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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (FORTY-SEVENTH, FORTY-EIGHTH AND FORTY-NINTH
SESSIONS) AND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (TWENTY-FOURTH AND TWENTY-
FIFTH SESSIONS) WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS
TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

(15 September - 17 December 1970)

Resolution 2626 (XXV) International Development Strategy for the Second
United Nations Development Decade

This resolution was one of the documents adopted at the commemorative session of the General Assembly on 24 October 1970.

The initial draft of the resolution was introduced in the Second Committee by the representative of India on behalf of 89 developing countries.

In the debate the developing countries stressed the necessity of including exact targets and dates into the text while the developed countries favoured a more general approach without specific obligations.

A revised draft of the resolution was adopted by the Second Committee on 16 October without voting, and the General Assembly adopted it (also without voting) at its 1883rd plenary meeting on 24 October 1970.

The resolution proclaimed the Second United Nations Development Decade starting from 1 January 1971.

The complete text of this resolution will be distributed to delegations attending the fourteenth session of ECLA.

Resolution 2638 (XXV) Special International Conference of the United Nations
Industrial Development Organization

The following countries members of ECLA participated in the debate leading to the adoption of this resolution: Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru, United States.

During the discussions of IDB's report on its fourth session, particularly the Board's resolution 29 (IV) on the convening of a special international conference, most of the representatives agreed on the need for such a conference to give UNIDO a clear orientation for its work during the Second United Nations Development Decade, to define its organizational structure and to examine questions related to its financing.

The resolution itself decided to convene the said International Conference, to be held in Vienna from 1 to 8 June 1971; requested the Executive Director and the Advisory Committee for the Conference to prepare the necessary documentation sufficiently in advance to enable the IDB Board, at its fifth session, to undertake comprehensive consultations

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and preparatory work in this respect, considered that the preparatory work should be undertaken with due regard to the relevant discussions in the General Assembly; and, finally, requested the Special International Conference to transmit its report through ECOSOC to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

Resolution 2639 (XXV) Report on the Industrial Development Board

The following countries members of ECLA participated in the debate leading to the adoption of this resolution: Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru, United States.

During the discussions on the Board's report on its fourth session (A/8016), some significant points were put forward such as the need for UNIDO's future work to become increasingly operational, in particular for the organization's capacity to act as an executing agency for UNDP to be strengthened; as well as the need for it to play a more active part in the future within the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade. There were favourable comments on the progress made in harmonizing activities with the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, which helped to achieve not only greater co-ordination but more effective use of available resources. On the subject of regional problems attention was drawn to the fact that Latin America's participation in UNIDO's technical co-operation activities was unsatisfactory and called for rapid improvement. One aspect of UNIDO's activities which was widely commended referred to the Special Industrial Services (SIS).

In the resolution itself, the General Assembly urged the IDB to ensure that all resources available should be used to serve most effectively the objectives of industrialization within the framework of the Second United Nations Development Decade; stressed the need to provide UNIDO with adequate manpower and resources for its field activities; recommended that UNDP study ways and means of increasing the number of projects for which UNIDO is designated as executing agency.

The General Assembly also reaffirmed the importance of the programme of industrial field advisers and urged UNDP to provide the necessary financing for a larger number of field advisers; requested UNDP to ensure the continuity of the programme of Special Industrial Services; drew the attention of Governments to its invitation to provide additional resources through voluntary contributions to UNIDO, and finally, requested the Executive Director of UNIDO to enter into appropriate arrangements with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in order to enable the developing countries to derive increasing benefits from the system of generalized, non-reciprocal, non-discriminatory preferences.

Resolution 2641 (XXV) Review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy

The following representatives of Member States of ECLA participated in the discussion in the Second Committee leading to the adoption of this resolution: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, Venezuela.

This resolution, had no opposition and was adopted without objection. During the discussion in the Committee the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs mentioned two main functions of the proposed machinery: first, to take stock periodically of the progress achieved in order to provide orientation for national and international policies, and secondly, to facilitate any revision or adjustment of the frame of reference that might be required.

Some delegates noted with satisfaction that ECOSOC in its resolution 1556B (XLIX), had expressed its readiness to assume responsibility for assisting the General Assembly in the task of review and appraisal; actually, in their view, the Council should play a major role in the review mechanism for the development strategy.

In this resolution the General Assembly took note of ECOSOC resolution 1556B (XLIX) of 31 July 1970 and requested UNCTAD/UNIDO, the specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions, UNESOB and other organizations of the United Nations family to continue to review progress in their respective sectors according to the procedures already established and to be adopted as necessary.

Resolution 2658 (XXV) The role of modern science and technology in the development of nations and the need to strengthen economic and technico-scientific co-operation among States

The following members of ECLA countries participated in the debate leading to the adoption of this resolution: Brazil, Canada, Chile, United States, Venezuela.

The original draft of this resolution, prompted no real debate since practically all delegations agreed with the scope and substance of its main provisions. During the discussions of the item, concern was voiced about the fragmented nature of the study of the problem, the lack of an over-all evaluation and of a uniform approach to the question.

Operative paragraphs 2 and 3 called upon Governments to encourage increased international technical and scientific co-operation and recognized the importance of direct channels of co-operation among universities, institutes, laboratories and other institutions in different countries. Paragraphs 4 to 8 of the resolution invited the competent

organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, to intensify economic, scientific and technical co-operation within their current and future programmes, and to support the efforts made by Member States, while UNDP and the international financial institutions were invited to give priority to projects relating to the application of science and technology to development.

Paragraph 8 requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study which would evaluate the implications of modern science and technology for development, appraise the results achieved and the difficulties encountered, suggest practical ways and means of strengthening international co-operation, and suggest forms of international action within the framework of the United Nations system to ensure that scientific achievements are of benefit to all countries, especially the developing countries. Operative paragraph 9 provided for an over-all appraisal that would make it possible for the United Nations to arrive at a clearer concept of all the problems involved. Finally, paragraph 10 requested the Secretary-General to inform ECOSOC, at its fifty-first session, of the progress made in preparing the study.

Resolution 2659 (XXV) Feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development

The following representatives of ECLA countries participated in the discussions in the Second Committee: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela.

Most of the members speaking on the subject expressed their approval for the establishment of an international group of volunteers, to be designated as United Nations Volunteers. However, the supporters of the resolution also emphasized that certain essential conditions should be met, to ensure the success of the new venture.

Volunteers should be recruited on as wide a geographical basis as possible, including in particular the developing countries. Volunteers should have the technical and personal qualifications required, and should not be sent to a country except at the explicit request and with the explicit approval of the Government concerned. They should not displace local workers or other volunteers in the recipient countries. It was also hoped that the central unit to be established in UNDP to co-ordinate the volunteer programme would not be too bureaucratic, since volunteers were different from experts, diplomats or regular members of the Secretariat. Close contact with youth organizations was also considered desirable.

The draft resolution was adopted by 60 votes to none, with 16 abstentions in the Second Committee. The General Assembly adopted the resolution by 91 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.

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In this resolution the General Assembly decided to establish within the existing framework of the United Nations system, with effect from 1 January 1971, an international group of volunteers the members of which would be designated collectively and individually as United Nations Volunteers. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to designate the Administrator of UNDP as the Administrator of the United Nations Volunteers; and in consultation with the Administrator of the UNDP, to appoint a co-ordinator, within the framework of the Programme, to promote and co-ordinate the recruitment, selection, training and administrative management of the activities of the United Nations Volunteers within the United Nations system in collaboration with the United Nations agencies concerned and in co-operation with organizations concerned with national and international voluntary services and, where appropriate, with relevant youth organizations.

Resolution 2681 (XXV) Unified approach to economic and social planning in national development

The following representatives of ECLA countries participated in the discussions in the Second Committee: Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela.

Most of the representatives participating in the discussions endorsed the views of the sponsors, agreeing that a unified approach, by paying attention to both economic and social factors, should ensure a balanced and harmonious development process. However, a number of representatives suggested amendments to clarify certain concepts and improve the text.

However, the representative of Greece was wondering whether it was not premature to emphasize the social aspects of development, before the Second Development Decade had even begun. He was concerned over the meaning that could be attributed to the draft resolution. The representatives of Bolivia and Mexico agreed that wealth must first be created before it could be equitably distributed.

The representative of Sweden explained that it was certainly not the intention of the experts at Stockholm to emphasize only one aspect of development. She also emphasized that none of the provisions of the draft resolution made any demands on any Member State. The draft resolution also underscored the sovereign right of all Member States to assume full responsibility for their own planning.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted in the Second Committee, by 68 votes to none, with 8 abstentions. The vote in the General Assembly was 100 in favour, none against, with 10 abstentions.

In this resolution, the General Assembly confirmed the need for unified approach to development analysis and planning which would fully integrate the economic and social components in the formulation of policies and programmes. It endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1494 (XLVIII) and supported in particular the views of the Meeting of Experts on Social Policy and Planning in National Development regarding the need to include certain components in such an approach. Of particular relevance to the regional commissions and UNESOB seems the request contained in this resolution that those bodies responsible for the implementation of the International Development Strategy, as well as for the various social and economic long-term plans and programmes worked out within the United Nations system in the context of the Decade and for the review and appraisal of objectives and policies during the Decade, to aim at the most effective integration of policy measures across the different sectors, based inter alia, on the principles and guidelines embodied in the unified approach. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to suggest, in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, specific measures for the refinement and unification of methods for collecting and evaluating social data and information at the national and international levels, in the context of his study requested in ECOSOC resolution 1494 (XLVIII). It further requested the Secretary-General, in the context of the above-mentioned study, to evolve methods and techniques for the application of a unified approach to development, to be put at the disposal of Governments at their request.

Resolution 2682 (XXV) Multilateral food aid

In this resolution the General Assembly reaffirmed that the ultimate solution of the food problems of the developing countries lay in increased production in the developing countries with a food deficit, in the context of their general economic development, with the co-operation of the developed countries. Also of interest to the regional commissions and UNESOB is the request to the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme, drawing on assistance as appropriate from the United Nations, FAO, and other interested organizations within the United Nations family, to review at its next session progress made on the proposals in the report (Food aid and related issues during the Second Development Decade (E/4835)) and to submit its findings to the ECOSOC for transmission to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

Resolution 2683 (XXV) World Population Year

The following representatives of ECLA countries participated in the discussion leading to the adoption of this resolution: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Venezuela.

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The Director of the Population Division in introducing the item drew attention to the report on the World Population Situation, pointed out that since the Council had considered the report at its forty-eighth session, the Population Division had revised the projections of total population and those of urban and rural population up to the year 2000. The new estimates of world population for the year 2000 amounted to 6,493 million, or 5.9 per cent more than earlier. This figure included 5,040 million for the developing regions (7.5 per cent more), and 1,453 million for the more developed regions (0.8 per cent more).

Most of the representatives from ECE and ECAFE countries speaking on the item emphasized the importance of international and national efforts to cope with the problems created by the population explosion, and to study the relationship of population growth to economic and social development. Most of them were also in favour of the World Population Conference and the World Population Year. They were also supporting the draft resolution.

On the other hand most of the speakers from ECLA, ECA and the UNESOB region pointed out that the population problem differed from region to region and from country to country. Many emphasized that their problem was underpopulation rather than overpopulation. It was pointed out that these differences were not given sufficient attention in the draft resolution.

The representatives of Japan drew the attention of the Committee to the very important role played by the regional economic commissions in the population field.

The representative of Sudan stated that his country would rather see population programmes planned and operated on a regional basis. He also believed that the regional economic commissions were well placed to study the regional aspects of the problems concerned.

In this resolution the General Assembly designated the year 1974 as World Population Year. It acknowledged that the formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes were matters falling under the internal competence of each country and, consequently, that international action in the population sphere should be responsive to the varied needs and requests of individual Member States. The regional economic commissions and UNESOB should also be interested in the request to the Secretary-General, to prepare, in consultation with interested Member States, a detailed programme of proposed measures and activities to be undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system during the year 1974, taking into account the different character of population problems in each country and region, the population policies of Member States, as well as the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report on the question of holding a third world population conference (E/CN.9/224) and to submit it to the ECOSOC in 1972 through the Population Commission at its sixteenth session. The General Assembly also invited interested organizations of the United Nations system to render the necessary assistance to the Secretary-General in preparing the programme of measures and activities for the World Population Year.

Resolution 2684 (XXV) Increase in the production and use of edible protein

The following representatives of ECLA countries participated in the debate leading to the adoption of this resolution: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Uruguay.

All the representatives speaking on the question were in agreement concerning the urgent need to increase the production and use of edible protein and to make international action in this respect more effective. However, they differed in the approach which they thought should be adopted. Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Chile and Israel were generally in favour of creating a new protein policy body or strengthening the power and status of the Protein Advisory Group. Several among them also emphasized the importance of increasing the funds devoted to the solution of this problem. France, USSR, Thailand, Japan, UAR, were of the opinion that it was not advisable to create a new body. The USSR and Japan also considered that it was not necessary to channel resources to a protein promotion fund, but that the problem of increasing protein production should be considered within the more general context of over-all economic and social development, including the increase of agricultural outputs and fish yields. Some representatives supported the suggestion of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General prepare a broad statement of strategy which would indicate the role that the Governments and international institutions should plan in reducing the magnitude of the protein problem. The UAR emphasized the importance of the role of the regional commissions in helping to solve the protein problem.

The draft resolution as amended was adopted, in the Second Committee by 87 votes to none, with ten abstentions. The General Assembly adopted the resolution by 101 votes to none, with ten abstentions.

In this resolution the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of independent experts and in close consultation with the agencies and organizations of the United Nations family, a concise report on the possible elements of a broad statement of strategy, as contemplated by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, suggesting the role of Governments and the contribution of the United Nations system in closing the protein gap and including recommendations regarding those proposals already put forward which were found to be both desirable and feasible, together with an indication of the possible means of their implementation. Also of interest to the regional commissions and UNESOB is the fact that the General Assembly recommended, in the meantime, that the Secretary-General should take all possible steps in pursuance of paragraphs 3 and 5 of General Assembly resolution 2416 (XXIII), that the UNDP should give increased attention to projects directly related to the protein problem, and that the Protein Advisory Group, the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations should continue and intensify their current activities in this field.

Resolution 2685 (XXV) Economic and social consequences of disarmament

The following representatives of ECLA countries spoke during the debate, in the Second Committee, leading to the adoption of this resolution: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru.

During the debate on this resolution it was pointed out that military expenditures continued to increase in recent years by almost nine per cent a year. There was also the tendency that recently the military budgets of the developing countries increased at a greater percentage than that of the world total. World military expenditures had reached the record figure of \$ 200,000 million in 1969, far exceeding the investment expenditures of the less developed countries. It had been proposed that a Disarmament Decade should be proclaimed, which should be closely linked to the Development Decade. Funds which would become available through the reduction of military expenditures or even through stabilizing or curtailing of these expenditures should be channelled into development funds such as the Capital Development Fund. Thus, disarmament could no longer be viewed merely as a political and security problem. The transfer of resources to peaceful purposes should not be made dependent on the ultimate formalization of agreements on general and complete disarmament. It should be a continuous process which orient the resources of the world to positive purposes.

The draft resolution was adopted, in the Second Committee by 74 votes to nine, with fourteen abstentions. The vote in the General Assembly was 87 in favour, nine against, with fourteen abstentions.

Of interest to the regional commissions and UNESOB seems the request of the General Assembly that the Secretary-General, in consultation with such advisers as he might deem necessary to designate, (a) to formulate suggestions for the guidance of Member States, the specialized agencies and the IAEA, as well as other organizations in the United Nations family, with a view to establishing the link between the Disarmament Decade and the Second United Nations Development Decade so that an appropriate portion of the resources that were released as a consequence of progress towards general and complete disarmament would be used to increase assistance for the economic and social development of developing countries; (b) to propose measures for the mobilization of world opinion in support of the link between disarmament and development. The General Assembly also requested Member States, the specialized agencies and the IAEA, as well as other organizations in the United Nations family, to submit to the Secretary-General their comments and recommendations on the matters mentioned above.

Resolution 2686 (XXV) Regional economic commissions

Speaking on the item on a unified approach to economic and social planning in national development, the representative of the Philippines stated that the names of the regional economic commissions should be changed to regional economic and social commissions in order to reflect

the true nature of their activities. He subsequently introduced a draft resolution to this effect, on behalf of Philippines and Thailand. Some representatives thought that it was inappropriate to change familiar names, and that the regional economic commissions should have the opportunity to express their views. It was common knowledge that the regional commissions also dealt with social problems.

The sponsors, responding to comments, revised the operative paragraph of the draft resolution and subsequently also accepted an amendment proposed by the representative of India, so that the final version provided for consultation with the Secretary-General and also ensured that the views of the regional economic commissions could be taken into account.

The draft resolution as amended, was adopted in the Second Committee, by 52 votes to 1, with 33 abstentions. The resolution was adopted by the General Assembly by 93 votes to none, with seventeen abstentions.

In this resolution the General Assembly recommended that the Council consider, in consultation with the Secretary-General and taking into account the views of the regional economic commissions and those expressed on this subject at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the renaming of the commissions as follows: Economic and Social Commission for Europe; Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Far East; Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and Economic and Social Commission for Africa.

Resolution 2687 (XXV) Role of the regional economic commissions in the Second United Nations Development Decade

A draft of this special resolution concerning the role of the regional economic commissions was introduced by the delegations of India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Senegal, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yugoslavia, which were joined later by Iraq, Nigeria, Southern Yemen and Yemen.

In the debate many delegations stressed the vital role of the regional economic commissions and UNESOB for promoting regional co-operation and for the success of the Second Development Decade.

The resolution was adopted in the Committee by 85 votes to two, with eleven abstentions. The United States delegate, explaining his negative vote, stressed that the role of the commissions had been already duly reflected in the resolution on the International Development Strategy and a new resolution was unnecessary.

The General Assembly approved the text presented by the Second Committee voting 99 in favour, one against, with nine abstentions. In the resolution the General Assembly expressed its appreciation of the contributions made by the regional economic commissions and UNESOB toward

/the formulation

the formulation of the International Development Strategy and requested them to continue and further intensify their efforts in helping to promote on a regional, subregional or inter-regional basis, trade expansion, economic co-operation and integration among their member countries.

The Assembly requested the commissions and UNESOB to make suitable arrangements for conducting regular appraisals and evaluation of the implementation of the Development Strategy.

The General Assembly also urged that the commissions and UNESOB be provided with the means and resources necessary to fulfil their role.

Resolution 2691 (XXV) International University

As may be recalled, the idea of considering the establishment of an international university, though not new, had been initially suggested within the United Nations by the Secretary-General in the Introduction to his 1969 annual report on the work of the Organization.

General agreement was expressed on the significance of the Secretary-General's suggestion on the need to further explore the financial and organizational feasibility of the idea, as well as on the need to define as clearly as possible the role of UNESCO, UNITAR and the Secretary-General himself in the essential preliminary studies that are required.

The resolution, after taking note of the relevant documentation, invited UNESCO to undertake, in co-operation with the UN organizations concerned and the university community, studies of the educational, financial and organizational aspects of an international university; requested the Secretary-General to continue his consultations and studies relating to problems which are of concern to the United Nations in the context of the establishment of an international university; invited Governments of Member States to submit to the Secretary-General their preliminary views and proposals on an international university.

The General Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to establish in due course a panel of experts to assist him in his further consultations, and, finally, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the studies undertaken, together with any recommendations, through ECOSOC to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

Resolution 2724 (XXV) Identification of the least developed among the developing countries

A draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Sudan, who explained that his text did not prejudge the criteria for the identification of the least developed countries, it simply stressed the importance of identifying them so that the measures already adopted in their favour could be implemented.

A number of delegates shared the idea that the least developed among the developing countries faced particularly urgent problems to which solutions must be found as soon as possible. The representative of Mexico was of the opinion that UNCTAD and the specialized agencies would play a particularly important role in identifying the least developed among the developing countries.

In the resolution, which was adopted without objection, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited ECOSOC, the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD and international bodies responsible for measures to benefit developing countries, to accord a high priority to the question of the identification of the least developed among the developing countries, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session on the progress made towards such identification.

Resolution 2736 (XXV) Composition of the Secretariat

In commenting on the changes which had taken place in the composition of the Secretariat during the past year, a number of delegations emphasized the persistent under-representation of individual countries and regions. On the other hand, nationals of over-represented countries continued to be appointed to vacant posts, thus compounding the geographical imbalance in the Secretariat.

Several delegations drew attention to the fact that certain departments and offices of the Secretariat were particularly uneven in their nationality composition, especially at the senior level. In this connexion, reference was made to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional economic commissions.

The General Assembly approved the resolution by 81 votes in favour, none against with thirteen abstentions.

In the resolution the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to achieve a better geographical distribution of the staff at all levels, particularly at the senior levels in all fields and approved the guidelines for the recruitment of staff for the Secretariat, which in part read: "If, when recruiting staff to the regional economic commissions, qualified candidates of comparatively under-represented countries cannot be found within a reasonable period, preference should be given to qualified candidates of other countries of the same geographical region that are not fully represented, taking into full consideration the attainment of an equitable geographical distribution of posts among regions."

The General Assembly took note of the following paragraph in the Fifth Committee's report: "The Fifth Committee noted the under-representation of women in the Secretariat... and requested the Secretary-General to encourage Governments of Member States to make available qualified women to compete for positions of responsibility in the Secretariat, particularly at the senior level."

Resolution 2688 (XXV) The capacity of the United Nations development system

In this resolution the General Assembly, taking note of the observations made in the Governing Council of the UNDP at its tenth session and in the Council at its forty-ninth session, approved the provisions annexed to this resolution concerning the UNDP and declared that such provisions should apply to activities of the Programme commencing from 1 January 1971, taking into account the transitional measures in those provisions. These provisions are of interest to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB since they participate in various programmes financed by UNDP.

Resolution 2717 (XXV) Assistance in cases of natural disaster

This resolution, which was adopted unanimously, may be of concern to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, since it calls for strengthening and better co-ordinating the effort of the United Nations family of organizations in disaster relief. The General Assembly considers that additional measures are necessary to enable the United Nations system to play an effective and more significant role in meeting the needs of States, especially the developing countries, in relation to natural disasters, epidemics, famines and similar emergency situations.

During the discussion the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/8274/Rev.1) transmitting the text of a telegram received from the Executive Secretary of ECAFE. The document reproduced a resolution on international action for the mitigation of typhoon damage adopted by the ECAFE Typhoon Committee at its Third Session held in November in Bangkok. The appeal of the Typhoon Committee to the General Assembly has to some extent been taken into account in the text of the General Assembly resolution.

The Secretary-General is requested to prepare a comprehensive report, which should include, among others, his conclusions and recommendations on (1) the capacity of the different organizations of the United Nations system to contribute assistance in connexion with natural disasters; (2) the areas where this assistance might be increased or made more effective; (3) the most appropriate means to further strengthen the capacity of the United Nations relating to natural disasters, including the creation of a special permanent office responsible for the over-all co-ordination of action; (4) ways and means of ensuring better mobilization and co-ordination of the assistance to be provided through the United Nations and related organizations.

Resolution 2718 (XXV) Housing, building and planning

This resolution was adopted by the General Assembly with 106 votes in favour, none against and 9 abstentions.

Some of the measures, which the General Assembly recommends to the Member States and the United Nations organizations, may be of interest to the regional economic commissions. Thus, subparagraph (d) of the first operative paragraph calls for the evolution and application of regional planning for balanced rural and urban development especially in developing countries and operative paragraph 2 recommends, *inter alia*, the establishment of national and regional centres for studies in planning, designing, social and administrative aspects and experiments in low-cost housing techniques and activities.

In operative paragraph 7 the General Assembly considered that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning should play a major role in formulation and co-ordination of United Nations programmes and projects relating to housing, and that it should be strengthened "as a matter of high priority" both by greater resources and by additional personnel.

In paragraph 8 of the resolution the General Assembly "further considers that it is desirable to strengthen regional co-operation in the field of housing, building and planning".

Resolution 2746 (XXV) United Nations building in Santiago

The General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General dealing with the programme of modification and improvement of existing premises and the proposed construction of an additional office building in Santiago, as well as the related report of the ACABQ; concurred with the recommendations of the ACABQ as set out in its report; and authorized the Secretary-General to carry forward into 1971 the unencumbered balance of the funds provided in 1970 for the programme of modification and improvement of the existing United Nations building in Santiago, and for the preparation of preliminary plans and cost estimates for the proposed additional office building.

Resolution 2750 (XXV) Reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction and use of their resources in the interests of mankind, and convening of a conference on the law of the sea

Some of the provisions of this resolution may be of interest to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB. In resolution A, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to co-operate with UNCTAD, specialized agencies, and other competent organizations of the United Nations system in order to:

(a) Identify the problems arising from the production of certain minerals from the area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and examine the impact they would have on the economic well-being of the developing countries, in particular on prices of mineral exports on the world market;

/(b) Study these

- (b) Study these problems in the light of the scale of possible exploitation of the sea-bed taking into account the world demand for raw materials and the evolution of costs and prices;
- (c) Propose effective solutions for dealing with these problems.

The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the above-mentioned organizations, to keep this matter under constant view so as to submit supplementary information annually or whenever it was necessary and recommend additional measures in the light of economic, scientific and technological developments.

In resolution B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in collaboration with UNCTAD and other competent bodies, an up-to-date study of the matters referred to in the memorandum dated 14 January 1958 prepared by the Secretariat on the question of free access of land-locked countries to the sea, and to supplement that document, in the light of the events which had occurred in the meantime, with a report on special problems of land-locked countries relating to the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

