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

AGENDA ITEM 12

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

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. DUMITRU (Romania) stressed the comprehensive nature of the efforts made by United Nations organs in the social field and said that chapters VI and VII of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/4143) bore witness to a substantial amount of work. The Romanian delegation awaited with interest the next report on the world social situation, which would deal with social development in relation to economic development.

2. It was apparent from the International Survey of Programmes of Social Development (E/CN.5/332)<sup>1/</sup> that, between 1953 and 1957, the rate of execution of social development programmes had slowed down, particularly in the under-developed countries. The introduction to the annual report of the Secretary-General (A/4132/Add.1) expressed the same view. The lack of housing, the artificial inflation of rents, the stagnation of certain rural projects, the rise in food prices and the effects of the recession on the under-developed countries were all indications of that trend. The situation was all the more acute because, during the same period, needs had considerably increased and people were becoming increasingly desirous of a decent level of living. It was paradoxical that a large part of mankind was still living in poverty at a time when scientific and technological discoveries were being used for productive purposes and should thus enable enormous progress to be made.

3. The stagnation that had been observed could not be attributed to the normal evolution of ideas. The fact was that social development had not been the main concern of most Governments, and it was deplorable that the armaments race was swallowing up considerable sums which could have been used to raise levels of living. The proposal for general and complete disarmament currently before the General Assembly (A/4219) was designed to remedy that situation.

4. It was impossible to over-emphasize the close interdependence between social and economic development. The primary producing countries could not raise and stabilize their level of living as long as they were so sensitive to world market fluctuations and as long as they did not enjoy an economic independence which enabled them to exploit their resources equitably. In Romania, social progress had been guaranteed by the establishment of a prosperous national economy. In 1959, on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the liberation, important social measures had been introduced. Increased productivity and production had made it possible for wages and retirement pensions to be raised and the prices of many manufactured goods and food products to be cut. In 1958, the State had devoted more than 25 per cent of its budget to social and cultural expenditure. The rate of housing production was accelerating, and the expansion of medical and health services was in full swing. The exchange of information between countries should be intensified, and it was regrettable that in certain documents the experience of the socialist countries had been dealt with in summary fashion.

5. The social problems of the modern world should be posed in scientific and general terms; they could be solved only by measures taken at the national level under the responsibility of the State. The conclusions set out in the International Survey of Programmes of Social Development showed how necessary it was for the State to take large-scale action.

6. As was stated in the report of the UNICEF Executive Board on its session of March 1959, the success of UNICEF influence could not be measured solely by the number of direct child beneficiaries but by its effect on government planning.<sup>2/</sup> However extensive and efficacious the assistance rendered by UNICEF, it could never replace action by the State. He warmly supported the change in UNICEF policy.

7. Mrs. DIEMER (Netherlands) expressed particular interest in chapter VII, section VIII, of the Council's report (A/4143), for her country was again a member of the Commission on the Status of Women. She noted with satisfaction that the number of countries in which women enjoyed full political rights had continued to increase. The stage had been reached when the Commission's main objective should be to encourage women to make effective use of those rights and to participate more fully in public life. Regional seminars were an excellent means of achieving that result, especially in the under-developed regions. She approved of the Commission's decision to invite non-governmental organizations to further the exchange of experience among women (see A/4143, para. 562).

8. The exercise of rights in private law should be encouraged in the same way, and she supported the

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

<sup>2/</sup>See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 2A, para 30.

suggestion that seminars on such subjects as the status of women in family law should be organized (A/4143, para. 577).

9. While the Commission on the Status of Women should devote its attention primarily to the education of women, it should also seek to promote understanding among men concerning that aspect of social progress.

10. The Netherlands delegation supported Council resolution 722 F (XXVIII) regarding age of retirement and right to pension; the question should indeed be studied in greater detail with due regard for the other aspects of the status of women. The differences of opinion which had been revealed in the Commission on the Status of Women derived from the fact that reduction of the optional retirement age or of pension rights for women was regarded by some as a handicap for women and by others as discrimination against male workers. The equality of the sexes did not necessarily imply equality of treatment in every case; it might even be asked whether complete equality of treatment might not constitute, on the contrary, discrimination against one of the sexes. From the biological point of view, the life expectancy of women was higher than that of men, and at retirement age women no longer had to look after young children. On the other hand, they had to perform household duties outside their working day.

11. Women now participated in economic life and had adapted themselves to the workaday world as it had been fashioned by men. They now had to find their own level, and measures which took into account the difference between the nature and status of men and women could not be considered discriminatory.

12. In the Netherlands, the system of pensions was the same for men and women. The reason why the question of retirement age did not give rise to any difficulties there was probably that the number of married women who worked was few and that conditions of life were satisfactory. The situation might be different elsewhere. Improvement of human relations at work and the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work would help to increase the interest that women took in their job, a development which, in certain cases, might help to solve the problem.

13. Mr. HARFAUCHE (Lebanon) described the social situation in his country in the light of the principal recommendations set forth in chapters VI and VII of the Council's report (A/4143). As a result of the disequilibrium between its expanding population and its limited means of subsistence, Lebanon was traditionally a country of emigration. However, in addition to the fact that emigration was becoming daily more difficult, Lebanon had admitted a considerable number of Palestine refugees, who now amounted to one-tenth of its population. Such a situation obviously required a political solution. It remained none the less true that, in the preparation of economic and social programmes, the Lebanese Government was compelled to take into account the effects of that exceptional surplus population.

14. The financing of housing construction still came entirely within the private sector. Although that sector was providing increasingly greater facilities, housing remained costly for the average Lebanese. For its part, the Government was considering a project for the provision of low-cost housing for civil servants.

15. Health conditions were satisfactory, and a bill had been introduced to ensure free medical treatment for the population as a whole. His delegation endorsed the Council's recommendation that obstacles to international trade in pharmaceutical products should be removed (Council resolution 731 I (XXVIII)).

16. Lebanon was a country of small holdings, and that was an important factor in its social equilibrium. Although there was therefore no need for carrying out land reform, a bill had been introduced to enable the State to buy uncultivated land.

17. The Lebanese Government hoped soon to institute free primary education. It was co-operating with various international bodies for the suppression of the illegal traffic in narcotic drugs and the traffic in persons. In the field of human rights it scrupulously respected freedom of information and generously granted the right of asylum. Furthermore, women enjoyed full political rights.

18. As two-thirds of mankind lived in very precarious conditions, it was proper that the efforts of the United Nations should be concentrated on the improvement of levels of living in the under-developed countries of Asia and Africa. The Lebanese delegation had expressed the hope that the membership of the Economic and Social Council would be increased by six, with a geographical redistribution designed to ensure a broader representation of those countries. If that could be done, the practical implementation of the United Nations programmes would certainly be expedited.

19. Mrs. KUKHARENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted that while some results had been achieved by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the social and humanitarian fields, social progress was far from having attained the same stage in the world as a whole. In many countries there was a considerable divergence between what had been done and what could be done, but that fact had not been sufficiently stressed in the report of the Economic and Social Council. The United Nations and the specialized agencies had an obligation to help the countries where that problem arose to find practical means of solving it. In that connexion, she stressed the usefulness of the surveys of programmes of social development in enabling each country to profit from the experience of others.

20. Economic development and social development could not be considered one apart from the other. In order to improve the living conditions of its people, a country must take economic measures, and in particular those by which the national income could be increased and be distributed more fairly and the problem of employment could be solved. She pointed out that in the Ukrainian SSR the per caput national income, which had been fifteen times higher in 1958 than before the Revolution, was expected to increase still further during the next seven years. Since social development was, moreover, one of the positive factors in economic development, only a balanced economic and social development would enable the under-developed countries to escape from a backward economy and rapidly satisfy the needs of their people.

21. The Council had very rightly concerned itself with the extremely serious problem of housing. Population growth and rural migration were not the only reasons why the housing situation had been aggravated in recent years. If all countries had taken effective steps to

reduce international tension and thus free the considerable sums devoted to armaments, the current situation would be infinitely better. Implementation of the plan for general and complete disarmament which had been submitted to the General Assembly would enable vast social programmes to be carried out. The solution of the housing problem also depended on the importance ascribed to it in each country and especially on the role which the Government was prepared to play. In the Ukrainian SSR, where more than half the towns and villages had been destroyed during the Second World War, there was still a housing shortage, but under vast programmes drawn up by the Government, over 64.4 million square metres of housing had already been built. Between 1959 and 1965 a further 58 million square metres of housing were to be constructed. For their part, the people had built some 158,000 individual houses. Much of the effort made by the Ukrainian Government was being directed towards the rural areas in order to eliminate the divergence between them and the towns. The experience acquired by the Ukrainian SSR and other socialist States could be extremely useful to countries which had difficulties in planning and carrying out their social development programmes.

22. The Ukrainian delegation, as sponsor of the text adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 1283 (XIII) concerning the organization of an International Health and Medical Research Year, had been pleased to note the measures taken to give effect to that resolution. The Ukrainian Government was giving very careful study to its plan for taking part in that important event.

23. It was difficult to understand why the Council's report should have made no mention of co-operation in the fields of science and culture when that question was the subject of three General Assembly resolutions. Because of its conviction that such co-operation was indispensable for the relaxation of international tension, the Ukrainian Government was doing everything in its power to promote it. In 1958, the Ukrainian SSR had received 1,112 representatives from sixty-three countries; in addition, numerous representatives from the political, scientific and artistic fields in the Ukraine had gone abroad. She expressed the hope that the Council would in future attach greater importance to international co-operation and that its long-term plans would be more specific and practical.

24. Begum Aziz AHMED (Pakistan) recognized that economic development was only justified when its purpose was to raise the level of living of a people or, in other words, when it was complementary to social development. Since, however, the under-developed countries lacked the resources for raising their level of living, they would have to give priority to economic development as a means of providing such resources. Most of their difficulties were of a financial nature, and there was no doubt that a halt in the armaments race would release money which could be used to help to raise the levels of living of the least favoured peoples.

25. One of the most serious problems of the current era was housing, and her delegation was pleased to note that the Economic and Social Council had approved a long-term programme of concerted international action in that field (resolution 731 B (XXVIII)). During the period 1953 to 1957, efforts had been made in

Pakistan to increase the number of dwellings and improve their quality. The objectives, although modest, had not been fully attained, but the tempo of progress had not slackened. The fact that some dwellings had been built as a result of Government loans showed that assistance from the public authorities could do a great deal to lessen the housing shortage. The building of dwellings for refugees had made spectacular progress. In six months, homes had been found for more than 100,000 refugees in 15,000 housing units built near Karachi. The housing shortage was partly the result of movements of population from rural areas to towns, where the level of living was generally better. That was why it might be desirable for the under-developed countries to concentrate their efforts on raising the level of living of the rural population.

26. She stressed the value of the programme of advisory social welfare services, and said that her delegation would in the Fifth Committee support the Secretary-General's proposals for an increased allocation to meet the expanded needs of that programme (A/C.5/777, paras. 35-38).

27. A country like Pakistan could not raise its level of living unless it succeeded in increasing agricultural production and checking population pressures. That was one of the problems which the Government had taken into account in its second five-year plan (1960-1965) in which provision was made, among other things, for family planning. Her delegation had been very interested to note the views of the Population Commission with regard to demographic studies and programmes (A/4143, para. 449). Co-operation between Governments in that sphere should be particularly fruitful.

28. The aid which UNICEF had given to Pakistan had always been on a generous scale, and at the current time UNICEF was again helping to carry out various schemes that met pressing needs. In spite of its efforts and of the effectiveness of its work, UNICEF could only help a fraction of the mothers and children in need of assistance. There was no better way in which Governments could express their gratitude to UNICEF than by continuing to assist it with their financial contributions.

29. She recalled the differences of opinion which had arisen in the Commission on the Status of Women with respect to the age of retirement and pointed out that in Pakistan women working in Government offices retired at the same age as men.

30. Her delegation was pleased to know that three seminars were planned for 1960, to take place in Asia, Africa and Europe (see A/4143, para. 574). Such meetings were particularly fruitful, especially at the regional level, although international seminars of world scope might well prove valuable and worthwhile if the topic chosen was of sufficient interest to countries belonging to several regions.

31. Mr. REVOL (France) expressed the great satisfaction of his Government at the work which had been done by UNICEF and its gratitude for what UNICEF had done in the countries of the French Community in Africa and in Madagascar. While it had been established to meet an emergency situation, that exemplary international agency had proved able to adapt itself to later developments and was devoting itself increasingly to long-term activities on behalf of children.

32. Of the 550 million children living in UNICEF-assisted countries, only 55 million benefited directly from such assistance. It did not necessarily follow that the Fund should increase its programmes tenfold, for all children were not in equal need of assistance, but it should continue and extend its activities, which were unique in character. Far from attempting to take the place of Governments and the specialized agencies, UNICEF made a financial and technical contribution to programmes proposed by Governments. Thus the programmes did not merely remain in the planning stage, and the effectiveness of the allocations made by UNICEF was multiplied by the number of organizations which took part in the programmes and added their own resources.

33. Referring briefly to the arguments which had arisen in connexion with the question of possible UNICEF assistance to primary education, he congratulated the Executive Board on the wisdom it had shown in deciding to grant assistance in that field while at the same time limiting it to the training of teachers specializing in traditional UNICEF activities.

34. The recommendation made to States by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 731 C (XXVIII), concerning the international survey of programmes of social development, might be helpful in accelerating the pace of social progress. Joint action could not be really effective until all obstacles to social development had been discovered and understood.

35. In its resolution 731 D (XXVIII), concerning social services, the Council had intended to emphasize that studies such as the publication entitled Training for Social Work: Third International Survey<sup>3/</sup> should be genuinely international in character. France, like many European and Latin American countries, had long been concerned with social services. It had adopted an original approach and its experience should be made known to countries still in the process of development, which were trying to formulate their own policies in the matter.

36. The French delegation attached special importance to the future of the United Nations social defence programme, as social defence was one of the keystones of social action. The United Nations was particularly well placed for effective action. But it was important that such work should be undertaken by a team of experts who were alive to the traditions handed down by the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission and receptive to the new problems raised by the advances in the developing countries. Paragraphs 3 to 6 of resolution 731 F (XXVIII), which had the whole-hearted support of the French delegation, were designed to cover those two points.

37. Economic development and social development were more than interdependent; they were in fact two aspects of the same process of social evolution and development, as was illustrated, for instance, by demographic problems. At first sight, the increasingly rapid growth of the world population seemed particularly alarming, because it chiefly affected the countries with the smallest resources. But experience had shown that pessimistic conclusions need not be drawn from population projections which were merely working hypotheses. In point of fact, some over-populated countries with small resources had a fairly satisfactory and

improving level of living, while other countries which were under-populated were in a precarious position despite the efforts of their Governments and their sometimes considerable natural resources. It might be deduced that the situation of the under-developed countries was affected by a qualitative or social factor, which was perhaps of primary importance. Community development, the purpose of which was to facilitate the adaptation of a society to a new way of life, might accordingly prove the best weapon in the battle against under-development, which was one of the most crucial problems of the current time. In order to achieve its purpose, it must be both an end in itself and a means; its primary aim was to encourage local initiative and personal effort with a view to the organization of activities and institutions, and its secondary aim, to help Governments to secure the support of the population for the execution of national development schemes.

38. Mr. QUIAMBAO (Philippines) said that like the majority of under-developed Asian countries which were trying to achieve economic and social progress for the purpose of safeguarding their political independence, the Philippines attached great importance to the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs. Consideration of the Council's report (A/4143) provided States Members of the United Nations with an opportunity for a valuable discussion of the most suitable means of improving the world economic and social situation.

39. Despite definite advances, the gap between the levels of living in the highly industrialized countries and the under-developed countries was steadily widening and future prospects were not particularly encouraging. The Economic and Social Council ought therefore to redouble its efforts in that field.

40. The International Survey of Programmes of Social Development (E/CN.5/332) had the merit of pinpointing social problems and promoting international co-operation by stressing the value of exchanges of information among the various countries of the world.

41. His delegation, which had been one of the sponsors of the draft resolution concerning balanced and integrated economic and social progress adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 1161 (XII), was gratified at the prominence given to that question in the Council's report. If the gap between levels of living was to be eliminated, the greatest attention must be paid to the relation between economic and social problems.

42. The report of the Population Commission<sup>4/</sup> called attention to an important problem, namely, the accelerating growth of population. In order to meet the difficulties which would inevitably result, appropriate measures would have to be taken, particularly in the under-developed countries. His delegation, aware of the growing magnitude and urgency of population problems in the developing countries of both Asia and Africa, unreservedly supported the Population Commission's recommendations, which were outlined in paragraph 451 of the Council's report (A/4143).

43. An effective contribution to the execution of national plans and the establishment of permanent services to improve economic and social conditions was being made by UNICEF. It would be desirable if the

<sup>3/</sup>United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.IV.1.

<sup>4/</sup>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3.

execution of the various UNICEF-assisted projects could be accelerated. His Government wished to express its gratitude to the Fund, from which it had received valuable assistance, in particular, in carrying out a large-scale maternal and child welfare programme and two nutrition programmes.

44. The right of everyone to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile was of particular interest to the Philippine delegation, as the head of that delegation was Chairman of the Committee studying the question. With regard to the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, he recalled that at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly his delegation had expressed the wish that seminars on subjects of interest to countries in different parts of the world should be organized on an interregional or an international level. It was a fact that the same question was sometimes examined by several regional seminars set up in different parts of the world. He would not submit a formal proposal on the matter because he was aware that many difficulties were involved in the planning of seminars.

45. The periodic reports on human rights were most valuable in spite of their deficiencies and defects. They were all the more useful as the preparation of the International Covenants on Human Rights might make only slow progress because of the negative attitude of some of the major Powers.

46. Mrs. SALJOOKI (Afghanistan), speaking for all the men and women of her country, whose children had benefited from the efforts made by UNICEF, paid a tribute to all those who, in one way or another, had made it possible for that agency to play an increasingly useful role each year. It was very encouraging to note that UNICEF was continuing to broaden its activities and that Governments, non-governmental organizations and private individuals were showing ever more willingness to participate in its work. Unfortunately, there was still much to be done and her delegation wished to draw attention to the importance of the activities of UNICEF. She had expressed her views in detail at the twenty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council <sup>5/</sup> and could only repeat that she would support any judicious and effective proposal which might be put before a United Nations organ in connexion with the work of UNICEF. A list should be drawn up of the most urgent needs in the various regions of the world, strictly on the basis of humanitarian considerations. The possibility should also be examined of setting up organizations in the various countries to encourage the population to take an interest in the position of the child. Her delegation stressed the importance of information; provision should be made for the dissemination of information in the language of the countries needing it and all existing media should be used for that purpose.

47. A number of representatives had again expressed their satisfaction that opium cultivation had been prohibited in Afghanistan. At its thirteenth session, the General Assembly had recognized, in its resolution 1259 (XIII), that country's need for technical assistance for the full execution of the policy in question. The United Nations technical assistance services and the Afghan Government were currently considering ways of carrying out that resolution. Furthermore,

she drew attention to resolution 626 G (XXII), adopted by the Council on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its eleventh session, <sup>6/</sup> recording Afghanistan's request to be included among the countries referred to in article 6 of the proposed single convention.

48. Mr. VIDAL GABAS (Spain), after pointing to the interdependence of social and economic phenomena, referred to social activities which were humanitarian in nature. He congratulated the members of the UNICEF Executive Board on the work done for children. It was to be hoped, for the sake of the millions of children who were still in need, that UNICEF, which had already made such praiseworthy efforts, would have increased resources at its disposal and would enjoy the co-operation of FAO, WHO and UNESCO. Although his delegation was not directly concerned with the anti-malaria campaign or the control of narcotic drugs, it would support all activities in those two fields.

49. With regard to social activities which raised legal and political problems, his delegation was particularly interested in the study and control of migration. In many countries, including Spain, a part of the population was compelled to emigrate. Such large groups of people moving from one country to another presented extremely serious problems and the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) was playing a very useful role in that respect by facilitating the transportation and settlement of migrants. But there were tasks which went beyond the jurisdiction of the ICEM and of Governments and were dependent on international action, such as the preparation of statistics, the dissemination of information on habitable areas and on the economic possibilities they offered, the definition of the international status of the migrant, and assistance to refugees. In that connexion, he pointed out that an Immigration Congress was currently being held in Spain. While the position of migrants should be improved, countries of immigration could not be denied the right to close their frontiers and to set up appropriate controls.

50. With regard to population movements within a country, efforts had to be made to check migration to the towns, which resulted in unsanitary conditions, over-population and delinquency in urban areas, and in a shortage of labour, a decline in agricultural production and a rise in the price of foodstuffs in rural areas. The housing problem was linked to that of migration to the towns. His Government attached great importance to that problem and had set up a whole series of organizations and agencies to improve housing conditions for the population as a whole. No effort would be spared in order to do away with the sordid slums which endangered not only the health but also the morality of those living in them. It would redound to the credit of the Committee, which had just drawn up a declaration affecting hundreds of millions of human beings, to issue an appeal to all Governments, to all the United Nations organs and to the specialized agencies to seek a solution to that important and serious problem.

51. Mr. SUTANTO (Indonesia) drew attention to the striking discrepancy between the extraordinary scientific achievements of modern times and the inability of a number of States to solve their economic and

<sup>5/</sup>Ibid., 1064th and 1065th meetings.

<sup>6/</sup>Ibid., Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 8, annex II, resolution II A.

social problems. In spite of the efforts made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the developing countries had not succeeded in making satisfactory social and economic progress. It was to be hoped that the relaxation of international tension would make it possible to reduce military expenditure and consequently to devote additional resources to constructive purposes. In any case, the goal would not be achieved unless the developing countries intensified their efforts and the international community gave proof of a greater spirit of solidarity.

52. It was discouraging that the rate of social progress had slowed down since 1953, but it must be remembered that the developing countries, though aware of the close connexion between economic and social conditions tended to give priority either to economic projects or to social programmes which would have the effect of increasing productivity. The housing problem convincingly illustrated the interdependence of economic and social factors. His Government attached great importance to long-range programmes of concerted international action in the field of low-cost housing and related community facilities. It had already taken a number of measures to remedy the housing shortage and wished to thank the United Nations for having provided it with the services of a town-planning expert and having contributed to the establishment of a regional housing centre at Bandung, which served other South-East Asian countries as well as Indonesia.

53. Since 1956 Indonesia had been engaged in a community development programme, and had established a network of administrative services for that purpose, organized in sixteen districts. The technique of community development was particularly well adapted to the structure of Indonesian society, which was based on the principle of mutual help. The programme provided for the construction of roads and bridges, school buildings, hospitals, social centres and libraries. However, because of the lack of resources and trained personnel, the results of the programme had not been as satisfactory as had been hoped. The Ministry of

Social Affairs had nevertheless set up 12,000 to 13,000 social centres in the villages to undertake similar work.

54. An International Health and Medical Research Year would help to underscore the importance of health problems and encourage peoples and Governments to redouble their efforts to attain satisfactory standards in that field. His delegation hoped that the Year might be organized in the relatively near future.

55. The world population situation posed serious problems to which all Governments should give close attention. The accelerating growth of population was one of the factors which prevented the developing countries from making the needed improvement in the levels of living of their people. Although future United Nations studies would indeed be of assistance in evaluating the magnitude of the population problem, the most appropriate approach to its solution would be the acceleration of economic and social development to such an extent that the increase in production would surpass the increase in population.

56. Indonesia, to which UNICEF had given valuable assistance since 1948 and which knew how effectively that agency operated, had been greatly concerned to note that for the first time since 1954 the resources of the Fund had decreased. However, it was encouraging to note that UNICEF activities were receiving the enthusiastic support of Governments and peoples. In spite of the efforts already made, there were still hundreds of millions of children in the world who were not assisted by the Fund. It was to be hoped that the privileged nations would show their goodwill and spare no effort to enable UNICEF to carry out its work.

57. He drew attention to the wide scope of the work done by the Commission on the Status of Women. The status of women was continuing to improve in all fields and he wished to congratulate the women of Afghanistan on the increasing part they were playing, side by side with men, in education and health.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.