

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

FIFTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



**THIRD COMMITTEE, 991st
MEETING**

Friday, 14 October 1960,
at 3.25 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Agenda item 12:

<i>Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters V, VI and VII (section II, paragraph 645 only, and sections IV and V)) (continued)</i>	
<i>Consideration of draft resolutions (continued)</i>	45
<i>Organization of work</i>	49

Chairman: Mr. Eduard MEZINCESCU (Romania).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Farhâdi (Afghanistan), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters V, VI and VII (section II, paragraph 645 only, and sections IV and V)) (A/4415, A/C.3/L.845, A/C.3/L.847-851, A/C.3/L.852/Rev.1) (continued)

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
(continued)**

1. Mr. SAVINA (Italy) associated himself with the remarks made by the representative of Chile (984th meeting) and the representative of France (985th meeting) on the importance of the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information.
2. His delegation was pleased to note that UNICEF had intensified its activities, especially with regard to nutrition and malaria control, and had improved its services in the recipient countries. It was glad that UNICEF activities had been particularly expanded in Africa. The Fund had decided to undertake long-term programmes in close collaboration with the Governments concerned. Italy was fully in favour of that new policy, which should stimulate the initiative of Governments and enable UNICEF to keep pace in its work with the economic progress of the countries it assisted. Realizing that UNICEF would need larger resources to carry out its new programmes, the Italian Government had decided to increase its contribution.
3. With regard to the international control of narcotic drugs, his delegation wished to express satisfaction with the effective work accomplished by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the aid of the competent authorities of the countries concerned; he hoped that those joint efforts would lead to the complete eradication of illicit traffic.

4. Where slavery was concerned, his country had sent all necessary information to the Secretary-General on the laws, regulations and administrative measures put into effect in Italy to implement the 1956 Convention.^{1/}

5. His delegation hoped that the progress already achieved with regard to the status of women throughout the world would continue at an increasing rate. To that end developing countries, in particular, should take advantage of United Nations programmes. His delegation would vote in favour of the seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.847) on the subject.

6. His Government attached great importance to the problem of housing, and especially to the construction of low-cost housing. He would therefore give careful consideration to the nine-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.851).

7. In recent years, marked progress had been made in Italy in the teaching of the purposes and principles, the structure and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Primary school textbooks devoted considerable space to such subjects as human rights and the principle of racial equality. Since 1958 a civic education course had been obligatory in the secondary schools and it included the teaching of the principles and results of international co-operation. Pupils in the senior classes analysed the structure of international and supra-national organizations; each year they took part in a contest on some subject relating to international organization and the prize-winners were sent on a visit abroad. In the faculties of law and political science, a special course was now being given on the principles of international organization. He outlined briefly the various activities of the Italian Society for International Organizations in the principal towns of Italy.

8. A number of measures should be taken to make United Nations action in disseminating the principles of international co-operation more and more effective. Publications and films could be used, for example, to present to the public the activities of international institutions over the past fifteen years in their historical and economic context. Meetings between teachers and students of different nationalities for the purpose of exchanging views on international collaboration and methods of strengthening it could be given as much encouragement as possible. It would also be useful for the United Nations, through its information centres, to get in touch with faculties of law and political science which gave a considerable place to instruction on international organization and its operation. If what might be called "the spirit of the

^{1/} United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave-Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 13 August to 4 September 1956, Final Act and Supplementary Convention (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 57.XIV.2)

United Nations" was not properly inculcated in the younger generation, the efforts of the United Nations to serve mankind might not give the desired results.

9. Begum Aziz AHMED (Pakistan) expressed her country's deep gratitude to all those who made generous contributions to UNICEF, which had given her country invaluable assistance. UNICEF-assisted projects in Pakistan ranged from mother and child welfare services to hospital care, urban community development, penicillin manufacture, milk production and conservation etc. Those life-giving programmes were to be further expanded. UNICEF must constantly broaden its activities, for the needs of the recipient countries were still great and the newly independent countries, too, were asking for its assistance. Her delegation hoped that the more favoured nations would do all they could to enable UNICEF to carry out and augment its short-term and long-term projects.

10. Although Islam gave legal, political and social freedom to women, Pakistan women had long lagged behind Western women, as a result of poverty, local customs and misinterpretation of religious principles. The All-Pakistan Women's Association had been active in improving the living conditions of Pakistan women, particularly those of the poorest and of the many refugees. Its efforts in the fields of education, economics and health had enabled great progress to be made. Nevertheless, while Pakistan women now represented their country in international conferences, there were still a great number of illiterate women in Pakistan who were too poor to afford any education. An Education Commission which had been set up recently was endeavouring to remedy that state of affairs and Pakistan was very grateful to UNESCO for its invaluable aid in that endeavour.

11. Her delegation had joined with six other delegations in submitting a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.847) on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries. She hoped the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously. It was based on Council resolution 771 H (XXX) but it would in no way prejudice the results of the study undertaken by the Secretary-General under that resolution. Its aim was clearly stated in the preamble and its sponsors were prompted solely by the desire to emphasize the urgency of that study and the need for close collaboration between the Secretary-General and the Governments of Member States, particularly those of the developing countries, in the study.

12. She would not comment in detail on the consolidated report entitled Five-Year Perspective, 1960-1964 (E/3347/Rev.1),^{2/} but she wished to thank all those who had worked to make the publication of that document possible. Referring to advisory services in the field of human rights, she stressed the value of the seminar on the participation of women in public life which was to be held at Addis Ababa in December 1960.

13. There was no doubt whatever about the need for the prior consultations referred to in paragraph 645 of the Economic and Social Council's report (A/4415). The Pakistan delegation considered, however, that it would be worth-while to ascertain whether the requirement of prior consultations would affect possible action by the Third Committee and whether it might

hinder or prevent the adoption of important measures, either by that Committee or by other organs of the General Assembly. She would like her observations to be recorded in the communication which the Chairman of the Third Committee would make to the Sixth Committee at the conclusion of the present debate.

14. The housing problem was one of the hardest to solve for the under-developed countries. The Pakistan Government made large appropriations for the construction of dwellings, particularly in towns and in certain areas that were especially backward economically; it had therefore noted with very great satisfaction the project in the field of building research, which was to be financed by the Special Fund.

15. Lastly, she recalled that the basic need or the under-developed countries was for practical programmes adapted to local conditions. She asked whether it was not a tragedy that nearly half of the world's children continued to be without elementary education. She further questioned what kind of lopsided world it was in which money was available for piling up armaments while children lived in distress and want.

16. Miss AGUIRRE (Mexico) said she would not go into all the questions dealt with in chapters V, VI and VII of the Council's report, since some of them—assistance to refugees, freedom of information, right of asylum, etc.—were the subject of separate items on the agenda. Furthermore, Mexico, having taken part in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Human Rights, had already had occasion to state its views on the problems within the competence of those two organs. The Commission on the Status of Women, as could be seen from the report on its fourteenth session (E/3360), was working slowly but tirelessly for the improvement of the status of women in every sphere. In particular, it had examined at its last session the draft convention and draft recommendation on the minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages. While recognizing the value of both instruments, the Mexican delegation was more in favour of a convention, which had the advantage of being more effective. The Commission had also studied the no less important question of the access of women to economic life.

17. The United Nations Children's Fund, either alone or in co-operation with WHO or FAO, had done excellent work for children in the most diverse fields—health, nutrition, housing etc. Its already immense task was, however, becoming more and more vast, owing to the rise in birth-rate and the accession of numerous countries to independence. Moreover, UNICEF's responsibilities had increased since the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV)). It was therefore to be hoped that fresh resources would be made available to it. In view of the information given by Mr. Pate, the Executive Director of UNICEF, and by the Mexican representative on the Executive Board of UNICEF concerning the success of the anti-malaria campaign in Mexico, the Mexican delegation was against the proposed reduction of the present scale of aid in certain fields, in particular that of anti-malaria activities. The campaign for the eradication of malaria that UNICEF had carried out in Mexico, in co-operation with WHO, had produced re-

^{2/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 60.IV.14.

markable results: malaria had utterly vanished from three states, thus lowering the death-rate in those states from 31.4 to 8.4 per thousand. The Mexican Government had therefore decided to increase the appropriations for that campaign from 30 to 89 million pesos and to contribute \$500,000 to UNICEF in 1959, as against \$300,000 in 1958. The Mexican authorities had had an opportunity to express their appreciation to Mr. Pate at the time of his recent visit to Mexico.

18. Turning to the interesting and well-documented report of the Committee on Programme Appraisals (E/3347/Rev.1), she drew attention to paragraphs 206 to 208 dealing with demographic questions, the importance of which needed to be emphasized at a time when the population of the world was increasing at a great rate. Paragraph 208 gave a description of the United Nations demographic programme and mentioned the aid to be given to Governments in evaluating and utilizing census results. Mexico set great store by such aid, since it was one of the countries whose population had increased most in the past thirty years (3.4 per cent per year); the increase had been much larger in urban centres, where it had given rise to very acute problems with regard to housing, nutrition, education etc.

19. With regard to the draft resolution submitted by Mexico together with thirteen other States (A/C.3/L.849), she wished to stress that, while it was certainly desirable for UNICEF to increase its aid to certain countries, that should not be allowed to prejudice the level of aid to other countries requiring assistance. The Mexican delegation would support the seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.847), the ten-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.850) and the nine-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.851). In conclusion, she expressed the hope that the suggestion made by the representative of the United Arab Republic (990th meeting) concerning an increase in the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women would be embodied in a formal proposal.

20. Mr. ASTROGLU (Turkey), after welcoming the representatives of Cyprus and of the new African States, paid a tribute to UNICEF for the admirable work it had done in the field of mother and child welfare and in that of nutrition. Great progress had been achieved, inasmuch as the programmes of aid had reached 55 million people in 1960 compared with 30 million in 1956. It was to be hoped that that encouraging trend would continue in the years to come. The Turkish delegation had welcomed the important decisions taken by the Executive Board at its last session. In particular, his delegation believed that the time had come for consultations with beneficiary countries, and with the specialized agencies concerned in order to determine the basic needs of children. The Board's proposed review in 1961 of its policies concerning aid for the training of national personnel also seemed a useful step. The UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy and the FAO/UNICEF Joint Policy Committee had also taken steps in that matter. It was of the utmost importance that qualified staff capable of organizing and administering the programmes should be available and it was that which had led the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and the specialized agencies to set up public administration institutes, one of which, the Public Administration Institute for Turkey and the

Middle East, established at Ankara with the assistance of the Turkish Government and of Turkish University bodies, was rendering valuable service to Turkey and to the neighbouring countries. In view of the relations existing between UNICEF's activities, on the one hand, and those of the Technical Assistance Administration and of the specialized agencies on the other, the institutes in question, by organizing courses on nutrition, health and social services for children, might provide training for the staff who would carry out the programmes falling within the competence of UNICEF. That organization could also consider the possibility of setting up new regional institutes, in co-operation with WHO and FAO. For its part, Turkey was prepared, as in the past, to co-operate within the limits of its resources in the carrying out of any decisions taken on the training of qualified personnel. He supported the measures taken regarding aid in the preparation of project requests, the matching policy and the policy on local costs: while the Turkish delegation was in favour of the principle of local matching, it considered very appropriate the decision taken by the Executive Board of UNICEF on the subject, as stated in paragraphs 53 and 54 of its last report (E/3336).

21. Regarding the question of the international control of narcotics, the Council's report was not very encouraging. However, it was good that a large number of countries had submitted information on the illicit traffic; such information was essential, as the Economic and Social Council had emphasized in resolution 770 C (XXX), and those Governments which had not fulfilled their obligations in that respect should do so without delay. Before the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution, the Turkish Government had signed a pact with Iran on border supervision. The results had been very satisfactory and the Turkish Government was ready to co-operate closely with other countries in the fight against drug addiction and illicit traffic in narcotics.

22. Regarding human rights, his delegation was in favour of setting up national advisory committees on human rights. The Turkish National Group on Human Rights, which had been in existence since 1946 and was composed of teachers, writers, senior civil servants and students, had rendered great services; in 1950, as a result of restrictive measures by the Government, it had had to slow down its activities but today, now that the Turks enjoyed all fundamental rights, thanks mainly to the courageous action of the Press and the teaching body, it was again playing an important role. That was proved by the fact that three of its members had actively participated in the work of a commission set up by the Turkish Government to review the previous Government's legislation, and to repeal laws contrary to human rights and to democratic principles. That example illustrated the extent to which national advisory committees could assist the public authorities in the field of human rights.

23. As regards the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, his delegation was very glad that three seminars were planned for 1961. In view of the lack of interest shown in the system of fellowships, it would perhaps be advisable to concentrate on the organization of seminars.

24. Turning to consider chapter VI, section VIII, of the Economic and Social Council's report, he con-

gratulated the Commission on the Status of Women on its continued untiring efforts. The women of Turkey, who had for a long time enjoyed all the civil and political rights granted to men, were following with interest developments in the status of women in other parts of the world. The Association of Turkish Women had recently had the privilege of organizing at Istanbul the sixteenth General Conference of the International Council of Women, at which 240 participants had gathered from thirty-four different countries. The Conference had in particular invited national women's councils to urge their respective countries to become members of the Commission on the Status of Women; it had requested Governments to consult the national women's associations before passing legislation on women's working conditions; it had urged Governments to respect the principles laid down in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child; and lastly, it had requested all national councils of women to take part in the "Freedom-from-Hunger" campaign launched by FAO. His delegation would support any draft resolution directed towards improving the status of women.

25. Mr. JORDAN SANDOVAL (Bolivia) said that he would limit his observations to social questions, as other items on the agenda would give him an opportunity to state his position on the other problems dealt with in the chapters of the Council's report under discussion. He wished, however, to draw attention to the interest aroused in his country by the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the very favourable reception given to the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

26. In view of the cultural, social and economic differences existing between the different States Members of the United Nations, and the particularly unfavourable situation of the under-developed countries in which the illiteracy rate was very high, only UNESCO, with the assistance of the more advanced countries, was in a position to ensure the teaching of the purposes and principles of the United Nations on the necessary world-wide scale. At the regional level, the Organization of American States had adopted, in the social and cultural sphere, certain principles which, taking into account the capacities of each country, guaranteed a decent level of living, made primary education compulsory and opened up access to higher studies without any discrimination. The under-developed countries and the Non-Self-Governing Territories were, however, for lack of resources, unable to make education universal or to diffuse as widely as was to be wished a knowledge of the purposes, principles, and activities of the United Nations.

27. He suggested certain measures which might be taken to correct the situation. Law school curricula should include a course on the structure and activities of the United Nations and professional schools should offer a course on the operation of the specialized agencies dealing with questions related to the subjects taught in those schools. At the primary and secondary levels, pupils should be made familiar with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the purposes and principles of the United Nations. With the co-operation of UNESCO, moreover, teaching and technical methods should be worked out for arousing public interest, particularly among the rural population, in the activities of the United Nations.

28. Among the social advances made by Bolivia in the past year, he mentioned particularly the adoption of an education code designed to bring about the gradual elimination of illiteracy in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Progress had already been made in that respect, especially in the rural areas.

29. Lastly, he noted that UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government, was carrying out a programme for the production of skim milk powder in Bolivia, primarily for school children, which was proving quite successful.

30. Mr. REGMI (Nepal) praised the achievements of UNICEF in the various parts of the world. Since the "matching" policy had thus far prevented his country from benefiting by UNICEF assistance, he was gratified to learn that the Executive Board was planning to apply that policy more flexibly. Thus, UNICEF aid would be extended to additional under-developed areas.

31. With the collaboration of WHO, his Government had carried out a malaria-eradication campaign of vital importance to the country. In addition, Nepal, which had always made it a point to respect its obligations for the control of narcotic drugs, had adopted a law in 1959 which should lead to more effective control by regulating the production and export of narcotic drugs.

32. The needs of the under-developed countries were so great that it was often difficult to fight illiteracy and poverty at the same time. However, the Nepalese Government planned to make primary schooling compulsory throughout the country. Owing to lack of funds, that project would have to be spaced over a number of years. UNESCO was expected to provide technical assistance.

33. In view of the complexity of the social situation in most under-developed countries, he suggested that before advocating remedies, the Economic and Social Council should make a sample survey of conditions in the various countries.

34. Mr. NAIR (Federation of Malaya) pointed out that progress made in education and child welfare was a guarantee of prosperity and peace. He was therefore gratified by the progress achieved by UNICEF. He noted with satisfaction the shift from emergency relief to aid for long-range programmes, and the Executive Board's decision to undertake a survey of children's needs. In most under-developed countries, however, the needs were only too well known and what was lacking was primarily the funds, the technical knowledge and trained personnel. His delegation would welcome with interest any plan for concerted action to correct that situation, and in particular, to train personnel.

35. Despite various difficulties, the Federation of Malaya was endeavouring to carry out a number of social programmes aimed particularly at training medical staff and establishing health centres, and at improving probation, aid to the handicapped and child welfare services. However, it was hampered by the lack of trained personnel: international assistance in that respect would be extremely valuable. On the basis of its own experience, the Malayan Government was convinced that assistance for the infra-structure of the projects and schemes worked out by the under-developed countries themselves would best meet their needs.

36. The Malayan Government was sparing no effort to induce women to participate in public life and, with that end in view, had strongly encouraged the formation of many women's organizations. He unreservedly supported the seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.847).

37. Child welfare and education were among the major concerns of his Government and it planned to extend the principle of compulsory primary education to the whole country. A number of teacher-training schools had been opened in Malaya at considerable cost. Notwithstanding the difficulties, the Malayan Government was determined to discharge its responsibilities towards Malayan children in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

38. Mrs. FEKINI (Libya) paid a tribute to UNICEF, FAO, the ILO, WHO and UNESCO for the decisive assistance they had rendered her country. However, in most under-developed countries much remained to be done. The anti-malaria campaigns should be allowed to continue if a resurgence of the disease was to be prevented; the small-pox campaigns should be extended and trachoma should be more vigorously controlled.

39. She noted with satisfaction the new trends in development programmes, in particular the shift from emergency relief to long-range development programmes based on the needs of each country, especially with regard to the training of national personnel.

40. Her delegation endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/3360) and believed that the exchanges of views made possible by regional and national seminars might help solve common problems. Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 771 (XXX), she emphasized the necessity of training women for the new role they were called upon to play in a society in the process of urban development. Her delegation would therefore whole-heartedly support the seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.847).

41. The problem of housing, which was constantly being exacerbated by rural migration and urbanization, provided a broad area for the activity of the specialized agencies; they could help to solve it primarily by providing technical assistance to Governments in

carrying out their national policies. In the belief that the problem was urgent, the Libyan delegation had co-sponsored the nine-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.851).

42. Miss IMRU (Ethiopia) introduced the revised text of the five-Power draft resolution on training and education in countries in process of development, especially in Africa (A/C.3/L.852/Rev.1). She pointed out that the First Committee would undoubtedly discuss that subject in connexion with the item of its agenda entitled "Africa: a United Nations programme for independence and development". To enable the Third Committee to benefit by the First Committee's discussion of the matter and to give the five-Power draft resolution the careful attention it warranted, she proposed that the draft should be considered at a later stage and that two or three meetings should then be devoted to it.

43. The CHAIRMAN said that the First Committee had not yet decided on the order of its agenda items. Consequently, the Third Committee could not, at the present juncture, decide when to consider the five-Power draft resolution.

44. Following an exchange of views in which Mr. KASLIWAL (India), Mr. QUIAMBAO (Philippines), Miss IMRU (Ethiopia), Mrs. ANEGAY (Morocco), Mrs. ESHEL (Israel), Mr. EL-ERIAN (United Arab Republic), Mr. NUÑEZ (Honduras), Mr. KARAPANDZA (Yugoslavia) and Mr. FONSEKA (Ceylon) took part, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee decide on the proposals of the Ethiopian representative at its 993rd meeting to be held on Monday, 17 October.

It was so decided.

Organization of work

45. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that it had a very heavy workload for the following week and that it might wish to hold one more meeting than had been scheduled. He therefore invited delegations wishing to submit draft resolutions on the item of the agenda entitled "Main trends of inquiry in the natural sciences, dissemination of scientific knowledge and application of such knowledge for peaceful ends" to do so at an early date, if possible before the end of the 993rd meeting.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.