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**THIRD COMMITTEE, 930th  
MEETING**

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**CONTENTS**

	Page
<i>Agenda item 64:</i>	
<i>Draft Declaration of the Rights of the Child (concluded)</i>	
<i>Draft resolution submitted by Afghanistan (concluded)</i> . . . . .	109
<i>Organization of work</i> . . . . .	109
<i>Agenda item 12:</i>	
<i>Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII)</i>	
<i>General debate</i> . . . . .	109

**Chairman:** Mrs. Georgette CISELET (Belgium).

**AGENDA ITEM 64**

**Draft Declaration of the Rights of the Child (A/C.3/L.763/Rev.1) (concluded)**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY AFGHANISTAN (A/C.3/L.763/REV.1) (concluded)**

1. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) introduced his revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.763/Rev.1) concerning the dissemination of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, and announced a few stylistic changes in the French and Spanish texts. He expressed the hope that the new draft would meet all the objections that had been raised (929th meeting) to the original Afghan draft resolution (A/C.3/L.763).

2. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) supported the revised text, which was short and to the point. He welcomed the fact that it included a reference to the specialized agencies and that the idea of explaining the Declaration had been omitted.

3. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Ecuador) also supported the revised text.

*The revised Afghan draft resolution (A/C.3/L.763/Rev.1) was adopted unanimously.*

**Organization of work**

4. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had decided to take up chapters VI and VII of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/4143) immediately after the draft Declaration of the Rights of the Child. She invited delegations to express their views on the order in which the other items should be taken up.

5. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) proposed that there should be a general debate on chapters VI and VII of the Council's report, delegations being free to comment on whatever sections particularly interested them. The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees could be taken up whenever the

High Commissioner was able to attend. The new item "International encouragement of scientific research into the control of cancerous diseases" could be considered immediately after the Council's report.

6. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should examine the remaining items on its agenda in the following order: (1) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (agenda item 12); (2) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (agenda item 33), if the High Commissioner could be present when the Committee reached that point in its debate; (3) International encouragement of scientific research into the control of cancerous diseases (agenda item 71); (4) Draft International Covenants on Human Rights (agenda item 34); and (5) Draft Convention on Freedom of Information (agenda item 35).

*It was so decided.*

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/4143)**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

7. Mr. SHEN (China) said that the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs had made steady progress during the period covered by the report (A/4143) in the fields of social affairs, population, human rights and narcotics. The United Nations Children's Fund had allocated approximately \$28 million for its activities in 1959, the highest figure since 1950.

8. The International Survey of Programmes of Social Development (E/CN.5/332)<sup>1/</sup> showed that the results obtained during the period under review (1953-1958) were not very encouraging. Although satisfactory progress had been made with regard to public health, nutrition and education, much remained to be done, particularly in matters of housing, social service and social defence. The social development programme had slowed down considerably in comparison with the years immediately following the Second World War. Among the public health programmes, malaria eradication had been one of the most striking successes. More than fifty countries and territories had completed or were carrying out malaria eradication programmes and fifteen more were planning to initiate malaria projects. The anti-tuberculosis programme was also worthy of attention. In the Province of Taiwan, for instance, 85 per cent of all persons under twenty-five years of age had been given tuberculin tests and 45 per cent BCG vaccinations, the highest ratio in the region.

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.IV.2.

9. Considerable progress had been made in the different countries in the promotion of primary education and literacy campaigns. It was encouraging to note that the principle of compulsory education had gained general acceptance. An efficient school system was of the highest importance, not only for purposes of education but also as a medium for carrying out social programmes. The reason that child welfare programmes had been so successful in Taiwan was that 95 per cent of all children of school age now attended school. The United Nations Children's Fund, WHO, FAO and UNESCO were to be congratulated on their unified and untiring efforts to assist the less developed countries: their work had yielded concrete results.

10. When considering future United Nations action on social development, the needs of the Asian and African countries should be borne in mind. The social implications of economic development programmes should be given due consideration, so that the people's fundamental freedoms and the family unit should be preserved. Programmes should be evaluated not only in figures but in terms of their impact on the lives of the people. He welcomed the fact that the Council, and most Governments, had accepted the principle that the ultimate objective of all social and economic development programmes was the well-being of the individual.

11. Population problems continued to be serious. During the post-war years, the gap between the under-developed and the industrialized countries had widened, largely owing to the increase of population in the former. Because of the lack of reliable data and of trained personnel, such countries were unaware of population trends and of their effects on social and economic development. The Population Commission was to be commended for its activities and, in particular, its practical approach to such problems.

12. The work of UNICEF was too well known to need comment. His delegation was concerned about the decline, in 1959, of UNICEF resources which had dropped by about \$500,000 from the \$23 million figure for 1958, the first decrease since UNICEF had been established. It was true that 55 million people had benefited from UNICEF-assisted projects, but there were 550 million under-privileged children in the countries receiving UNICEF aid. The situation was aggravated by the rapid population growth. His delegation was in favour of the programme policy of UNICEF in general and, in particular, welcomed the decision to keep expenditure on malaria programmes below \$10 million per year. In view of the wide range of UNICEF activities and the limited resources likely to be available to it, his delegation hoped that that ceiling would be strictly observed. During the thirteen years of its existence, UNICEF had been a shining example of the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and had demonstrated what could be achieved through international co-operation and voluntary contributions. He was confident that it would continue to receive the growing support of all Governments, particularly those of the highly industrialized countries.

13. The activities connected with the international control of narcotic drugs gave rise to mixed feelings. His delegation noted with satisfaction the steady progress being made in the implementation of treaties and the fact that Afghanistan had decided to prohibit the production of opium. The Council's recommenda-

tion regarding technical assistance in the field of narcotics control (resolution 730 I (XXVIII)) and the convening of a plenipotentiary conference in 1961 to take final action on the proposed single convention on narcotic drugs were also welcome developments. On the other hand, it was a matter of concern to his delegation that, in spite of national and international efforts, the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs was still heavy, particularly in the Far, Near and Middle East, with the result that drug addiction continued to be a serious problem in many parts of the world. He welcomed the fact that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had decided to devote more time to that problem at its next session and hoped that Governments and international organizations would co-operate with the Commission to the full.

14. Where human rights were concerned, the Council and its Commission on Human Rights had given considerable attention to the question of freedom of information. That question had two aspects: one was freedom of information as a human right and the other, the development of information media and the training of information personnel in the under-developed countries. During the past five years, the Council had paid attention mainly to the second aspect; he therefore welcomed the Council's decision (resolution 732 (XXVIII)) to circulate a draft Declaration on Freedom of Information to Governments for comment. Although his delegation was ready to participate in the drafting of a convention at the current session, it felt that a declaration based on the principles embodied in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would serve a useful purpose by proclaiming a common standard of achievement. Although it would not be legally binding, it would win wide support from both Governments and public opinion. He hoped the Committee would take the same view.

15. Mr. SHANAHAN (New Zealand) remarked that in its early years the Economic and Social Council had been mainly concerned with laying the foundations for future operations, but recently it had been placing increasing emphasis on the provision of practical assistance to Member States. New Zealand, after a decade, was for a second time a member of the Council and he thought it would be useful if he were to review the outstanding features in the development of its work as seen from that viewpoint, before commenting on some of the current questions dealt with in the Council's report.

16. From the beginning the General Assembly had endeavoured to build up international co-operation in the economic and social fields, and the Council shared responsibility with it for realizing the aims of social progress and better living standards laid down in the Charter of the United Nations. It had used its wide discretionary powers to establish subsidiary bodies and to co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies wisely and well. The Council was thus not only helping to improve the conditions of human existence but also contributing to the attainment of peace in the world by progressively shifting the emphasis of international co-operation to the achievement of positive ends. He regarded that development as one of the most remarkable and encouraging features of the post-war era.

17. The three main factors which had contributed to the revolutionary change that had occurred in world thinking were the practical idealism of the Charter and

of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the pioneering work of the specialized agencies, and the establishment of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, which had become a prototype for other special programmes. Simultaneously, a corps of trained administrators in economic and social affairs had been built up within the Secretariat and the Council had created new links between the United Nations and its Member States through the establishment of functional and regional commissions. Lastly, there were special bodies, such as UNICEF, through which the United Nations gave tangible expression to its humanitarian ideals.

18. Turning to the current world social situation, he said that the second International Survey of Programmes of Social Development provided a sensitive and objective treatment of social programmes and policies throughout the world. It drew attention to the disquieting fact that the pace of social development was slowing down. Whatever the causes, it was clearly necessary to counteract that trend and to achieve a balance between economic and social progress. He was therefore glad to note that the 1961 report on the world social situation would include a study of balanced economic and social development.

19. The United Nations long-range programme of concerted international action in the field of low-cost housing and related community facilities was a perfect example of a social programme which would help to bring about a better balance between economic and social development. There had been little progress in housing, particularly in the under-developed countries. The programme, which was designed to ensure that housing should receive a high priority in the allocation of available resources and to mobilize resources which were currently unused, was therefore of the utmost importance. As regards community development, the work which had already been undertaken had contributed to an understanding of the problems involved, one of which, as in the case of housing, was how to tap unused resources. It would, however, be necessary to make fuller use of the knowledge which had been gained in dealing with pressing social problems and in carrying out national development plans.

20. Through that programme and many others, the United Nations was tackling the many obstacles to social development, namely, the lack of adequate housing, the shortage of trained social workers, the complex issues associated with urbanization, the explosive growth of world population and the resulting pressure on world food supplies. That valuable practical work had been made more effective by the provision of technical assistance and advisory services and by the development of close working relationships between the Bureau of Social Affairs and the regional economic commissions. The programme of advisory social welfare services had indeed proved so successful that the funds available were no longer sufficient to meet even the most pressing requests and he hoped that additional funds would be available in 1960.

21. Again, where narcotics control was concerned, increasing emphasis was being placed on direct and practical assistance to Governments and he strongly supported the Council's recommendation that a continuing programme of technical assistance should be established in that sphere (resolution 730 I (XXVIII)).

22. The programme of advisory services in the field of human rights was already proving its worth. The

opportunities for an exchange of views which the regional seminars afforded were extremely valuable.

23. After paying a tribute to the remarkable work done by UNICEF, he observed that it had concentrated its activities on health and nutrition and he believed that any curtailment of its operations in its traditional areas would be regrettable. He therefore felt that the Executive Board's cautious approach to the question of undertaking new activities was fully justified. However, he welcomed its decision to initiate a limited number of trial projects concerned with primary education and social services for children,<sup>2/</sup> since they would supplement United Nations work in the field of community development.

24. The closer relationships which had been established between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and among the specialized agencies themselves, and the vast number of programmes which were now in operation, had made it necessary to study the total needs of an area in order to avoid overlapping. He was happy to note that considerable progress had been made in that direction.

25. He was glad that the Council had set up a Committee on Programme Appraisals; its report would serve as a basis for a review by the Council of the sum total of economic and social endeavour. That review should enable the Council to ensure that new projects were planned on a co-operative basis from the beginning and that the programmes carried out jointly by different bodies formed a coherent whole. He regarded such a development as of the utmost importance, since everything pointed to the need for wider perspectives in the economic and social work of the United Nations. That judgement applied not only to methods of programming but also to the Council's own deliberations. It would be very instructive, for instance, if the Council were to deal in a single discussion with the complex of problems of population growth, land reform, industrialization and urbanization.

26. It was very much in the interests of the United Nations that all Members should from time to time have the opportunity to serve on the Council. He therefore hoped that an increase in the Council's membership would prove feasible. If it did not, he thought that non-members ought to make a greater use of their right to send observers to sessions of the Council.

27. Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) said he would confine his remarks to the world social situation. The second International Survey of Programmes of Social Development afforded a deeper insight into the nature, magnitude and interrelation of social problems than had existed before. It also showed the multifarious character and appalling immensity of the problems which had to be solved. On the other hand, he was convinced that the value of future surveys would be considerably increased if they contained more analysis and evaluation.

28. It was essential in tackling the problems of social development, the solution of which was frequently held up by unfavourable economic conditions, administrative deficiencies and the like, to bear in mind that all those matters were interrelated. Developments in one

<sup>2/</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 2A, paras. 94-104.

field inevitably had repercussions in others. Careful thought should be given to that aspect before specialists were called in to assist in the solution of problems in a particular field.

29. The geographical approach to the solution of social problems, which involved consideration of the total needs of an area, had already proved its value; particularly in community development and rural development programmes. That approach however called not only for co-ordinated action in economic and social matters, but also for the integration of the activities of the experts. In fact, a new scientific problem was involved, which the Secretariat and the specialized agencies, with their limited resources, would not be able to tackle alone. He accordingly repeated the suggestion made by the Netherlands delegation to the Economic and Social Council,<sup>3/</sup> that a small advisory body of top-ranking social scientists might be asked to assist the United Nations and the specialized agencies in discovering the interrelation between the various programmes and in framing development policies for geographical units.

30. There had been a remarkable evolution in the concept of community development. Originally, the purpose of community development programmes had been to stimulate local initiative and self-help. It had soon been found, however, that little headway would be made if reliance was placed exclusively on local self-help; Government support had proved to be essential, and thus community development had been brought within the sphere of national policy. Simultaneously, it had become clear that national development programmes could be implemented more easily with the aid of local effort, and that was the aspect of community development which the programmes of Governments and specialized agencies alike now concentrated upon. While the new approach had many advantages, it would be most unfortunate to lose sight of the original concept of community development, which had an important role to play at a time when local cohesion was being reduced by a variety of factors.

31. Concerted action at the national and international levels would be necessary to solve the housing problem and to check the deterioration in the housing situation which was occurring in many countries. Priority should be given to programmes to increase the supply of low-cost housing and the efforts of Governments should be supplemented by encouragement to housing co-operatives and other forms of self-help. In addition, considerably more research into building methods was necessary; in that connexion, the Congress which had recently been held at Rotterdam under the auspices of the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation had proved most useful and should stimulate further research.

32. Mr. KARAPANDZA (Yugoslavia) observed that United Nations activities with regard to the solution of social problems had been both more intensive and more successful during the period under review than in the past. Despite the results achieved however, it was clear that social problems could neither be studied nor solved in isolation from general economic development, even as economic advances would be meaningless unless they were accompanied by social progress and a rise in levels of living.

33. Two-thirds of the world's population lived in poverty and wretchedness, while the remaining third had sufficient natural and financial resources at its disposal to ensure to everyone a life worthy of man. The gap between the industrially advanced and the less developed countries was growing instead of decreasing. Any correction of that situation was rendered difficult by the rapid growth of population, especially in the poorer countries. Recent United Nations demographic projections had indicated that, if current trends continued, the world's population, which had been about 2,500 million in 1950, might reach 4,000 million by 1975 and over 6,000 million by the end of the century. In view of the rapid development of urbanization all over the world, a large part of the additional population would be concentrated in cities. On the other hand, the urbanization process was not being paralleled in the under-developed countries by an increase in agricultural and industrial productivity. The results of that imbalance were bad housing, poor communal facilities, choked-up cities, filth, squalor and disease.

34. Another major problem confronting the under-developed countries was the high percentage of children in relation to the total population and the high rate of infant and child mortality. The mortality of children between the ages of one and four was from seven to forty times larger in the under-developed than in the developed countries. Of the approximately 1,000 million children that had been born since the establishment of UNICEF in 1946, 150 to 200 million had died before their first birthday and from 600 to 650 million were exposed to hunger and disease. According to the estimates of demographers, over 1,500 million children would be born in the next twelve years. In the light of those facts, the work of UNICEF and WHO was becoming particularly important.

35. At the same time, the report of the last session of the Executive Board of UNICEF (E/3304)<sup>4/</sup> indicated that, for the first time since 1954, there would be no increase in the resources of UNICEF. In view of the unanimous recognition of the efficient organization of UNICEF, the United Nations was under an obligation not to permit a decline in its funds. On the contrary, Governments should make an effort to raise their contributions to UNICEF to \$50 million per annum in the near future. That amount, which represented only a modest goal, would enable UNICEF to fulfil its basic obligations to children throughout the world.

36. Considering the importance of health programmes for social and economic development, the Yugoslav delegation was not satisfied with the response of the Twelfth World Health Assembly (see A/4143, para. 444) to General Assembly resolution 1283 (XIII) on the organization of the International Health and Medical Research Year and hoped that the General Assembly would reverse its decision.

37. In carrying out its economic policy, Yugoslavia had borne in mind the interdependence between economic and social development. Immediately after the Second World War a number of radical social measures had been instituted. They had included: compulsory social insurance for all employed citizens, free education from the lowest to the highest schools and free medical care for many categories of persons. The rapid economic and social advances in Yugoslavia

<sup>3/</sup> Ibid., Twenty-eighth Session, 1078th meeting, para. 30.

<sup>4/</sup> Ibid., Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 2.

had been due to such decisive factors as the decentralization of all forms of social and economic activity and the development of self-governing bodies with broad areas of competence. In recent years, the average annual rate of growth in national income had been 12 per cent and in industrial production over 13 per cent. In consequence, there had been a proportionate increase in consumption on the part of the population.

38. Despite all those achievements, however, a number of problems, the most important of which was housing, remained to be solved. Such matters as housing construction, education and health belonged to the category of social overhead projects, for which it was not easy to find funds. Inasmuch as the existing method of granting economic and technical assistance to under-developed countries had proved its vitality and usefulness, one solution might lie in the setting aside of international funds for social programmes. Yugoslavia therefore endorsed the decision of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 731 G (XXVIII)) concerning an increase in funds for the programme of advisory social welfare services and would support that item of the budget when it was considered in the Fifth Committee. The resources from technical assistance were clearly inadequate for the implementation of social programmes and projects. Moreover, although the Special Fund was authorized to provide assistance for the social as well as the economic development of less developed countries, Governments almost invariably decided in favour of economic and industrial projects. Accordingly, the financing of large-scale social programmes through the Special Fund would be possible only when additional resources became available. Another logical conclusion was that the United Nations should establish the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED) as soon as possible.

39. The Yugoslav delegation believed that the time had come to progress from study to practical action, and a basis for such action could be found in the decisions and recommendations contained in Council resolution 731 (XXVIII). Such action as had been taken by the General Assembly in connexion with international social problems had been inadequate. The number of meetings which the Third Committee devoted to the Council's report was insufficient. The Committee must evolve a procedure for dealing more expeditiously with the draft International Covenants on Human Rights, in order to be able to give more time to the study of acute, and not less important, problems.

40. Mrs. MANTZOULINOS (Greece) noted with appreciation the thorough survey of social studies and activities which was contained in chapters VI and VII of the Council's report. She wished, in particular, to praise the studies on discrimination prepared by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (see A/4143, paras. 545-550) and those on specific human rights made by the Commission on Human Rights (see A/4143, para. 535), and also the relevant Council resolution (728 (XXVIII)).

41. The resolutions adopted by the Council on the recommendation of the Social Commission (731 (XXVIII)) were also of major importance. The social defence programme appeared to be well conceived and the suggestions and recommendations of the Population Commission, as well as the relevant action of the Council, would receive the support of the Greek delegation. She hoped that the next World

Health Assembly would deal with the organization of an International Health and Medical Research Year.

42. She congratulated the Executive Director and staff of UNICEF on the effective and constructive manner in which they had carried out humanitarian projects, of which Greece had been one of the beneficiaries. She believed that the extension of the UNICEF programme, carried out in conjunction with UNESCO and the Social Commission, designed to provide social services for children and to improve the training of primary school teachers, was promising and would produce gratifying results. Other UNICEF projects by which Greece had benefited were the programmes to control malaria and tuberculosis, as a result of which Greek children had been given an opportunity for sounder development. The UNICEF assistance to Greece had also included maternal and child welfare projects and programmes of sanitation, milk pasteurization and training of personnel, especially those working with physically handicapped children. Close co-operation between the Greek Government and UNICEF and WHO had made it possible to achieve gratifying results in the implementation of national plans for child rehabilitation.

43. Her delegation was gratified at the UNICEF allocation which would enable the Greek Government to carry out the first phase of a national plan, known as the "Thessaly Plan", to bring government-supervised assistance to rural areas. That phase provided for the establishment of demonstration, research and instruction centres within a pilot area of about 14,000 square kilometres embracing 680 villages and a population of about 629,000 over 40 per cent of which consisted of mothers and of children under fourteen years of age, and also for the reorganization of existing hospitals, health centres, and urban and rural clinics, and for the creation of mobile medical units.

44. She wished to express the deep gratification of the Greek Government for the work of the Commission on the Status of Women during the thirteen years of its existence, and especially for its projects concerning equal remuneration, the political rights of women and the nationality of married women. The Commission had promoted the political rights of women not as an end in itself but as a means of bringing about a general improvement of the status of women all over the world. Her delegation also wished to express appreciation to the Secretary-General for his memorandum on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to political rights of women (A/4159), which was of major importance in keeping Member States abreast of developments in that field. The regional seminars organized under the advisory social welfare services programme were concerned mainly with training women to be good citizens and to encourage qualified women to enter public office. However, the active and constructive participation of women in public life was dependent on adequate education, professional efficiency, a dignified family status, respect for them as human beings and on their being granted full capacity in property administration. The Commission's consideration of such matters as access of women to the teaching profession, age of retirement, right to pension and age of marriage were evidence of its continuing efforts to bring about universal respect for human rights without distinction as to sex.

45. Lastly, she felt that reference should be made to the outstanding role of the specialized agencies in giving effect to United Nations social and humanitarian projects and that full support should be given to the non-governmental organizations in consultative status,

in view of their considerable contribution to the work of the Council and of its organs.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.