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*Chairman* : Mrs. Ana FIGUEROA (Chile).

**Assistance to flood victims in northern Italy  
(A/C.3/L.156)**

1. Mr. Rodriguez FABREGAT (Uruguay) stated that his delegation had prepared a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.156) concerning assistance which should be given by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to the victims of the recent floods in northern Italy. He suggested that the draft resolution should be discussed as soon as possible.
2. Mr. MENDE BRUN (Argentina) and Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) supported the suggestion.
3. The CHAIRMAN stated that the draft resolution would be considered at the next meeting, when the text would be available in the working languages.

**Report of the Economic and Social Council  
(chapter IV) (A/1884, A/C.3/L.154, A/C.3/L.155) (*continued*)**

[Item 11]\*

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

4. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) believed that the Committee should do all in its power to encourage co-ordination between the United Nations social and economic services, the technical assistance programmes and the work of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. It was particularly important that such activities should not be scattered over too wide a field. Closer co-ordination, as a preliminary step towards future expansion, would make it possible to effect considerable economies in staff and to administer long-range programmes more effectively.
5. The fellowship programme was of particular interest to Ecuador, because it brought to the younger generation some acquaintance with the advances made in technical methods abroad. The Ecuadorean dele-

gation would support the Economic and Social Council's recommendation (Council resolution 399 (XIII)) that the same allocation should be accorded for fellowships in 1952 as had been accepted by the General Assembly in 1951, with the additional recommendation that technical assistance in connexion with social activities should, if necessary, be included in the expanded technical assistance programme.

6. The work of the regional commissions with regard to social activities, particularly the gathering and collation of data, was equally praiseworthy.

7. The General Assembly resolution 417 (V) to the effect that greater emphasis should be placed upon the long-range programmes for children, particularly in the under-developed countries, had had the greatest response in Ecuador. The emergency assistance received by Ecuador after the 1949 earthquake had resulted in better feeding for children in many parts of the country. Long-range activities had begun in 1950 with a BCG campaign, in which UNICEF had co-operated with the Scandinavian Joint Enterprise, and nearly a million children had been examined to date. The anti-tuberculosis campaign was continuing, with the co-operation of the World Health Organization; it had covered one-third of Ecuador, and doctors and nurses from other Latin American countries had been enabled to gain experience from it. The laboratory at Guayaquil hoped to produce enough vaccine for future regional campaigns. At the same time, supplementary programmes for child nutrition were under way and a pasteurization plant had been planned for Quito for the free or cheap distribution of milk. Those were examples of what a government could achieve practically and by co-operating with UNICEF. It was an example, too, of the way in which countries could be encouraged by United Nations initiative to use their own resources with international assistance.

8. The activities of UNICEF in Latin America were a real international undertaking, for which the larger contributors deserved more credit and which encouraged the countries receiving such aid through the United Nations.

\* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

9. Yet UNICEF's resources were low and out of all proportion to the needs. In the Latin American countries receiving UNICEF aid there were 55 million children, for whom only \$US 1,700,000 could be allocated. Unfortunately, contributions were tending to diminish. The contributions in 1951 would probably amount to far less than the \$US 23,000,000 UNICEF had received in the previous year.

10. The activities described in chapter IV of the Council's report gave a clear picture of how much had been achieved; it showed, too, how necessary it was that the United Nations social activities and technical assistance programmes, besides UNICEF, should be continued. Such practical activities in the social field, carried on amid all the current political clamour and disturbance, served greatly to promote lasting peace by improving living standards.

11. Mr. COSTA REGO (Brazil) wished to draw special attention to the activities of UNICEF, which served as a proof of the United Nations desire to alleviate the suffering of children, especially in underdeveloped countries. That was shown by the increased allocations in the 1951-52 estimates. Although there was still much to be done in that sphere, it was encouraging to note UNICEF's new trend towards long-term programmes.

12. The Executive Board of UNICEF had come to realize that the needs of children could best be met by intensifying local production and thus ensuring a better diet for children. Although local production programmes were more difficult to carry out than the simple distribution of food and medical supplies, such measures were more lasting in effect and could be integrated in the economic and social development plans of the beneficiary countries.

13. Unfortunately, the resources of UNICEF were diminishing daily and the countries which had made the largest contributions were no longer contributing to the same extent. The Executive Board had recently approved allocations which had practically exhausted its last resources.

14. It was therefore essential to make every effort to increase UNICEF's resources; the Brazilian delegation, with other delegations, had submitted a joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.155) to that effect.

15. Brazil had always been punctual in making its direct and indirect contributions to UNICEF. A considerable part of the \$US 34 million allotted to UNRRA which had been reallocated to UNICEF, had come from Brazil's contribution to UNRRA. Brazil had been the fifth largest contributor to that cause. In 1950, Brazil's contribution had amounted to \$US 86,000, which had been used to buy rice for the starving peoples of Asia.

16. His delegation was glad to be able to state, as it had already done before the Executive Board of UNICEF, that the Brazilian Government had included in its budget for the forthcoming year a further contribution of \$US 155,000 to the Fund.

17. Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) thought that, although much remained to be done and although, as Mr. Santa Cruz, the President of the Economic and Social Council, had stated in his introduction to the Council's report, 80 per cent of the world's population was living in terrible conditions, certain results had been achieved, especially through the advisory social welfare services and UNICEF.

18. He agreed with representatives who had insisted not only on the development, but especially upon the concentration, of the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in social matters, and would support the draft resolution to that effect submitted by the representative of France (A/C.3/L.154).

19. He also welcomed the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.155) which called upon governments to contribute as much as possible to UNICEF.

20. Some representatives had expressed anxiety about the number of social studies undertaken or proposed. Although he agreed that practical action was the ultimate purpose, studies were frequently indispensable before such action could be taken.

21. In that connexion, he wished to stress the necessity of studies in the application of the science of demography, especially with regard to the demographic aspects of migration, mortality and fertility rates and the interdependence of demographic trends and economic and social factors. It was obvious that solutions of serious demographic problems might be based on such studies, although the problems varied greatly from one country to another and any action taken would have to be regional and specialized.

22. In conclusion, he stressed the prevailing danger of a lack of balance between the economic and social aspects of the question of retired and old people from the demographic point of view. Although the question of the employment of the aged was highly important, it was essential to bear in mind the responsibility of mankind towards old people who were unable to work and who, moreover, should not be obliged to work.

23. Mr. RAADI (Iran) also wished to pay a tribute to the social work done by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Economic and Social Council was the first to acknowledge the terrifying disproportion between what had been achieved and what remained to be done, but it was encouraging to see that the Council continued courageously and patiently to lay the foundations for a lasting peace based on social well-being and justice.

24. A fundamental purpose of the Economic and Social Council was to draw the attention of governments to the danger of a lack of balance throughout the world, and especially to the great disproportion between the funds allocated for rearmament and those allocated for the improvement of social conditions. Improvement of social conditions would greatly facilitate agreement on economic and social matters. Moreover, a great measure of the universality which was so desirable in the United Nations might be attained, if only, for the time being, on matters dealt with

by the specialized agencies. Such a state of affairs could only be reached with the full support of all Member States.

25. He welcomed the details, given in chapter IV of the Council's report, concerning the activities relating to social services, UNICEF, demography and control of narcotic drugs, but pointed out that the report would have been more complete if a more detailed account had been made of the work of the specialized agencies. Although the independence of the specialized agencies should be respected, their past work and their programmes should also be considered as a whole.

26. His delegation would support the French resolution, since concerted action in social matters should be planned in order to avoid any undue preponderance of economic questions.

27. He stressed the importance of obtaining statistical data on the needs of the under-developed countries. Such countries should not be handicapped by their lack of means for providing adequate information; the United Nations should provide them with technical assistance in that connexion also.

28. It was stated in paragraph 624 of the report of the Economic and Social Council that 184 scholarships had been granted to various countries. In that connexion, it might be useful to give scholarships to teams from the same country, in order that they might be able to help one another to use the knowledge they had acquired among their own people.

29. The report dwelt unduly on the economic aspects of the subject of narcotic drugs, instead of on the necessity of eliminating the social causes of drug consumption.

30. Mrs. MARSHALL (Canada) thought it was encouraging, at a time when world attention was centred on political and security problems, to survey the social and humanitarian activities of the United Nations.

31. There was a sincere and widespread desire to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people, and to meet the urgent needs of the many segments of the world's population. The work of the United Nations, of its commissions and of the specialized agencies was however necessarily limited by certain factors: it depended not only on financial resources—though that was important—but also on the availability of specialists and adequate administrative machinery, and on the continued support of the governments and peoples. Concentration of effort was essential: rather than undertaking more than could effectively be accomplished, it was essential to direct attention to a smaller number of well-defined and urgent projects. Quality was more important than quantity.

32. Canada, as a member of the Social Commission, of UNICEF, of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and of the Economic and Social Council, had given serious attention to most of the projects mentioned in chapter IV of the report, and its views were well known. As an example of social work in Canada, Mrs. Marshall quoted the Canadian programme for the

social rehabilitation of the physically handicapped, evolved at a conference held a few months previously between the interested departments of the Canadian Government and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

33. The Canadian delegation approved the principle whereby UNICEF contributions were matched by national contributions, a principle which fostered a sense of national responsibility, besides preventing UNICEF aid from degenerating into charity.

34. As regards projects involving capital investment, the Canadian delegation, while approving the supplying of milk-drying or pasteurization equipment, doubted whether UNICEF funds should be used for other forms of capital investment. It might be argued that UNICEF was a particular aspect of technical assistance, and at some stage it might appear more efficient and practical to deal with the needs of children under the technical assistance budget rather than by a special fund.

35. Mr. ACRTAS (Greece) felt that housing should be given priority among the social matters dealt with by the Economic and Social Council; if the housing problem were cleared up, all the social scourges with which the United Nations was concerned would be abolished at their source. Good housing as the key to the solution of the refugee, immigration and population movement problems, and even that of increased productivity, since the solution of the last-mentioned problem depended largely upon meeting the workers' housing needs.

36. The housing problem particularly affected the war-devastated and the under-developed countries. Greece was especially concerned, as there must be added to the 1,500,000 refugees from Asia Minor, who had immigrated in 1922 and had never been adequately housed, the thousands more who had been made homeless when 2,500 villages had been destroyed by the German invaders during the Second World War or in the course of the communist rebellion. It was estimated that 364,000 houses were needed in Greece, whereas it was planned to build only 34,000 houses a year under the reconstruction programme for 1950 to 1953.

37. The technical studies and surveys made by the United Nations would undoubtedly prove very useful in the future; but they should be used only as the starting point for a programme of practical action. The United Nations had, of course, neither the means nor the competence to undertake direct action with regard to housing, but it might well draw up and propose such a programme to governments.

38. The programme might cover such aspects of housing as the methods and means of construction, modern building techniques, pre-fabrication and sanitation, and, on the economic side, the cost of construction, building materials and co-operation in housing construction. Finance was the crux of the problem. In some countries the possibilities of financing by domestic resources were scanty; hence, some plan for international financing should be considered, perhaps

by applying to the leading international markets for capital for long-term investment offering adequate guarantees and a reasonable return. The establishment of an international housing bank might be considered.

39. The Third Committee might propose that the Secretary-General should be asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council a preliminary draft to be prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the international organizations already studying the subject. The Council might then report to the General Assembly at its next session. If those ideas met with the Committee's approval in principle, the Greek delegation would submit a draft resolution at the appropriate time.

40. Mr. D'SOUZA (India) agreed that, in view of the great importance of the Economic and Social Council's work, a comprehensive general debate to prepare the ground for the adoption of the final resolutions and recommendations would be a useful method.

41. India was keenly interested in the work of the Economic and Social Council, and almost every question the Council had treated had been the subject of public activity or official legislation in his country. The United Nations, in its social welfare work, could probably benefit from the experience of India, which had already grappled with similar problems on a national scale; and India, in its turn, needed the help of the United Nations.

42. The people of his country had achieved political independence and given themselves a fully democratic constitution, and were devoting their efforts to the creation of a social order in harmony with their constitution.

43. The Government of India had also taken a number of economic measures designed to improve and stabilize living conditions. They included great river-valley schemes to increase the area of land under cultivation, help solve India's food problem, and provide power for industry and transport; and pure and applied scientific research designed to improve economic and social conditions. The fulfilment of such schemes required a period of peace and tranquility—a fact which might explain to people who did not always show a complete understanding of India the passionate desire of its people for peace.

44. The Government of India was fully aware that its schemes for social improvement could not be carried out single-handed, but needed the co-operation of free non-governmental agencies; and there were in India large numbers of such agencies, working with the assistance of the Government on social schemes of all kinds, particularly schemes affecting women and chil-

dren and the physically handicapped or defective. The number of such non-governmental agencies in India and the extent of their activities would be realized when the sixth International Conference of Social Work met in Madras in December 1952. Mr. D'Souza was pleased to note the frequent references to their valuable work in the Council's report.

45. He paid a special tribute to another section of the Council work, the work of UNICEF, which had been of great benefit to India. His country endorsed the appeal of other delegations for continued support for that great humanitarian work.

46. Chapter IV, section III of the report, dealing with the population problem, was of vital interest to India. It was obvious that certain aspects of the population problem were controversial, and the remarks made on that subject at the previous meeting by the representatives of Sweden and Czechoslovakia had proved conclusively that divergences of views arose as often from economic and political causes as from religious and ethical considerations. In matters such as those, decisions regarding both inquiries and remedies should rest with the governments of the countries, which were best qualified to judge what was acceptable to public opinion.

47. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that the Economic and Social Council should be encouraged to continue the successful activities depicted in chapter IV of its report. They concerned particular aspects of social work, but their scope was in fact universal. That success could in great measure be attributed to the personal devotion of the President of the Council.

48. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, in particular, had performed praiseworthy work, thanks to the unwearied activities of its Executive Director. The Dominican Government, one of the first to support the Fund, welcomed its operation in Latin America, but hoped that its work could be extended in that region. It was to be hoped, too, that all countries would in the near future contribute to UNICEF as generously as possible.

49. Like previous speakers, she recognized the value of the Council's commissions, particularly the Social Commission. They should all continue to function and to meet annually. Greater attention should, however, be paid to the equitable geographical distribution of posts on the commissions in order to maintain a correct regional balance and to enhance the governments' interest in the social activities of the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.