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Chairman: Mr. Salvador P. LOPEZ (Philippines).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Miss Imru (Ethiopia),
Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/4820 and Corr.2, A/C.3/L.947 and Add.1-3, A/C.3/L.954-955, A/C.3/L.956/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.957/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.958 and Add.1, A/C.3/L.959, A/C.3/L.963-965) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. PEREZ QUESADA (Argentina) pointed out that, despite everything which had been accomplished in the social field, much yet remained to be done. The documents which the Committee had before it on the subject were unquestionably useful, because they would help the advanced countries to gain a better understanding of the problems confronting the countries which were just beginning to develop. Those problems were particularly difficult and considerations of common humanity imposed on the countries which enjoyed an abundance of material goods the moral obligation not to remain indifferent to the plight of those who were suffering from poverty and hunger.

2. The development of the world economy was, together with the maintenance of peace, among the principal objectives of the United Nations. It was therefore particularly satisfactory to note how international programmes and activities in the economic and social fields had developed over the past fifteen years. Because the United Nations technical assistance programmes were becoming more and more effective, they were having an ever-increasing impact on the recipient countries.

3. As a result of the "Alliance for Progress" programme, initiated at the special meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council held at Punta del Este, from 5 to 17 August 1961, the whole economic and social complexion of Latin America was to be radically changed over the next decade. The Argentine Government had decided to give its most vigorous support to that programme.

4. For several years, the problem of the relationship between population growth on the one hand and

economic development and the increase of food supplies on the other had assumed a new urgency, both internationally and within the developing countries; statistics had been adduced to show that within a few decades the population of the world would have reached so high a figure that development would be much slower than it was at present. In that regard he quoted a passage from the statement made at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly by the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs, on 26 September 1960 (871st plenary meeting). He concluded that a genuine solution for the problem of population growth could be found only if every effort was made to promote economic development and social progress in a moral atmosphere of respect for true human values and for the dignity of man which derived from his incalculable worth.

5. Referring to the draft resolution submitted by the Ukrainian delegation (A/C.3/L.959), and to the observations which some delegations had made on the subject of illiteracy in Latin America, he said that the problem had been almost completely solved in Argentina through an effort of many years' duration and through large budgetary outlays on education for people. The illiteracy rate had fallen from 77.9 per cent in 1869 to 35 per cent in 1914 and to 13.6 per cent in 1947; it was at present approximately 3 per cent. Moreover, Argentina was one of the five countries in Latin America where universal primary education would shortly come into effect. Primary, secondary and university education were, moreover, provided entirely free of charge.

6. The progress which Argentina had achieved had not made it indifferent to the problem of illiteracy in other countries. Argentina's interest in that matter was evidenced, in the first place, by the contribution which it paid to UNICEF. It had also signed the Charter of Punta del Este, in article 1, paragraph 7, of which the American Republics had inter alia set for themselves several important goals in the field of education.

7. His delegation favoured the purposes of the Ukrainian draft resolution, but thought that its text could be further improved and made, in that way, more generally acceptable. That was why the Argentine delegation had been a co-sponsor of the eight-Power amendments (A/C.3/L.965) to the Ukrainian draft resolution.

8. The meaning of operative paragraph 4 of the ten-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.956/Rev.1) could be made clearer. In that connexion, the Special Fund should study each project individually, and not make a general study of the problem of economic development in each country. It was only Governments which could determine what degree of priority should be assigned to different sectors of the economy.

9. His delegation would be glad to support the draft resolution of the thirteen Powers regarding UNICEF (A/C.3/L.957/Rev.1), that of the sixteen Powers on the strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the social field (A/C.3/L.958 and Add.1) and that of the eight Powers on urbanization (A/C.3/L.963). It was also glad to be a co-sponsor of the draft resolution of the twenty-one Powers on human rights fellowships (A/C.3/L.947 and Add.1 and 3), because it felt that the spreading of knowledge about such rights would help to ensure that the principles promulgated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 (III)) were effectively applied.

10. Since, under General Assembly resolution 1572 (XV), UNESCO had been invited to consider ways of promoting mutual understanding between peoples, he thought that the Romanian delegation might defer its request for consideration of the proposals which it had submitted in its working paper (A/C.3/L.955) until the Assembly's seventeenth session. The Yugoslav working paper (A/C.3/L.964) could also be studied more usefully at the same session.

11. Mrs. ROUSSEAU (Mali) indicated to the Committee that it would be difficult for her to avoid mentioning the colonial question in her statement because Mali, which had just achieved independence, had, in the cultural, economic and social fields, to tackle the problem of eliminating the after-effects of colonialism. To try to ignore the cause of the evil would be tantamount to using palliatives which might alleviate but would not in themselves effect a cure.

12. While it welcomed the evidence, submitted in the Report on the World Social Situation,^{1/} of the progress made in some countries in the social field, her delegation deplored certain serious omissions which greatly detracted from the objectivity of that document. In particular, she regretted that no attention had been paid to the experience of the People's Republic of China, which comprised one third of the world's population. She also regretted that the Report had not mentioned the fact that the colonial system was the chief cause of the slow rate of economic and social development in many African countries. Her delegation would also have appreciated the drawing of some conclusions and suggestions for the solution of the problems raised.

13. Despite the optimistic tone of the Report, the Malian delegation was compelled to note that hunger, disease and illiteracy had not yet been overcome: the Director-General of FAO, in opening the world-wide "Freedom from Hunger" campaign, had stated that more than half the population of the world was under-nourished. As for illiteracy, it was rife in the colonial countries and the former colonies. In that connexion she pointed out that Mali was taking action for the rapid eradication of illiteracy and, as a consequence, for the training of national leaders and administrators; it was placing great hopes in the United Nations and the specialized agencies for assistance in solving that problem. Her delegation would therefore support the Ukrainian draft resolution, which invited the General Assembly to co-operate in the eradication of illiteracy throughout the world.

14. In all countries, and especially in those which had just attained independence, it was the young people who represented the vital strength of the nation. In Mali they were closely associated with public life and were an important factor in the development of the country; her delegation accordingly felt that the suggestions made in the Romanian working paper were of the highest importance and hoped that UNESCO would pay due attention to that document.

15. Referring to the problem of health, she said that her delegation welcomed the current campaign against certain diseases and particularly, so far as Africa was concerned, against diseases which primarily affected children. She expressed the hope that Member States would support the United Nations with a view to helping the countries concerned to improve their health services for the common good.

16. She considered that the Report had not laid sufficient stress on the substantial economic and social consequences which would follow general and complete disarmament; she was convinced that, if the sums involved were used for constructive and not destructive purposes, hunger, disease and illiteracy would soon be eliminated. The sums spent on armaments in two days were equivalent to the entire financial investment required for the execution of Mali's five-year plan.

17. The problems of economic development had long received attention but had been stressed more specifically since the newly independent States had arrived on the international scene. Recognition of the importance of those problems, which was symptomatic of a clearer awareness of social inequality throughout the world, was reflected not only in Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations—which was devoted to international economic and social co-operation—but also in other instruments of a legal nature.

18. One of the great merits of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/4820 and Corr.2) was that it recognized the need for balanced and co-ordinated economic and social planning. Without such planning it was, indeed, impossible to promote real development and adequate economic growth in the under-developed countries, which had to rid themselves of the former structure of domination inherited from the colonial system; the Republic of Mali had opted for a planned socialist economy. Mali's five-year plan—which was the product of the labours of all the vital forces of the nation, including the national organizations of women and of youth—was a graded plan which allocated priorities to various aspects of Malian development. Its original feature was that it had been elaborated by the people and their representatives and that its execution depended on the mobilization of the masses, whose enthusiasm had already resulted in important achievements, such as the construction of dispensaries, roads, bridges, schools and dams. It aimed at the intensive development of agriculture—in which nearly 80 per cent of the Malian population were engaged—and of small-scale manufacturing industries; large industrialization projects were only contemplated in the second half of the plan. Once those aims had been achieved, school enrolment should reach 65 per cent, as against 4 per cent at the end of the colonial régime, and the basic public health programme should be two-thirds com-

^{1/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 61.IV.4.

pleted. As for social insurance, which already existed in most of the urban areas, it would extend to the whole of the main agricultural sector.

19. With regard to the lot of women, she said that it was urgent for the Commission on the Status of Women, which already had some achievements to its credit, to break with its outmoded ideas and to embark resolutely on the path of a revolutionary and progressive conception of the role of women. She hoped that the women of Africa and Asia would be enabled to take their rightful place on that Commission.

20. She stressed the need for the United Nations to strengthen international economic co-operation and to develop technical assistance to the under-developed countries. Given the large number of experts needed for such assistance in the developing countries, all discrimination in recruitment should be eliminated; the United Nations had a duty to call on all talents, whether from the east or from the west.

21. In conclusion, she expressed the hope, which had already been voiced by the delegation of the United Arab Republic (1111th meeting), that the Economic and Social Council would cease to use the expression "Africa south of the Sahara", which implied the idea of a separation in political evolution between "white" Africa and "black" Africa.

22. Mr. ASIROGLU (Turkey), referring first to the activities of UNICEF, was gratified to note that that organization continued to broaden its fields of operation and that the beneficiaries of its assistance programmes had almost doubled in number during the past five years. He was pleased that UNICEF's efforts to improve nutrition and to develop new protein foods had been successful and that great advances had been recorded in the field of maternal and child welfare.

23. His delegation, which at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly had enthusiastically supported the decisions of UNICEF's Executive Board concerning the orientation and scope of the organization's future activities, had been very satisfied to learn that a survey of the needs of children had been undertaken and that stress had been placed on training in social services for children. It considered that the decision to allow recipient countries to decide on the relative priority of the needs of their children for programmes of assistance was wise and realistic. It was convinced that the administrative reorganization mentioned in the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/4820 and Corr.2, para. 521) would enable execution of UNICEF's programmes of assistance to be speeded up; it thought that the new financial policy would make it possible to expand the programme of work. In addition, it had noted that co-operation between UNICEF and the specialized agencies was satisfactory.

24. The children of the United States and Canada, who had collected more than \$2 million for UNICEF on the occasion of Hallowe'en in 1960, had shown an admirably altruistic spirit; their noble attitude was a living example of true education of the young in the spirit of peace, mutual respect and understanding. His delegation wished to pay a tribute to the work done by UNICEF and to those inspiring it, and would therefore take great pleasure in voting for the thirteen-Power draft resolution.

25. Turning to the Report on the World Social Situation, he said that States wishing to use it in formulating their social policy would find it a valuable document. One could determine from it the various factors influencing world social development, such as the rate of population growth, the concentration of people in the towns, and the low prices of primary commodities in relation to manufactured goods. A thorough study of that information revealed the vicious circle in which the developing countries were caught. If those countries wanted to develop economically and socially, they must increase their production; that could be done only through capital investment, the importation of equipment and the mechanization of agriculture. But, owing to price fluctuations and price disparity between primary commodities and manufactured goods, they could not manage to maintain equilibrium in their balance of payments and to import the equipment needed for an increase in their production.

26. It might perhaps be useful if such countries were to diversify their exports; that would have the effect of spreading the risk and of protecting them, to a certain degree, from instability in primary commodity prices. In that connexion he recalled that, several years ago, the Commission on International Commodity Trade and GATT had tried to find a way of stopping those fluctuations, which represented the key factor in the social and economic development of under-developed countries. It would probably be advisable for the Bureau of Social Affairs, when drawing up the next report on the world social situation, to confer with GATT and the Commission on International Commodity Trade, so that it might draw upon their experience.

27. His delegation was interested to observe the progress made in implementing programmes of concerted action in the social field and thought that the work programme proposed in the report of the Economic and Social Council was calculated to make for continuation of that progress.

28. Referring next to social welfare, he welcomed the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of resolution 830 G (XXXII) concerning the extension and improvement of social services, especially for the family, for children and for youth; he also recalled with satisfaction the benefits which Turkey, thanks to the assistance of UNICEF and the Bureau of Social Affairs, had received from a highly successful training programme for the staff of children's institutions.

29. On the subject of balanced economic and social development, he said that his delegation was well aware of the importance of that problem, so much so that it had joined in submitting the sixteen-Power draft resolution.

30. With regard to human rights, Turkey supported all the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council in that field and particularly welcomed resolution 819 A (XXXI) concerning information media; it considered that the existence of good information media was one of the essential conditions for freedom of information.

31. His delegation was gratified by the encouraging results obtained with respect to advisory services in the field of human rights. It attached great importance to the organization of regional seminars, approved

resolution 825 (XXXII) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the subject at its thirty-second session, and would vote for the twenty-one Power draft resolution concerning human rights fellowships.

32. He paid a tribute to the Commission on the Status of Women and praised its tireless efforts to bring about the emancipation of women and the recognition of their rights. He recalled in that connexion that Turkish women, who had long enjoyed all the civil and political rights accorded to Turkish citizens, were following with interest the advances in women's rights in other parts of the world and doing their best to contribute to that process. His delegation endorsed all the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council with respect to the status of women, particularly resolution 821 III A (XXXII). He hoped that the Committee would have time to consider the final clauses of the draft Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriages (A/4844, annex III).

33. With regard to the international control of narcotics, he noted with regret that the situation was not encouraging and that, *inter alia*, the traffic in cocaine was steadily increasing; on the other hand, he had been pleased to note that Governments had provided more extensive information on the illicit traffic during the past year, a circumstance which should make it possible to take more effective action.

34. He recalled that Turkey had, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 770 (XXX), signed a treaty with Iran providing for frontier control as a means of combating the illicit traffic and that the results achieved had been satisfactory. His Government was fully prepared to enter into close co-operation with other countries with a view to preventing drug addiction and combating the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

35. Mr. DAMDINDORJ (Mongolia) said that the sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council which his delegation found most interesting were those in which emphasis was placed on the need for further surveys of the experience gained by different countries in the field of balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development. Unless an objective study was made of the plans and accomplishments of countries with different economic and social systems, it was impossible to make an accurate appraisal of the existing world social situation and to direct its development. While it was grateful to the Secretariat for preparing the documents before the Committee, his delegation regretted the fact that the useful experience of the socialist countries had not been taken into account. He hoped that that situation would be corrected in the future. During the past forty years, the Mongolian People's Republic had been successful in overcoming the one-sided character of its economy and in achieving balanced economic and social development. It would be very glad to make available to the United Nations the experience which it had thus acquired.

36. Since it had thrown off the colonial yoke, Mongolia had been able to achieve drastic economic, political and social changes through a policy of co-ordinated and planned development. It had previously been a nation of illiterates subsisting exclusively on cattle-breeding. Today it was an in-

dustrial and agricultural country whose production was highly diversified. During the present year, it had embarked on its third five-year plan. Its industrial production, which had been 7.4 times as high in 1960 as it had been in 1940, was to double by 1965. Cattle-breeding was the principal branch of agriculture in Mongolia, and the total livestock population was to increase from 20 million to 23 million during the next five years; that was a very substantial figure for a country of only one million inhabitants. The total area under cultivation was to reach 753,000 hectares by 1965. The rapid expansion of land cultivation was of the greatest importance for the Mongolian People's Republic, which was therefore encouraging the application of modern technology and scientific knowledge in agriculture and was continuing to train the skilled technical personnel needed in that sector of the economy.

37. Since its main concern was to ensure the well-being of the people, his Government attached the greatest importance to balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development. By 1965, the national income would be 60 per cent higher and wages 15 to 20 per cent higher than in 1960.

38. Illiteracy had disappeared in Mongolia. Primary education was compulsory for all school-age children in rural areas. Seven-year general education was already compulsory for all children in urban localities and was to be extended to the rest of the country by 1965.

39. The entire population of Mongolia enjoyed free medical care. In the next five years, the number of doctors was to increase from one per 1,050 inhabitants to one per 780. The birth-rate was rising from year to year, while the death-rate was declining. In a country with a population density of only 1.5 per square mile, that trend was most welcome.

40. His delegation, which was a co-sponsor of the ten-Power draft resolution regarding balanced economic and social development, hoped that the text would be unanimously adopted. It also felt that the Committee should, at the sixteenth session, adopt the Ukrainian draft resolution, whose implementation would make it possible to wage an effective campaign against illiteracy, a serious problem which still affected some 700 million people. The Ukrainian delegation might perhaps be able to reach agreement with the delegations which had introduced the eight-Power amendments to its resolution, with a view to submitting a new draft resolution which the Committee could adopt unanimously.

41. The Romanian working paper provided an excellent basis for drafting a declaration which would be of value to future generations and would strengthen understanding among nations.

42. His delegation would be happy to share its country's experience in the economic, scientific and cultural fields with other members of the Committee.

43. Mrs. TSIMBOUKIS (Greece) commented on the high quality of the Report on the World Social Situation and expressed pleasure that it dealt in detail with the question of planning for balanced economic and social development. Her delegation was firmly convinced of the interrelationship between economic and social development and of the need to strengthen the work of the United Nations in the social field, and it welcomed the action taken

by the Council along those lines. It also considered it essential that the Social Commission should meet annually and that its membership should be enlarged. For those various reasons, her delegation had joined in sponsoring the sixteen-Power draft resolution and would vote for the ten-Power draft resolution, which dealt with balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development.

44. With regard to the latter question, the Greek Government was attempting to achieve a balanced economic and social development of the country. In economic development the results obtained had been encouraging; national income, for instance, had increased by an average of 5.5 per cent per annum between 1955 and 1960. It was to be hoped that the five-year economic development plan covering the period from 1960 to 1965 would lead, among other things, to a further diversification of production and a general improvement in the balance of payments.

45. However, it would appear from the statistics in the Report on the World Social Situation^{2/} that economic development, great as it had been, was being outpaced by social development. Such a phenomenon was no doubt due to the importance attached by Greece to the human factor, a concern which was reflected in the greater attention given in the Greek Government's social policy to the health and educational programmes. The Government's interest in the individual had also led to the adoption of a policy favouring the rural population, which formed a majority of the people. Measures in favour of the latter were particularly necessary in a country where arable land constituted only a quarter of the total and no family could therefore have more than a very small parcel of land. She listed various measures taken by the Government to improve the lot of rural families and mentioned, in particular, a recent draft law which provided, *inter alia*, for old age pensions and the establishment of a network of health centres.

46. Following a recommendation made by UNESCO experts, a social science centre had been set up in Greece to promote the development of the social sciences, organize social research and encourage international co-operation in that sphere. The question of community development had also received attention and, in September 1961, a European seminar on training for community development had been organized in Greece by the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs.

47. With regard to UNICEF's activities, Greece was grateful to that organization for its assistance in carrying out many programmes. Two such programmes were currently being carried out: one was a national health demonstration and training programme which affected 630,000 persons in Thessaly, while the second related to milk conservation. The Greek delegation hoped that all Governments would help UNICEF to extend its field of activities and it would gladly vote for the thirteen-Power draft resolution.

48. Regarding the international control of narcotics, she recalled that the Greek Government had signed and implemented nearly all the conventions on the subject of narcotics and she stressed the importance of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, of 30

March 1961 (E/CONF.34/22), which Greece would also be soon in a position to sign.

49. The achievements in recent years of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women were to be commended. She hoped that the final clauses of the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriages would be studied and that the work on that important question would be brought to a successful conclusion.

50. With regard to advisory services in the field of human rights, Greece had co-sponsored the twenty-one Power draft resolution in the belief that the attention of Government should be drawn to the existence of the fellowships on human rights.

51. With respect to the Ukrainian draft resolution on the elimination of illiteracy, her delegation, while endorsing the ideas on which it was based, thought that the wording called for some changes; it approved of those appearing in the eight-Power amendments and would vote for them.

52. Where the Romanian working paper was concerned, the Greek delegation, having heard the UNESCO representative's statement (1120th meeting) that a report was to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in July 1962, regarded that proposal as premature.

53. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) congratulated the Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs on the very comprehensive statement which she had made to the Committee (1105th meeting) on the work of the Bureau of Social Affairs and on the wide range of problems with which the United Nations was concerned in the matter of social progress. The statement had been most useful, both for the information of delegations of the sixty-eight States which were represented on neither the Economic and Social Council nor the Social Commission nor the Population Commission, and in order to give the Committee an over-all view of the social programmes conceived and put into effect not only by the United Nations but also by the various specialized agencies.

54. Concerted action in the social field was a concept which had for long been recognized and put into practice by the Bureau of Social Affairs and the various specialized agencies; its main purpose was the organization of community services as a means of encouraging civic participation in promoting social progress. Unfortunately, Iraq's experience had shown that community programmes could not in practice achieve the desired results, particularly in the under-developed countries, without the necessary financial assistance.

55. In the field of social welfare, the United Nations had long been concerned with the problem of training social workers. It was questionable, however, whether the highly developed countries' concept of the social worker was suitable for the under-developed countries. The latter, with their very limited resources for education and training, had to establish a very strict order of priority. The principle of concerted action could perhaps be applied to social welfare by entrusting the task incumbent upon social workers within the community to teachers, health officials and other technicians. The United Nations should in any case employ an entirely different approach to the problem of social service training from that of the highly industrialized countries. In that re-

^{2/} *Ibid.*, pages 48-49, table 5.

spect, the co-operation between the Bureau of Social Affairs and UNICEF was most valuable as regards meeting the under-developed countries' needs for social service personnel, since technical assistance without the necessary financial means could not produce the desired results.

56. The Bureau of Social Affairs, in co-operation with the specialized agencies and a great many non-governmental organizations, had recently carried out intensive research into the important problem of housing. It was to be regretted, however, that the progress report on the implementation of the long-range programme of concerted international action in the field of housing (E/CN.5/354) made only a timid reference to the fact that, in many countries, no real progress was possible without direct financial assistance from the Government. Every survey made had stressed the difficulty of resolving the housing problem by means of private capital and investment alone and, although the report recommended the development of private savings in order to encourage the purchase and construction of housing and to put the operation on a sound financial footing, it was clear that that was applicable only to very high income groups. The United Nations should have no hesitation in stating that the problem of housing could not be resolved without the direct help of Governments and, in that connexion, it was worth bearing in mind the recent ILO recommendation on workers' housing, which expressly provided for such assistance. Iraq, for its part, had undertaken a large housing construction programme with the help of several specialized agencies.

57. The Iraqi delegation considered that the United Nations should play an increasing part in population questions as the importance of demographic problems increased. Studies on the analysis and use of population census figures were essential in the under-developed countries for the planning of balanced economic and social development; technical assistance in that field should be furnished to any Government desiring it.

58. However, the most accurate estimates would not make "reasonable" planning possible. As the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had recalled at the thirty-second session of the Economic and Social Council,^{3/} recent population increases had exceeded all forecasts, thus correspondingly reducing the anticipated rise in per caput income and food production. Without wishing to go into the question whether population growth hindered or promoted economic development, she believed that neither planning nor the assistance supplied by all the international organizations could achieve effective results as long as population growth was uncontrolled. While it was for each Government to prepare its own programme of action and to determine the rate of population growth suitable to the rhythm of its economic development, the United Nations could not remain indifferent to the inevitable repercussions of a population expansion which was out of all control.

^{3/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, 1166th meeting.

59. She understood that the Second Committee was considering a draft resolution which dealt with the question from the standpoint of economic development; but those regarding it from the point of view of human rights, should have the courage to recognize the right and freedom of the family, the basic unit of society, to plan its own size, in order to enable the competent authorities to draw up appropriate plans for all the families constituting the nation. If the world community had the courage to make a frontal attack on that problem, modern science, which had solved still more difficult problems, would doubtless be able to find a way of ensuring family planning that would also be acceptable in countries which disapproved of the use of artificial means. International action might be fruitful in furthering such research.

60. Her country was not represented on the Commission on the Status of Women and she wished to congratulate the members of that Commission on the work they had accomplished in the field of women's rights. She was surprised by the tendency which had manifested itself in the Economic and Social Council to regard the Commission as seeking to establish discrimination in favour of women. The very reason for setting up the Commission had been that the application to women of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations required special efforts. She noted in that connexion that the only article of the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for which a progressive application was provided was an article relating to the rights of women.

61. The Iraqi delegation welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council, at the thirty-second session, to increase the membership of the Commission (resolution 845 (XXXII)). It was indeed essential that the various economic, social and cultural systems which had a direct influence on the status of women, should be represented on it. Too small a membership in the case of the Commission as in that of the Council, might have great disadvantages, as was shown by the instance of the draft Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriages; the Commission had drafted it in terms ensuring the maximum of ratifications but, as a result of the debates in the Council and the decision finally taken by the Third Committee (1069th meeting), the way in which the notion of marriage by proxy had been embodied in the Convention would make it impossible for a large number of States, including Iraq, to ratify the Convention. It was regrettable in the extreme that the insistence of certain delegations on making the international document in question conform to the legislation of their own countries should thus hamper the advancement of women.

62. There was still much to be done to obtain equality of rights for women, even in the most advance countries where the political rights which they enjoyed were often meaningless in the absence of economic rights. An increase in its membership would undoubtedly give the Commission on the Status of Women a new impetus.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.