of Korea were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (E/1985/5B AND ADD.1)

39. The PRESIDENT announced that five members were to be appointed to the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women for a three-year term, to fill the vacancies that would be created by the expiration of the term of office of five members on 30 June 1985. The candidacies of Askale Makonnen (Ethiopia), Kebkabe Tafesse (Ethiopia), Lia Mylona (Cyprus) and Berta Torrijos de Arosemena (Panama) had been withdrawn.

40. Although there was no established geographical distribution for the membership of the Board, the Council had decided in the past to maintain the existing *de facto* geographical balance of the Board, without prejudice to any further decision that the Council might wish to take.

41. Since only one candidate, Elena Atanassova Lagadinova (Bulgaria), had been nominated by the

Group of Eastern European States, and only candidate, Ingrid Eide (Norway), had been nominated by the Group of Western European and other States, he would take it that the Council wished to appoint those candidates by acclamation to the Board of the Institute.

*It was so decided.**

42. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of African States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Meltke (German Democratic Republic) and Ms. Eriksson (Sweden) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Members voting:</i>	53
<i>Majority required:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Feiza Kefi (Tunisia).....	17
Victoria N. Okobi (Nigeria).....	15
Olivia N. Muchena (Zimbabwe).....	10
Woderemyelesh Kebede (Ethiopia)....	6
Batom Behotim (Chad).....	4

43. The PRESIDENT said that, since none of the candidates had obtained the required majority, a second vote with a restricted ballot would be taken at the next meeting to choose between the two candidates who had obtained the largest number of votes.

44. He invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Meltke (German Democratic Republic) and Ms. Eriksson (Sweden) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Members voting:</i>	53
<i>Majority required:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Lin Shangzhen (China).....	33
Srisavang Phuavongsephatya (Thailand).....	30
Hazar Sawaf (Syrian Arab Republic)..	4
Shermeen Yaqubi (Iraq).....	3

*Having obtained the required majority and the greatest number of votes, Lin Shangzhen (China) was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women for a three-year term beginning on 1 July 1985.**

45. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Meltke (German Democratic Republic) and Ms. Eriksson (Sweden) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54

<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Members voting:</i>	53
<i>Majority required:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Virginia Olivo de Celli (Venezuela)...	20
Fabiola Cuví Ortiz (Ecuador).....	18
Norma Forde (Barbados).....	14

46. The PRESIDENT said that, since none of the candidates of the Latin American and Caribbean States had obtained the required majority, a second vote with a restricted ballot would be taken at the next meeting to choose between the two candidates who had obtained the largest number of votes.

COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AWARD (E/1985/30, PARA. 19 (M))

47. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/201, 10 representatives were to be elected for a period of three years with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and the need to include those Member States that had made contributions for the award.

48. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups: Burundi, Sudan and Tunisia for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; Japan and Pakistan for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Yugoslavia for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; and Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American States. No nomination had been received for the vacancy to be filled by one of the Western European and other States.

49. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from the African, Asian, Eastern European and Latin American States was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by States from those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation. The election to fill the vacancy to be filled by one of the Western European and other States would be postponed.

*It was so decided.**

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION (E/1985/L.10)

50. The PRESIDENT announced that, in accordance with its resolution 2008 (LX), the Council was required to make nominations for seven vacancies on the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. The members would be elected by the General Assembly at its fortieth session to fill the vacancies in the Committee which would occur at the end of 1985 and would serve on the Committee for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1986.

51. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by the regional groups: Benin and Zambia for the two vacancies to be filled by African States; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; and France and the United States of America for the two vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru were candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American States.

52. The PRESIDENT said that, in the case of the Group of Latin American States, there were more candidates than there were vacancies to be filled by States from that group. When that had happened in the past, the Council had decided to nominate all the candidates, from which the General Assembly would elect the appropriate number.

53. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to nominate for election by the General Assembly at its fortieth session all the candidates proposed.

*It was so decided.**

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (E/1985/L.11)

54. The PRESIDENT announced that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), the Council was required to nominate candidates for 12 vacancies on the World Food Council. The members were to be elected by the General Assembly at its fortieth session to serve on the World Food Council for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1986.

55. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by the regional groups: Guinea, Mali and Somalia for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic and Honduras for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany for the two vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. Bangladesh, Cyprus, India and the Syrian Arab Republic were candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States.

56. The PRESIDENT said that with the exception of the Group of Asian States, which had proposed four candidates for two vacancies, the number of candidates from the regional groups was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by States from those Groups. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council, in accordance with the practice it had followed in the past, wished to nominate all the candidates proposed by the regional groups.

*It was so decided.**

COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL (E/1985/84)

57. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect one member of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in order to fill the vacancy resulting from the death of Robert Linke (Austria). In that connection, he said that the Secretary-General had received a communication from the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations Office at Vienna, nominating Roland Miklau to fill the vacancy. Since there were no other candidates, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Mr. Miklau for a term which would begin on the date of election and expire on 31 December 1986.

*It was so decided.**

BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/1985/24 AND CORR. 1, CHAP. I, SECT. B, DECISION I)

58. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider decision I of the Commission for Social Development (E/1985/24 and Corr. 1, chap. I, sect. B). In accordance with that decision, the Commission for Social Development had submitted to the Economic and Social Council, for confirmation, the list of candidates for membership of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

59. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following nominations had been proposed by the Commission for Social Development for confirmation: Ismail Sabri Abdhalla (Egypt), Louis Emerij (Netherlands) and Sally Weaver (Canada) for a four-year term beginning on 1 July 1985 and Gustavo Esteva (Mexico) for an additional term of two years, beginning on 1 July 1985.

60. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the nominations proposed by the Commission for Social Development.

*It was so decided.**

61. The PRESIDENT said that the Commission for Social Development had also referred to the Council the nomination and confirmation of one member from Asian States and one member from Eastern European States for a term of four years, beginning on 1 July 1985. Vida Cok (Yugoslavia) from the Group of Eastern European States and Sartaj Aziz (Pakistan) from the Group of Asian States had been endorsed by their groups for membership of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates and to confirm their nomination for a term of four years beginning on 1 July 1985.

*It was so decided.**

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES (E/1985/30, ANNOTATION 19 (P) (I) AND (II))

62. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the vacancies to be filled in the Commission for Social Development and the Committee on Natural Resources for which elections had been postponed at previous sessions. He proposed that, if there were no candidates for the vacancies, the elections should be postponed to a subsequent session.

It was so decided.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

63. The PRESIDENT said that, as decided at the Council's 7th meeting, on 7 May 1985, the election of members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting would be postponed until the Council's second regular session of 1985.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.

25th meeting

Thursday, 30 May 1985, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.25

AGENDA ITEM 19

Elections and nominations* (concluded)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (concluded) (E/1985/58 AND ADD.I)

1. The PRESIDENT said that since, in the vote taken at the twenty-fourth meeting, none of the candidates nominated by the Group of African States for membership of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women had obtained the required majority, the Council would proceed to a second ballot restricted to the two candidates who had obtained the highest number of votes, Feiza Kefi (Tunisia) and Victoria N. Okobi (Nigeria).

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Soeriaatmadja (Indonesia) and Ms. Eriksson (Sweden) acted as tellers.

A second vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of papers:	50
Invalid ballots:	0
Valid ballots:	50
Abstentions:	0
Members voting:	50
Majority required:	26
Number of votes obtained:	
Victoria N. Okobi (Nigeria).....	26
Feiza Kefi (Tunisia).....	24

Having obtained the required majority, Victoria N. Okobi (Nigeria) was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women for a three-year term beginning on 1 July 1985.*

2. The PRESIDENT said that since, in the vote taken at the twenty-fourth meeting, none of the candidates nominated by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had obtained the required majority, the Council would proceed to a second ballot restricted to the two candidates who had obtained the highest number of votes, Fabiola Cuvi Ortiz (Ecuador) and Virginia Olivo de Celli (Venezuela).

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Soeriaatmadja (Indonesia) and Ms. Eriksson (Sweden) acted as tellers.

A second vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	50
Invalid ballots:	0
Valid ballots:	50
Abstentions:	1
Members voting:	49
Majority required:	25
Number of votes obtained:	

*See decision 1985/160.

Fabiola Cuvi Ortiz (Ecuador).....	27
Virginia Olivo de Celli (Venezuela)...	22

Having obtained the required majority, Fabiola Cuvi Ortiz (Ecuador) was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women for a three-year term beginning on 1 July 1985.*

SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (concluded) (E/1985/L.9/REV.1)

3. The PRESIDENT recalled the decision adopted by the Council at its twenty-second meeting, contained in Council resolution 1985/17, by which the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights would be converted in 1987 into a committee of experts acting in their individual capacity. The term of the four members elected at the twenty-fourth meeting would therefore end when the new Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was established, in 1987.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (continued)** (E/1985/L.32, E/1985/L.33)

4. Mr. VILLAGRA DELGADO (Argentina), introducing draft resolution E/1985/L.32, said that the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women had accomplished much useful work and had laid down the basis for a programme of work which would contribute greatly to the advancement of women. The Institute was financed through voluntary contributions, and its Board of Trustees had requested the Economic and Social Council to appeal for contributions from Governments and other potential donors. The draft resolution contained such an appeal. He expressed the hope that the draft, which had no financial implications, could be adopted without a vote.

5. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution E/1985/L.33, said that its title should read "Women and development". It represented a follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the issue of women and development in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system (E/1985/45), and its aim was to improve the coherence of the related policies and programmes of the United Nations system, a need clearly brought out in the report. The draft followed the observations and recommendations made in the report and specifically requested the Secretary-Gen-

**Resumed from the 23rd meeting.

eral to formulate a system-wide medium-term plan for women and development, which would form the basis for the more coherent approach needed throughout the United Nations system.

6. For technical reasons, the words "to the Commission on the Status of Women" in paragraph 3 should be changed to "through the Commission on the Status of Women" and the words "and to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986" should be added to the end of that paragraph, as the sponsors had felt it would be useful for the Council to consider the plan when co-ordination matters were discussed. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

7. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council), noting that in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution the Secretary-General was requested to report to the Council at both regular sessions of 1986, sought clarification as to whether one or two reports would be required.

8. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said that only one report was involved. It would be submitted to the Council at its first regular session in the context of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women and at the second regular session under the item relating to co-ordination questions.

AGENDA ITEM 16

Human rights

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1985/95)*

9. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 16 (E/1985/95). In paragraph 61 of its report, the Second Committee recommended to the Council for adoption eight draft resolutions, namely: I, "The administration of justice and the human rights of detainees"; II, "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations"; III, "Situation in Equatorial Guinea"; IV, "Summary or arbitrary executions"; V, "Elaboration of a second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty"; VI, "Question of a convention on the rights of the child"; VII, "Report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights on allegations of infringements of trade union rights in the Republic of South Africa"; VIII, "Solemn commemorative ceremony in the light of General Assembly resolution 39/114".

10. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that some of the draft resolutions and decisions in the report called for the convening of meetings. Since the Council had decided that all matters relating to the calendar of conferences for the forthcoming biennium should be discussed at the second regular session, he suggested that the Council might wish to adopt the draft resolutions and decisions on the understanding that the precise dates of the meetings concerned would be determined in the context of that discussion.

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I TO V

Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV and V were adopted (resolutions 1985/37, 1985/38, 1985/39, 1985/40 and 1985/41).

12. Mr. AL-MERDAS (Saudi Arabia) said that paragraph 16 of the report omitted to mention that his delegation had made a statement with regard to draft resolution V. His delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution V although it had voted against General Assembly resolution 39/137 on the same subject. His Government did, however, maintain the right not to abolish the death penalty, as such an action would run counter to Islamic law.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS VI AND VII

Draft resolutions VI and VII were adopted (resolutions 1985/42 and 1985/43).

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

13. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that, in the first preambular paragraph of the English text of draft resolution VIII, the words "the struggle" should read "that struggle".

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 1985/44).

14. The PRESIDENT said that in paragraph 62 of the report the Second Committee recommended to the Council for adoption 21 draft decisions, namely: I, "Study of the problem of discrimination against indigenous populations"; II, "General decision concerning the establishment of a working group of the Commission on Human Rights to examine situations referred to the Commission under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and those situations of which the Commission is seized"; III, "Discontinuance of consideration of the human rights situation in Uruguay"; IV, "Situation of human rights in South Africa"; V, "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination"; VI, "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances"; VII, "Slavery and slavery-like practices: mission to Mauritania"; VIII, "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"; IX, "Situation of human rights in El Salvador"; X, "Situation of human rights in Guatemala"; XI, "Question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan"; XII, "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran"; XIII, "The right to development"; XIV, "Question of human rights in Chile"; XV, "Organization of the work of the Commission on Human Rights"; XVI, "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories"; XVII, "Report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities"; XVIII, "Report of the Commission on Human Rights"; XIX, "Report of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation"; XX, "Material on human rights in Argentina"; XXI, "Situation in southern Lebanon".

15. He invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions.

* A correction (E/1985/95/Corr.1) was issued on 4 June 1985.

DRAFT DECISIONS I TO III

Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted (decisions 1985/137, 1985/138 and 1985/139).

16. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that his delegation had been pleased to join in the consensus on draft decision III. It welcomed the fact that Uruguay had returned to its democratic tradition, and encouraged the new democratically elected Government of that country to persist in its efforts to guarantee full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

DRAFT DECISION IV

17. The PRESIDENT said that the Second (Social) Committee had adopted the draft decision by 51 votes to 1.

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision IV.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

Draft decision IV was adopted by 52 votes to 1 (decision 1985/140).

18. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that his delegation had voted against draft decision IV because of its position on the underlying resolution of the Commission on Human Rights (1985/8) and because of its concern about the resolution's excessive financial implications, which amounted to more than \$1 million. He regretted that it had not been possible to reach agreement in the Commission on a consensus resolution concerning human rights in South Africa. His delegation remained committed to the elimination of the *apartheid* system and to working with other members of the international community to find language which expressed their shared revulsion at that abhorrent system.

DRAFT DECISION V

19. The PRESIDENT said that the draft decision had been adopted in the Second (Social) Committee by 52 votes to 1.

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision V.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

Draft decision V was adopted by 52 votes to 1 (decision 1985/141).

20. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that his delegation's vote against draft decision V—an exception to its usual policy of non-participation in voting on resolutions and decisions relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination—had been based solely on the excessive financial implications of the seminar to be held in accordance with the decision. His delegation was particularly concerned that the travel costs envisaged would be diverted from the very limited advisory services budget available to the Centre for Human Rights. It was also concerned at the additional costs resulting from the fact that the seminar would be held away from Geneva, the established headquarters of the Centre for Human Rights, in violation of General Assembly resolution 31/140.

21. Mrs. KUROKOCHI (Japan) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision because of its strong support for the basic objectives of the Second Decade. However, the Secretary-General had stated that the plan of activities for 1985–1989 should be implemented in an effective and economical manner. Efforts should accordingly be made to avoid repeating past discussions or duplicating those currently being conducted elsewhere. Her delegation had doubts as to the appropriateness of the subject of the seminar and also believed that the financial resources allocated to it could be put to more effective use.

22. Mr. FURSLAND (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had supported the draft decision because of its strong support for the Second Decade. However, it had very serious reservations regarding the use of the limited resources available to the Centre for Human Rights under its advisory services programme for seminars, irrespective of their subject. His delegation also had reservations concerning the technical arrangements foreseen for the seminar and their consequent financial implications. There were other types of programmes for which the limited resources available could be more profitably used.

DRAFT DECISIONS VI TO X

Draft decisions VI, VII, VIII, IX and X were adopted (decisions 1985/142, 1985/143, 1985/144, 1985/145 and 1985/146).

DRAFT DECISION XI

23. The PRESIDENT said that the draft decision had been adopted in the Second (Social) Committee by 38 votes to 5, with 8 abstentions.

24. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking also on behalf of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and Poland, said that the draft decision endorsed the continuation of the unlawful campaign of slander against democratic Afghanistan. Instead of condemning the bloody crimes committed by bands of American mercenaries and the undeclared war being waged by imperialism against Afghanistan, the draft in effect approved the

slanderous “report” which the Special Rapporteur had concocted as part of a shameful imperialist propaganda campaign against the Afghan people, its democratic State and its legitimate Government.

25. The “report” had been compiled on the basis of the Special Rapporteur’s personal fantasies and of insinuations brought to his attention at meetings with the hired bandits who themselves were committing offences against human rights in Afghanistan. It completely ignored the true facts about the mercenaries’ crimes and gave no information on how the United States was training, financing and arming those criminals and sending them to Afghanistan to wage an undeclared war there. The slanderous “report” not only completely distorted the truth but also violated the most basic principles of integrity. Its purpose was to divert attention from the crimes committed by the bands of mercenaries against the Afghan people and to justify the extension of the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

26. The delegations of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Poland and the USSR condemned that provocative and shameful exercise against Afghanistan, and would vote against the draft decision. They felt that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur should be terminated immediately, together with the imperialist campaign against the sovereign and democratic country of Afghanistan, its freedom-loving people and legitimate Government. They called on all delegations which genuinely valued human rights to vote against the draft, which bore no relation to the protection of human rights, the norms of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

27. Mr. ZARIF (Observer for Afghanistan) recalled that his delegation had warned in 1984 of the negative consequences of the adoption of Council resolution 1984/37 for the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and for the credibility and prestige of the Council. Subsequent developments had proved that the grave concern which his and other delegations had expressed had been totally justified. There had been not the slightest justification for the investigation of human rights conditions in Afghanistan called for in resolution 1984/55 of the Commission on Human Rights, whose Chairman had appointed an infamous neo-Fascist whose hatred for the type of system in Afghanistan and similar countries was too obvious for him to be expected to produce an unbiased and honest report.

28. The document prepared by that individual was part of a campaign of lies and insinuations against Afghanistan and echoed the psychological war which imperialism, hegemonism and other reactionary forces were waging against his country. The report, which contained outright lies, masqueraded as a serious document. Its author also insulted the people of Afghanistan by referring to their genuinely popular revolution of April 1978 as the “so-called Saur revolution”, belittled the importance of the Declaration on General Amnesty enacted at the beginning of the new phase of the revolution and condemned various decrees adopted by the Revolutionary Council as violations of human rights in the country, whereas they in fact constituted solid steps towards the total eradication of the many evil and predatory relationships that had made the systematic violation of human rights a permanent feature of Afghan society.

29. Moreover, the so-called Special Rapporteur had remained silent regarding important measures adopted by the revolutionary Government to ensure the universal enjoyment of many basic human rights and freedoms, and had ignored its decision to implement over 350 instruments providing a firm foundation for the establishment of a just and democratic society in conformity with internationally recognized instruments on the protection of human rights. He had also ignored the fact that Afghanistan, during the short time since its revolution, had acceded to a number of major international human rights instruments. In addition, the so-called Special Rapporteur had made no attempt to hide the sources on the basis of whose accusations he had drawn up his report, namely, counter-revolutionary ringleaders, other fugitives under their control and their accomplices in the undeclared war against Afghanistan, including hirelings of the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The United States, which had already spent more than \$1 billion in arms for its mercenaries, was the principal culprit violating the human rights of the Afghan people, in particular, their right to self-determination free from outside interference, subversion and coercion. Moreover, the United States had announced that it planned a fourfold increase in its arms supplies to the counter-revolutionaries.

30. It was the criminal undeclared war launched by imperialism, hegemonism and other reactionary forces against his country that should be condemned by the Commission on Human Rights and the Council. He warned of the dangers inherent in permitting the type of investigation that was being pursued in his country, which constituted an unjustified and irresponsible action against a non-aligned State Member of the United Nations. His delegation particularly wished to draw the attention of fellow non-aligned countries members of the Council to the grave implications of setting such negative precedents and appealed to them to dissociate themselves from the anti-Afghan campaign, which had nothing to do with the reality of the human rights situation in his country. He expressed his delegation’s gratitude to the delegations of those countries which either had voted against the draft decision during the vote in the Second (Social) Committee or had abstained thereon, and urged other delegations to do the same.

31. His Government would not recognize the validity of any decision that might be taken in violation of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations and of the rules of procedure, and in total disregard of the explicit objections of his delegation.

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision XI.

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Against: Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic, India, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Algeria, Congo, Ecuador, Finland, Uganda, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Draft decision XI was adopted by 38 votes to 5, with 8 abstentions (decision 1985/147).

32. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision because of its humanitarian concern for the people of Afghanistan. It was unnecessary to respond to the crude remarks made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its puppet régime in Kabul under the guise of explanations of vote: the 38 votes in favour of the draft decision were response enough.

DRAFT DECISION XII

33. The PRESIDENT said that the draft decision had been adopted by the Second (Social) Committee by 24 votes to 2, with 20 abstentions.

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision XII.

In favour: Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Rwanda, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Algeria, Bangladesh.

Abstaining: Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, China, Ecuador, German Democratic Republic, Haiti, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Poland, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Draft decision XII was adopted by 23 votes to 2, with 20 abstentions (decision 1985/148).

34. Ms. AKHAMLICH BENNANI (Morocco) said that her delegation had inadvertently voted in favour of the draft decision. It had intended to abstain.

DRAFT DECISION XIII

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision XIII.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Somalia, Spain, Turkey.

Draft decision XIII was adopted by 37 votes to 9, with 6 abstentions (decision 1985/149).

35. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands), speaking in explanation of vote, said that the draft decision gave effect to a Commission on Human Rights resolution which had constituted a regrettable break with the consensus approach followed theretofore by the Commission on the question of a draft declaration on the right to development. It was his Government's firm conviction that such a declaration could be authoritative only if developing and developed countries worked together and came to an agreement on the meaning and content of the concept of that right. Human rights could not be unilaterally proclaimed; they required the measure of universality which formed the cornerstone of international law. The

Netherlands also found unacceptable any decision to convene the Working Group of Governmental Experts for three weeks in January 1986, because that would prejudice the outcome of the debate in the General Assembly.

36. Nevertheless, the Netherlands had abstained in the vote as an indication of its desire to contribute to the creation of an atmosphere which would allow the General Assembly to return to the consensus approach.

37. Ms. BOGÄRDE (Sweden), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of Finland, Iceland and Sweden, said that they had voted against the draft decision because they felt that it was premature to refer the matter to the General Assembly and that it was unacceptable to schedule a meeting to discuss measures of implementation even before the right to development had been defined and a declaration adopted. Their three delegations would, however, be willing to participate actively in future discussions of that important issue.

38. Mr. SCHWANDT (Federal Republic of Germany) explained that his delegation had voted against the draft decision because it believed that to refer the question to the General Assembly at its fortieth session was highly premature. The concept of a right to development was a relatively new one in both national and international law and practice, and extreme care must therefore be taken to arrive at a precise definition of its nature and scope. The Working Group of Governmental Experts which had undertaken the task of examining all the complexities involved had not even arrived at tentative recommendations. Under those conditions, it was doubtful that the General Assembly would be able to draft a declaration which could be adopted by consensus, a condition which was essential if the right to development was to become recognized as a universal right.

39. His delegation had further serious objections to convening the Working Group to study the implementation of that right even before an accepted definition existed. Such a procedure was not only illogical but also appeared to contradict the mandate of the Working Group.

40. Despite its objections, his delegation would continue to co-operate in the negotiations on the formulation of the right to development.

41. Mrs. KUROKOCHI (Japan) said that her delegation had voted against the draft decision because fundamental questions, such as the definition of the right to development, should have been settled before transmitting the issue to the General Assembly. The approach the draft decision took was simply not the right way of dealing with such an important issue. The second part of the decision was unacceptable since it prejudged the outcome of the work of the General Assembly at its forthcoming session.

42. An important instrument such as a declaration on the right to development could have no value unless it was adopted by consensus, and required wide consultation among the various delegations. Japan was ready to co-operate in efforts to achieve such a consensus.

43. Mr. TELLE (France) said that his delegation was opposed to giving the General Assembly the task of drafting the basic principles of the right to development. It had, however, abstained in the vote on draft decision XIII in the spirit of openness to a negotiated solution. France hoped that the draft

resolution just adopted would not be counter-productive, and that the General Assembly would arrive at a definition of the right to development acceptable to all.

44. Mr. FURSLAND (United Kingdom) said that his delegation's reasons for voting against the draft decision were, like those of many of the previous speakers, procedural rather than substantive. The United Kingdom favoured establishing the concept of a right to development and exploring its scope but felt that that should be done thoroughly, on the basis of consensus. The procedures envisaged in draft decision XIII were not the best means to that end.

45. The question had been studied in the Working Group for several years and a good deal of progress had been made. Experience in the negotiation of human rights instruments had shown that satisfactory results came only after years of negotiation in the Commission on Human Rights had led to a wide measure of agreement. In the question at issue, a wider measure of agreement should have been achieved before it was referred to the General Assembly. The United Kingdom would, none the less, take a constructive approach to the discussions there.

46. His delegation regarded the second sentence of the draft decision as illogical. Why reconvene the Working Group if the Commission was now transmitting its work to the General Assembly? Indeed, it was not even clear that there was a mandate for reconvening the Working Group, since it had been originally established to do work different from that which the draft decision would require it to complete. The General Assembly should therefore include in its discussions a re-examination of the need for and purposes of the proposed reconvening of the Working Group.

47. Ms. CLARK (New Zealand) said that her delegation had voted against draft decision XIII because it was premature and prejudicial to forward the documentation of the Working Group to the General Assembly at the current stage. New Zealand remained willing, however, to work towards a solution in the General Assembly.

DRAFT DECISION XIV

Draft decision XIV was adopted (decision 1985/150).

48. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands), referring to the statement on administrative and programme budget implications of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/47 (E/1985/22, annex III, para. 118), said his Government's understanding was that the purpose of the Special Rapporteur's two field missions to the region was primarily to conduct hearings of persons having knowledge and experience of the situation in Chile. That was particularly important in view of the regrettable absence in that statement of the provision routinely made in the past for the travel and subsistence of witnesses and for a trip to New York by the Special Rapporteur to hear witnesses and receive information.

49. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that although the United States had opposed Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/47 because of its exaggerated language, which did not accurately describe the situation in Chile, and remained so opposed, it had been able to join the consensus on

the procedural draft decision XIV because it did not oppose extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. It did, however, remain opposed to the consideration of Chile under a separate agenda item of the Commission, because it believed that the situation in Chile should be considered on the same basis as other cases debated under the Commission's agenda item on violations of human rights in any part of the world.

50. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that if draft decisions IX, X and XIV, on the question of human rights in El Salvador, Guatemala and Chile, respectively, had been put to a vote, his delegation would have abstained. Ecuador, in practice and in principle, attached the highest importance to the observance of human rights, which were important primarily because of their universality. Thus, any selective criterion which singled out a few countries for criticism of what was passed over in silence where others were concerned was counter-productive. Ecuador had long supported the idea of changing the current methods in favour of the possibility of drafting an annual United Nations report on the progress of the observance of human rights by all Member States.

51. Mr. FURSLAND (United Kingdom) welcomed the adoption of draft decisions IX, X and XIV without a vote, in a significant departure from past practice. The United Kingdom appreciated the fact that delegations with reservations regarding the text had not stood in the way of consensus.

52. That consensus on the three draft decisions would improve the credibility and authority of the special rapporteurs concerned. It also established beyond a doubt the fact that there was a consensus in the Council that the appointment of such special rapporteurs was a legitimate and necessary part of the activities of the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights. The United Kingdom trusted that the decisions just adopted would lay to rest the argument—in the Council or elsewhere—that such mechanisms represented an illegal interference in the internal affairs of States.

DRAFT DECISIONS XV TO XVII

Draft decisions XV, XVI and XVII were adopted (decisions 1985/151, 1985/152 and 1985/153).

DRAFT DECISION XVIII

53. Mr. BENNOUNA LOURIDI (Morocco) said that his delegation wished to express the strongest possible reservations concerning Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/5, entitled "Question of Western Sahara", and particularly its paragraph 3, which prejudged the outcome of a referendum that Morocco had consistently proposed should be held under United Nations auspices.

Draft decision XVIII was adopted (decision 1985/154).

DRAFT DECISION XIX

54. Mr. LE KIM CHUNG (Observer for Viet Nam) said that the draft decision distorted the actual human rights situation in Kampuchea and reflected political manoeuvres aimed at once again subjecting the people of Kampuchea to the genocidal Pol Pot régime which had so brutally denied their human

rights while it was in power and was still pursuing those who had taken refuge in camps in Thailand.

55. The draft decision failed to take due account of the different points of view of the parties concerned, and would not contribute to a negotiated solution in South-East Asia, which ought to be reached in a spirit of good-neighbourliness without outside interference. The draft decision, indeed, constituted a blatant interference in the affairs of a sovereign State, and Viet Nam rejected it as null and void. It hoped that the Council, recognizing the reality in Kampuchea, would also reject it.

56. Mr. VONGSAY (Observer for the Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his Government, while it recognized that the international community was making praiseworthy efforts to protect the enjoyment of human rights wherever they were being denied, none the less regretted that certain United Nations bodies were not objective in carrying out that noble mandate. In the case of Kampuchea, draft decision XIX represented an unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign and independent State, and his Government therefore categorically rejected it as an insult to the memory of the more than 3 million people wiped out by the genocidal Pol Pot régime. It was unfortunate that the colonialist, expansionist and ultra-rightist forces in the region were seeking by devious means to rearm the criminal Pol Pot band in order to overthrow the socialist Government of Kampuchea, which had brought about an admirable renaissance in the country since coming to power.

57. The adoption of draft decision XIX would not protect human rights but would instead violate the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights instruments, and in the process only reduce the chances for a just settlement in South-East Asia.

58. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation, together with those of the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, would vote against draft decision XIX. An undeclared war was being waged by mercenaries and Pol Pot executioners against the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Instead of condemning such barbarism, the draft decision sought to return the people of Kampuchea to the era of the genocidal Pol Pot régime. There had been profound social transformation in Kampuchea, and the power of the people was solidly based on democratic foundations. As a non-aligned country, Kampuchea was eager to maintain good relations with neighbouring States. The Soviet delegation was firmly opposed to attempts to make use of United Nations organs to buttress the Pol Pot reactionary criminals. All States which supported human rights should vote against the draft decision.

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision XIX.

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic, India, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Algeria, Congo, Finland, Lebanon, Mexico, Suriname, Uganda.

Draft decision XIX was adopted by 38 votes to 5, with 7 abstentions (decision 1985/155).

59. Mr. THIOUNN (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea) thanked the States which had sponsored draft decision XIX and all those which had voted in favour of it. For Kampuchea, a small, poor and sparsely populated country, international support and friendly relations and co-operation with all countries committed to peace and justice were a permanent and vital necessity. His country was deeply grateful to the Kingdom of Thailand, which had generously opened its borders to hundreds of thousands of Kampuchean refugees.

60. The only objective of the current struggle of the Kampuchean people and the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea was the total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea in compliance with the Declaration on Kampuchea adopted in 1981 by the International Conference on Kampuchea, and with the relevant United Nations resolutions on Kampuchea. Those resolutions provided Viet Nam with an excellent opportunity to extricate itself from its increasing difficulties in Kampuchea, in Viet Nam itself and in the international arena.

61. Viet Nam had declared that it was "ready" to "negotiate a political solution" to the Kampuchean problem but, at the same time, it had demanded the prior dissolution of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea which was currently operating in the immediate vicinity of Phnom Penh. In addition, Viet Nam had insisted that a certain part and certain members of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea should be excluded from the negotiations, and that elections would be held only under the so-called "constitution" of the Vietnamese régime in Phnom Penh. It was clear that Viet Nam hoped to obtain by diplomatic means what it could not obtain by military means.

62. During the past six years, Democratic Kampuchea had been encouraged by the favourable development of its struggle which was the result of the determination and the national unity of the Kampuchean people around the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, and of international support, which was growing larger and stronger. Democratic Kampuchea was firmly convinced that those two factors would eventually lead to the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, and would enable Kampuchea to become once again an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned nation. South-East Asia would become a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality and that would contribute to the strengthening of the role of the United Nations and of its Charter.

63. Mr. KITIKITI (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote. Owing to a technical failure, his delegation's vote had been recorded as being in favour.

64. Ms. BOGÄRDE (Sweden) said that the withdrawal of all foreign forces, the restoration of the sovereign independence of Kampuchea and the right of its people to self-determination must be the basis for any just settlement of the Kampuchean conflict. Her delegation had voted in favour of the decision, but it should be noted that Sweden did not subscribe

to every formulation in resolution 1985/12 of the Commission on Human Rights.

DRAFT DECISION XX

Draft decision XX was adopted (decision 1985/156).

65. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said his Government was pleased that Argentina had re-established democracy under the rule of law. Consequently, the United States had fully supported both the decision taken by the Commission on Human Rights to discontinue consideration of the human rights situation in Argentina and the decision adopted by the Council.

DRAFT DECISION XXI

66. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel) said that Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/41 had not reflected the real situation obtaining in Lebanon. In fact, rival factions were engaged in fratricidal massacres in Beirut, which had been put to the torch. Yet the draft decision before the Council related to southern Lebanon, the only part of the country where peace reigned.

67. Mr. AL-MERDAS (Saudi Arabia), speaking on a point of order, said that the rules of procedure did not allow observers to take the floor during the voting process.

68. The PRESIDENT said that voting on draft decision XXI had not yet begun, and that it was permissible for the observer for Israel to take the floor.

69. Mr. AL-MERDAS (Saudi Arabia), speaking on a point of order, said that it was his understanding that if a member of the Council objected, observers were not allowed to speak. The Zionist racist entity was concerned only to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign State.

70. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that the Council had decided, when adopting its rules of procedure, that any State could be invited to participate in the Council's deliberations on matters of concern to it. It had been the Council's practice for many years to allow observers to make statements.

71. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel) said that his delegation appreciated the President's impartial interpretation of the rules of procedure. The manoeuvres being perpetrated in the Council and in the Security Council were senseless. Efforts to divert international attention away from Beirut would not help the cause of peace. His delegation appealed to all members to reject draft decision XXI.

72. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that his delegation would vote against draft decision XXI, since it focused on events in one part of Lebanon in an inaccurate and inflammatory way. The decision was totally irrelevant to the tragic reality of violence and destruction in many parts of Lebanon. The United States supported the Security Council's appeal for restraint in order to alleviate the sufferings of civilians in Lebanon, but could not accept the irrelevant decision before the Council and the dual standard it implied.

73. Mr. CHACÓN (Venezuela) said that his delegation was concerned by events in Lebanon. The international community should try to restore peace there. His delegation would abstain on draft decision XXI, in accordance with its position on Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/41, which contained inappropriate language.

74. Mr. RIACHE (Algeria) said that his delegation regretted the remarks made by the observer for Israel. The situation in Lebanon was a result of Zionist aggression.

75. Mr. TELLE (France) said that his delegation would abstain in the vote.

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision XXI.

In favour: Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Zaire.

Draft decision XXI was adopted by 29 votes to 1, with 18 abstentions (decision 1985/157).

76. Mr. VILLAGRA DELGADO (Argentina) said that his delegation supported the restoration of Lebanese integrity and sovereignty. The military occupation of Lebanon must end. His delegation had abstained on Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/41, owing to its language, and had similarly abstained on the draft decision.

77. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision solely because of its position of principle concerning the inadmissibility of occupying territory by force. It should be noted, however, that Commission on Human Rights resolution 1985/41 lacked objectivity, in failing to refer to Israeli troop withdrawals from Lebanese territory. The Israeli example should be followed by others.

78. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) said that her delegation had not participated in the vote on resolution 1985/41 in the Commission on Human Rights, owing to its wording, and for the same reason had abstained on the draft decision.

79. Mr. WAKE (United States of America) said that his delegation's support for draft resolution VI and draft decisions II and XVI was based on the expectation that the conference-servicing costs of those activities would be fully absorbed. Further, United States support for draft resolutions I and V and draft decisions I, VII and XVII was based on the statement by the Budget Division that no additional resources would be requested.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

26th meeting

Friday, 31 May 1985, at 7.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.26

AGENDA ITEM 5

Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (*continued*) (E/1985/L.32, E/1985/L.33)

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1985/L.32

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (E/1985/L.32).

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1985/45).

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1985/L.33

2. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) recalled that at the Council's preceding meeting the sponsors had announced that the title of draft resolution E/1985/L.33 should read "Women and development", and that the end of operative paragraph 3 should read "... at its thirty-first session, to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session and to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986".

The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 1985/46).

3. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden), speaking as Vice-President of the Council in charge of the informal consultations on agenda item 5, said that, despite genuine efforts, agreement had not been reached on the rules of procedure for the Nairobi Conference. The informal discussions had, however, resulted in a draft decision entitled "Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having examined the reports of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace on its third and resumed third sessions;

"(a) Takes note of the reports and expresses its appreciation for the work done by the Preparatory Body;

"(b) Endorses the recommendation contained in paragraph 1 of document A/CONF.116/PC/25 and recommendations 1 and 2 contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.1;

"(c) Invites Mrs. Rosario Manalo, Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace at its third and resumed third sessions, to hold informal consultations in New York, prior to the World Conference, with a

view to facilitating, as far as possible, the deliberations in the World Conference regarding the forward-looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development, Peace, for the period 1986 to the year 2000, and to make the results of those consultations available to the Conference, as appropriate;

"(d) Authorizes its Bureau to continue making every effort, through informal consultations, to assist delegations in resolving outstanding issues relating to the provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference, and to submit the results to the resumed session of the Council on 20 June 1985."

4. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that, with reference to the recommendation contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/25 referred to paragraph (b) of the draft decision just read out by the Vice-President, he wished to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that if the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was invited to present its report to the Nairobi Conference as proposed, it would not be possible for the United Nations, under existing General Assembly authorizations, to bear the cost of travel and related expenses of the Chairperson from its regular budget, since the Committee did not have the status of a United Nations organ.

5. With regard to the resumption of the Council's first regular session called for by the draft decision, he was confident that it could be accommodated on the date mentioned without any additional cost to the regular budget.

6. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France), commenting on paragraph (c) of the draft decision regarding resumed consultations on the forward-looking strategies, said that her delegation was in favour of an exchange of views but reiterated the reservations it had already expressed concerning the attempt to organize what were, in fact, formal negotiations in an informal context. Furthermore, she understood that the principle of the equal treatment of languages would not be respected in those consultations, which would put the non-English-speaking delegations at a disadvantage. Her delegation could thus not agree with the conditions under which the consultations would be held, and would not feel bound by their results.

7. The PRESIDENT said that in the absence of any objection he would take it that the Council adopted the text of the draft decision on the understanding that the Secretariat would give the text its final form.

It was so decided (decision 1985/158).

8. Mr. MARIN-BOSCH (Mexico) said that he very much regretted the tactics that had been used during the afternoon. Pressure had been exerted to introduce last-minute changes into a text which, it had been thought, would meet with consensus agreement, since most of the members of the Council had

supported it in a spirit of accommodation and flexibility. Those tactics departed from the traditional methods of the Economic and Social Council.

AGENDA ITEM 20

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985 (*concluded*)* (E/1985/120, E/1985/L.34)

9. Mr. GUDA (Suriname), speaking as Vice-President of the Council in charge of the informal consultations on agenda item 20, said that the consultations on the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985 had been inconclusive.

10. Mr. SAAD (Observer for Egypt) said that his feeling was that delegations had been very close to agreement in the informal consultations; he therefore wished to request a brief suspension of the meeting so that an attempt could be made to reach a conclusion.

11. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to document E/1985/120, which reproduced the text of a telegram, addressed to the President of the Council by the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its thirteenth session, concerning a cross-organizational programme analysis on the environment. He proposed that the Council should delay consideration of that question to its second regular session of 1985 and examine it under item 19 of the provisional agenda.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 8.15 p.m. and resumed at 8.30 p.m.

12. Mr. GUDA (Suriname), Vice-President of the Council, said that, following further informal consultations, there appeared to be general agreement on the following draft decision, to which the Secretariat would give its final form:

“The Council decides to invite delegations, in their discussions under item 3 of the agenda for the second regular session, to give special focus to international co-operation in the interrelated areas of money, finance, debt and trade.”

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1985/159).

13. Mr. KAWASHIMA (Japan) said that, at the organizational session of the Council (2nd meeting, para. 42), his delegation had proposed that “human resources development” should be the second priority issue for the Council’s second regular session of 1985. However, given the general feeling in the Council, his delegation had not insisted on its original proposal and had joined in the consensus. Nevertheless, it felt that since the importance of human resources development was being emphasized with increasing frequency at the United Nations, in, for example, the Governing Council of UNDP and the regional commissions, it would be timely and appropriate for the Council to take up the matter as well. In considering the priority issue at its second regular session, the Council should take due account of human resources development, which was of

particular importance in relation to the longer-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa. He hoped that his delegation’s original proposal would be given thorough consideration at the organizational session for 1986 of the Council, which the Council might be able to take advantage of the results of the discussions of the priority issue held at the second regular session of 1985 and of the progress made by UNDP and the regional commissions, including ESCAP.

14. Mr. MALIK (India) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus in a spirit of accommodation. It did, however, feel that the issues of money, finance, debt and trade were of such importance that they might be the thematic item of the second regular session of 1986 of the Council.

15. Mr. HUERTA FLORES (Mexico) said that his delegation would have preferred to have seen more decisive action: the time had come to ensure that due attention was paid throughout the United Nations system to the important issues of money, finance, debt and trade. General Assembly resolution 39/218 had pointed in the right direction, and he hoped that the discussions on the issue would help countries such as his own to overcome the problems facing them.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1985

16. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985 as contained in document E/1985/L.34. The agenda took into account the request of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa that the item on the review of the immediate and long-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa and of the follow-up of the response by the international community and the United Nations system should be considered during the final week of the session. Since the Council had decided to consider that item as a priority issue and in order to ensure that there was sufficient time to consider it, he urged the two sessional committees to do all in their power to complete their work on the items allocated to them as soon as possible so that the Council could start considering their reports towards the end of the third week, which would lighten its work-load for the final week of the session.

17. Mr. LEE (Canada) asked if it would be possible to introduce the priority item at an earlier stage in the session in order to facilitate informal consultations and to ensure that not everything was left to the last moment.

18. The PRESIDENT said that due consideration would be given to ways of facilitating the work of the Council, including the method suggested by the representative of Canada.

19. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft provisional agenda for its second regular session of 1985 and the proposed organization of work as contained in document E/1985/L.34.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 8.50 p.m.

*Resumed from the 23rd meeting.

27th meeting

Thursday, 20 June 1985, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.27

AGENDA ITEM 5

Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (*concluded*) (A/CONF.116/PC/25 and Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and Add.3; E/1985/L.38)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with Council decision 1985/158, adopted at the 26th meeting, on 31 May, the Council was meeting again to hear the report on the consultations held since then.
2. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden), speaking in his capacity as Vice-President of the Council in charge of the informal consultations aimed at finding solutions acceptable to all parties concerned on outstanding issues relating to the rules of procedure of the Nairobi Conference, said that the consultations had achieved only partial success.
3. The first question concerned the geographical distribution of posts in the General Committee of the Conference (rule 6 of the rules of procedure of the Conference) (A/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.3). On that point, he was happy to inform the Council that the delegations which had participated in the consultations had reached agreement on the following compromise formula: the General Committee would be expanded so as to include an additional representative from each regional group, bringing the number of General Committee members to 34. The text proposed for rule 6 would be worded as follows:

"Rule 6

"The Conference shall elect the following officers: a President, one Vice-President for Co-ordination, 29 other Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General and a Presiding Officer for each of the Main Committees established in accordance with rule 45.¹

¹Under rule 9 of the provisional rules of procedure, these 34 officers shall constitute the General Committee of the Conference. The Council recommends that the distribution of posts in the General Committee should be as follows:

- 1 President—African States
- 1 Vice-President for co-ordination
- Rapporteur-General
- 2 Presiding Officers of the Main Committees
- 29 Vice-Presidents:
 - 8 African States
 - 7 Asian States
 - 3 Eastern European States
 - 5 Latin American States
 - 6 Western European and other States.

"It is the understanding of the Council that this recommendation concerning the composition of the General Committee of the Conference and the distribution of posts therein as set out above is to be regarded as a compromise arrived at by the regional groups to facilitate the work of the forthcoming World Conference and that it shall not constitute a precedent for other conferences or international meetings."

4. He expressed gratification at the spirit of compromise shown by delegations in the course of the consultations, particularly by the Group of Latin American States.

5. With regard to the second question, concerning rule 15 of the rules of procedure relating to decisions concerning the organization of the Conference, general agreement had also been reached on a text which the Council could recommend to the Conference for adoption. The text of that article would be that contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.3, paragraph 1 (b) being amended to read:

"(b) Adopt its rules of procedure;"

6. The third question, which concerned articles 32 to 44 of the rules of procedure, concerning the decision-making process, was that which had raised the most problems. In spite of efforts made by all parties concerned, the various proposals and counter-proposals which had been made and considered in depth had not made it possible to bring the respective positions of delegations closer.

7. The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Kumlin and the delegations which had participated in the consultations for the tireless efforts made to arrive at a compromise.

8. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) expressed gratification at the efforts made to arrive at an equitable solution that took account of the proposals formulated by some of the regional groups to ensure that the composition of the General Committee of the Conference was a true reflection of that of the United Nations, where the Latin American States represented more than 20 per cent of the membership. In view of the place occupied by those States in the United Nations and considering the active role which they played in the advancement of women, the Latin American States should, in his delegation's view, receive at least 20 per cent of the posts in the General Committee.

9. However, according to the formula proposed by Mr. Kumlin, those States would be assigned only six posts, instead of the seven for which they hoped and to which they were entitled, while other groups, representing a smaller number of States, would receive a greater number of posts.

10. In the course of the consultations, the delegations of the Latin American States had understood that their group would be assigned six vice-presidencies. He expressed the hope that that misunderstanding could be cleared up and that the Group of Latin American States would be able to obtain an additional vice-presidency.

11. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the objections of certain groups, in particular the Group of Latin American States, to the compromise formula proposed were perfectly understandable. The Group of Eastern European States was not fully satisfied either. As the Soviet Union understood it, the compromise consisted of subjecting to geographical distribution not only the

vice-presidencies but also all the posts in the General Committee: those of president, vice-president for co-ordination, rapporteur-general and the posts of presiding officers of the main committees. In fact, an additional post would be assigned to each regional group. The Soviet Union had expected that four vice-presidencies would be assigned to the Eastern European States, but it would accept that compromise provided that the other socialist countries did not object to it.

12. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) said that she fully supported the statement by the representative of Ecuador and hoped that the problem of the equitable distribution of posts in the General Committee could be resolved, so that the Nairobi Conference would have an operational framework defined and approved at the current session.

13. Mr. HEPBURN (Observer for the Bahamas), speaking as Chairman of the Group of Latin American States, said that the compromise subscribed to by the members of the group, not without reservations, in the course of the consultations, concerned the number of posts to be assigned in the General Committee of the Conference. They had agreed to receive only six seats, instead of the seven to which they were entitled, but, as they understood it, those were six vice-presidencies. The problem thus lay in the breakdown of the posts in the General Committee, which had not been clearly defined.

14. Mr. RUIZ CABAÑAS (Mexico) said that he also had understood that six vice-presidencies would be assigned to the Group of Latin American States without prejudice to the group's right to one of the five most important posts in the General Committee. Like the representatives of Ecuador and Costa Rica, he hoped that the misunderstanding that seemed to have marred the compromise could be cleared up in the course of the debate.

15. An artificial distinction also seemed to have been drawn between the vice-presidencies, on the one hand, and the five most important posts in the General Committee, on the other. There had nevertheless been precedents in that regard. At the International Conference on Population held at Mexico City the preceding year, the Group of Latin American States had, in a spirit of compromise, waived the additional vice-presidency that it could have claimed since a member of the group, in its capacity as host country of the Conference, had acted as President of the General Committee.

16. The PRESIDENT said that no compromise formula could fully satisfy all delegations and that the Bureau of the Council understood the legitimate positions of each of the regional groups. However, as the Council was about to bring its session to a close, he called upon delegations to accept the proposal of the Vice-President in order to facilitate the task of the participants in the Conference.

17. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that, while he appreciated the efforts made to reach a solution, he considered it unacceptable that the compromise solutions proposed should be at the expense of the Group of Latin American States.

18. Mr. FAREED (Observer for Pakistan) said that he would like to propose a formula for the composition of the General Committee of the Conference which would, perhaps, be more likely to meet the requirements of the Group of Latin American States and thus produce consensus. There should be a

president, from the African States, and 33 vice-presidents. Eight of the vice-presidents should be from African States, eight from Asian States, four from Eastern European States, six from Latin American States and seven from Western European and other States. The offices of vice-president for co-ordination, rapporteur-general and the presiding officers of the two Main Committees should go to representatives of each of the last four groups.

19. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he felt that the proposal made by the Observer for Pakistan could not be accepted since it was too far removed from the compromise that had been reached. He suggested that the list of the 29 vice-presidents should be increased by one vice-presidency for each regional group.

20. The PRESIDENT suggested that, given the misunderstanding that seemed to have been caused by the compromise formula concerning rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference, consideration of the question should be suspended in order to allow the Chairmen of the regional groups to hold consultations. In the mean time, he suggested that consideration of the other questions raised under agenda item 5 should be continued. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1985/L.38

21. Mr. GRIGG (United States of America) said that draft resolution E/1985/L.38, sponsored by his delegation, had been prompted by a concern to ensure the success of the work of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women.

22. The United States, which was greatly troubled by the undue politicization of the deliberations of United Nations bodies, would have preferred the decisions of the Conference on substantive matters to be adopted by consensus in order fully to reflect the unity and solidarity of the women of the world. The rigid positions of certain delegations on questions of particular importance to their Governments had led the United States to seek a compromise. The recommendation contained in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would permit the Conference to follow other procedures in the adoption of decisions on controversial questions and to adopt the main document by consensus, which would testify to the unanimous desire of the women of the world to overcome the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of the Decade.

23. His delegation urged the members of the Council to support the draft resolution.

24. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he was afraid that the recommendation contained in paragraph 2 of the United States draft resolution would, in fact, hinder the adoption of the text on the forward-looking strategies of implementation. The question of adopting decisions by consensus had been discussed at length, and the positions of delegations in that regard were well known. In order for the Conference fully to reflect the unity and solidarity of the women of the world, it was imperative that it should adopt its own rules of procedure. His delegation would vote against the draft resolution under consideration.

25. Miss EMARA (Observer for Egypt) said that the Group of 77, of which Egypt was Chairman, had made its position clear to the United States delegation with regard to the draft resolution just introduced. Its first objection related to the fact that it was for every conference to adopt its own rules of procedure. Secondly, as long as the negotiations on the text on the forward-looking strategies of implementation were continuing, the recommendation contained in paragraph 2 could not be accepted. Since about a month remained before the Nairobi Conference, the Group of 77 did not see why the United States delegation should involve the Council in adopting amendments to the draft rules of procedure just before the closure of its session. The Group of 77, which had shown flexibility and a spirit of co-operation at all stages of the preparations for the Conference, could not, any more than could the other groups, agree to any compromise on a number of basic principles. It hoped, along with the other members of the international community, that the work of the Conference would be crowned with success and would demonstrate the unity and solidarity of the women of the world. Its greatest hope was precisely that decisions on all substantive questions would be adopted by consensus. It would strive indefatigably to bring that about and would accept voting only as a last resort.

26. The imposition of the consensus rule by means of a draft resolution which had to be put to a vote defied all logic. The Council should therefore not take a decision on the text in question.

27. Mr. GRIGG (United States of America) said he was surprised that the Group of 77, which always reached its decisions by consensus, should oppose a recommendation that had the express aim of having the Conference adopt document A/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.2 by consensus.

28. His delegation had hoped that its draft resolution might be adopted without a vote. Since the Soviet delegation had announced that it would vote against the text, it must therefore be put to a vote. The Council also had before it the proposal of the Observer for Egypt that no decision should be taken on the text. He would be grateful if the President could indicate what procedure should be followed.

29. The PRESIDENT said he believed that any proposal calling for a decision must be introduced by a delegation which was a member of the Council.

30. Mr. RUIZ CABAÑAS (Mexico) reiterated the views of the Group of 77 on the adoption of the rules of procedure for the Conference. As the Chairman of the Group had pointed out, it was not for the Council to take a decision on the matter. In consideration of the fact that negotiations were continuing on the document on the future-oriented strategies of implementation (A/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.2), his delegation proposed a motion to the effect that the Council should not take a decision on draft resolution E/1985/L.38. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 67 of the rules of procedure of the Council, that motion would have priority over the proposal of the United States.

31. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he would not insist that draft resolution E/1985/L.38 be put to a vote. If, however, it was, he would vote against it.

32. Mr. GRIGG (United States of America) said that adoption of the Mexican motion would be

tantamount to a vote against his delegation's draft resolution. That could only be viewed as a refusal to seek consensus during the Conference.

33. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the Mexican motion.

At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a vote was taken by roll-call on the Mexican motion.

Guinea, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: Iceland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Mexican motion that the Council should not take a decision on draft resolution E/1985/L.38 was adopted by 36 votes to 2, with 12 abstentions.

34. Mr. LEE (Canada), Mrs. CARTA (France), Mr. WERNDL (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands), Mr. GÖKTÜRK (Turkey), Mr. FURSLAND (United Kingdom), Mr. MANSFIELD (New Zealand), Mrs. KURUKOCHI (Japan), Mr. BENJELLOUN (Morocco) and Mr. ARTACHO (Spain), speaking in explanation of vote, said that, while they supported the recommendation contained in paragraph 2 of document E/1985/L.38, their delegations had, in a spirit of compromise, abstained in the vote. They felt that negotiations on the draft rules of procedure should continue and that the Conference should consider the question with the participation of countries not members of the Council and should itself decide on its rules of procedure.

35. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden) said that his delegation supported the principle that consensus should be sought, a process which could only be viable if it was itself based on consensus. It had been unable to support the Mexican motion since it had felt that the Council should avoid the situation of deciding not to take a decision on a proposal.

36. Mr. CHIKETA (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation's support for the Mexican motion did not mean that it was opposed to the decisions of the Conference being adopted by consensus. Its aim was to facilitate the adoption of the future-oriented strategies of implementation. If, however, consensus could not be reached, then decisions should be taken by majority vote, in accordance with democratic principles.

The meeting was suspended at 5 p.m. and resumed at 5.35 p.m.

37. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden) announced that a compromise had been reached on rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, with the help of the Group of African States. The Observer for Liberia would inform the Council of the proposal.

38. Mr. KOFA (Observer for Liberia) said that, in order to break the deadlock, the African States had

decided voluntarily to relinquish one vice-presidential post to the Latin American States. The Group of African States wished to stress that that compromise should not constitute a precedent for future international conferences or meetings.

39. Ms. KAMAL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, as amended. Its wording was identical with that proposed by the Vice-President, except for the footnote. The number of vice-presidential posts assigned to the African States was therefore seven, and to the Latin American States six.

40. Mr. HEPBURN (Observer for the Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American States, thanked the Group of African States for its generous gesture which was an exemplary demonstration of co-operation.

41. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the recommendation concerning rule 6 of the draft rules of procedure for the Conference, as amended.

It was so decided.

42. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the following draft decision:

“The Economic and Social Council decides to transmit to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, its recommendations concerning rules 6 and 15 of the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, as set out below:

“Rule 6

“The Conference shall elect the following officers: a President, one Vice-President for Co-ordination, 29 other Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General, and a Presiding Officer for each of the Main Committees established in accordance with rule 45.¹

“Rule 15

“1. The Conference shall, to the extent possible at its first meeting:

“(a) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

“(b) Adopt its rules of procedure;

“(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

“(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

“2. Recommendations resulting from pre-conference consultations shall, in principle, be acted on without further discussion.

¹Under rule 9 of the provisional rules of procedure, these 34 officers shall constitute the General Committee of the Conference. The Council recommends that the distribution of posts in the General Committee should be as follows:

1 President—African States	} One from each of the 4 other regional groups
1 Vice-President for co-ordination	
1 Rapporteur-General	
2 Presiding Officers of the Main Committees	}
29 Vice-Presidents:	
—7 African States	
—7 Asian States	
—3 Eastern European States	
—6 Latin American States	
—6 Western European and other States.	

“It is the understanding of the Council that this recommendation concerning the composition of the General Committee of the Conference and the distribution of posts therein as set out above is to be regarded as a compromise arrived at by the regional groups to facilitate the work of the forthcoming World Conference and that it shall not constitute a precedent for other conferences or international meetings.”

43. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the draft decision, on the understanding that the Secretariat would give the text its final form.

It was so decided (decision 1985/164).

Closure of the session

44. The PRESIDENT declared closed the first regular session of 1985 of the Economic and Social Council.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RESUMED SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1985

Summary record of the 53rd plenary meeting, held at Headquarters,
New York, on 12 December 1985

53rd meeting

Thursday, 12 December 1985, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Tomohiko KOBAYASHI (Japan)

E/1985/SR.53

AGENDA ITEM 12

Industrial development co-operation (E/1985/161, E/1985/L.60)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES (E/1985/161)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the meeting had been convened in pursuance of paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1985/74 of 26 July 1985, in which the Council had requested its President, in consultation with the other members of the Bureau, to convene, if necessary, a resumed session of the Council to consider the outcome of the work of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies with a view to taking appropriate action.

2. Members would recall that the General Assembly, in its resolution 34/96, had requested the Council to arrange for the negotiation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) of an agreement to constitute it as a specialized agency in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter of the United Nations, to enter into such agreement subject to the approval of the Assembly and to arrange for the provisional application of that agreement as appropriate. The Council had before it a draft resolution submitted by the President (E/1985/L.60) and the report of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies (E/1985/161).

3. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies, introduced the report of the Committee (E/1985/161) and said that the Committee had held six meetings in November 1985 at which it had considered the text of the draft relationship agreement between the United Nations and UNIDO, which had been forwarded by the Committee on the Negotiation of a Relationship Agreement with the United Nations established by the Industrial

Development Board of UNIDO. During the discussion, the Council Committee had proposed amendments to 12 of the articles of the draft agreement prepared by the Industrial Development Board Committee, which had subsequently agreed to all of those amendments with the exception of an amendment proposed to article 6. That amendment had subsequently been reformulated in informal consultations and resubmitted to the Industrial Development Board Committee, which had been able to accept that reformulation. The text of the draft agreement as negotiated by the two Committees was contained in the annex to document E/1985/161.

4. During the consideration of article 11 by the Council Committee, some members had raised questions regarding the omission from that article of a reference to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Following further discussion between the two Committees, the Industrial Development Board Committee had indicated that it preferred to maintain the text of article 11 as it appeared in the annex to document E/1985/161. It was his understanding, however, that the question continued to give rise to some concern among delegations.

5. He also understood that the Industrial Development Board had decided, on 10 December 1985, to approve the provisional application by UNIDO of the relationship agreement subject to the corresponding approval of the Economic and Social Council. The Board had also recommended to the General Conference of UNIDO that it should approve the agreement subject to the corresponding approval of the General Assembly. In its resolution 34/96, the General Assembly had requested the Council to enter into the agreement subject to the approval of the General Assembly and to arrange for the provisional application of that agreement as appropriate.

6. He trusted that the Council would approve the agreement and decide that it should be applied provisionally pending its entry into force upon its

approval by the General Assembly and by the General Conference of UNIDO.

7. Mr. GAFAI (Nigeria) said that his delegation was among those which had expressed concern regarding article 11. Unfortunately, the International Development Board Committee had been unable to come to an agreement on meeting that concern.

8. An analysis by the Secretary-General had indicated that the International Development Board Committee's draft was vague and very difficult to interpret, and had indicated a preference for the agreement reached with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) approved by the General Assembly as its resolution 3346 (XXIX), which had already been in effect for a considerable period and was not vague.

9. If it was the wish of the Council that the agreement should include the draft of article 11 proposed by the Industrial Development Board Committee, his delegation would have no difficulty in accepting it but would request the Legal Counsel to clarify whether it was possible to interpret it. If such an assurance could be given, his delegation's concern would disappear.

10. Mr. HADID (Algeria) said he shared the view expressed by the representative of Nigeria.

11. Mr. SZASZ (Director, General Legal Division) said that he had been asked to give an indication as to whether there would be any difficulty in interpreting article 11 of the proposed relationship agreement with UNIDO. In reply, he would like to say that he had no difficulty in giving an assurance that the term "other internationally recognized principles and obligations regarding colonial countries and peoples", contained in article 11, must evidently include, among other instruments, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 1514 (XV). That Declaration was accordingly among the principles referred to in article 11.

12. The PRESIDENT expressed the view that the explanation provided by the Director of the General Legal Division would seem to satisfy the concerns of the representatives of Nigeria and Algeria.

13. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1985/L.60, to which would be annexed the text of the draft agreement negotiated by the two Committees (E/1985/161, annex).

It was so decided (resolution 1985/81).

14. Mr. STEBELSKI (Poland) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution E/1985/L.60 as it supported the transformation of UNIDO into an independent agency on the grounds that such a step would further promote the strengthening of universal international co-operation in the field of industrialization. During the debate in the Council Committee, his delegation had proposed an amendment to article 10 which would have reflected more properly the universal character of UNIDO activities; but its proposal had not met with the agreement of other delegations. He could not agree to the limitation of the scope of UNIDO's activities. While recognizing the priority given to the problem of promoting and facilitating the transfer of technology to and among developing countries, his delegation was firmly of the view that that should not represent the only dimension of UNIDO activities in the field of technology transfer.

15. Mr. HADID (Algeria) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution in the light of the interpretation provided by the representative of the Legal Counsel, which had taken into account the concern of his delegation on the issue of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. His delegation would nevertheless have preferred the Declaration to have been mentioned explicitly in article 11.

16. Mr. GAFAI (Nigeria) said that his delegation had joined the consensus in view of the interpretation provided by the representative of the Legal Counsel.

17. Mr. AMADOU BA (Senegal) said that his delegation had also joined the consensus. He had listened with interest to the interpretation of article 11 provided by the representative of the Legal Counsel; like others, however, his delegation would have preferred that reference to the Declaration had been made explicitly in that article. The widest possible meaning should be given to the interpretation.

18. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of item 12.

Closure of the resumed session

19. The PRESIDENT declared the resumed second regular session of 1985 of the Economic and Social Council closed.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

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