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Chairman: Mr. Costa P. CARANICAS (Greece).

AGENDA ITEM 21

Problems of the human environment: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/7514, A/7603, chap. V, sect. D; A/7707, A/7780, A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1, E/4667)

1. Mrs. BENNATON (Honduras) said that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment which was planned for 1972 was vitally important; it was indeed essential to prevent living conditions on the planet from becoming too hostile to mankind within the next few years. To ensure the success of the Conference, certain steps must be taken: efforts should be made to draw up as soon as possible a list of the questions to be considered; to obtain the most detailed studies already existing on those problems, both from international organizations and from universities, from private enterprises and from individuals whose research work could contribute to the discussion; to divide the questions according to whether they concerned the industrialized countries or the developing countries; to establish plans of action which Governments could adapt to the conditions in their own countries; to ask international organizations and specialized institutions to recommend ways of solving the various problems; to launch a publicity campaign in favour of the Conference, so that the public might become aware of the dangers in question; to set up an information centre to which Governments, institutions, private enterprises and individuals could apply for information and advice both during and after the Conference.

2. The agenda should also include questions concerning action to combat meteorological phenomena, such as rain, hurricanes and floods, which had often afflicted Honduras. Attention should also be given to the question of eliminating substances harmful to vegetation which were produced by the expanding industries of the developing countries.

3. Mr. LICHILANA (Zambia) noted from the report which the Secretary-General had submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session (see E/4667, para. 71) that in planning and management of the human environment emphasis was generally placed on

economic criteria and on physical and quantitative aspects of the problems more than on qualitative and socio-cultural aspects. That was particularly true of the developing countries, because they were trying to promote agrarian and industrial development at a faster rate than their social evolution could permit. He was not implying that development should be slowed down, but that modern methods should be devised, preferably at the international level, which would enable planners to take into account the problems of the human environment. The developing countries, in their efforts to hasten industrialization, must try to establish long-term projects and ensure that whatever was installed or constructed at the present time did not rapidly become obsolete. The execution of large-scale projects in the developing countries inevitably led to migration from the rural areas. Accelerated urbanization brought with it unemployment and serious social problems. The result was a deterioration in the human environment. In order to emerge from the economic stagnation which it had suffered during the colonial period, Zambia had had to bring into play all its financial and human resources to provide better living and working conditions for its citizens. While the number of housing units built in the capital had increased by over 50 per cent in the past six years, however, the population had increased in the same period by more than 100 per cent, not only through natural population growth, but mainly as a result of migration from rural areas. The funds and technical personnel needed to cope with such a situation were in short supply. Migration entailed difficult problems for individuals and was further complicated by communications problems between different linguistic groups. Although the urban centres were developing very rapidly, however, the village schools had fewer and fewer pupils. Mention should also be made of the serious pollution problems brought about by industrial development in the developing countries. The number of road accidents had also increased in Zambia, and that was a problem which ought to be studied at the international level. Man's increasing dependence on technological appliances led, especially in the urban centres, to the isolation of the individual and the dissolution or fragmentation of primary social institutions.

4. For a long time nothing had been done about soil conservation. The new reforms in land tenure and the introduction of conservation methods might well improve the situation, but knowledge of conservation methods was not sufficient in itself in a country which was subject to torrential summer rains. International assistance was essential before science and technology could be applied to solve those problems. Zambia had also made notable efforts in reforestation, and it tried to protect game in its natural habitat. All those problems, however, were still far from being solved. He needed only to mention the difficulties encountered in the struggle to prevent lakes from being

covered by various kinds of water weed. The Conference in 1972 would therefore have a vast number of problems to consider and analyse, and Zambia would contribute what it could from its own experience.

5. Mr. JOHNSON (Jamaica) considered the preservation of the human environment to be a question of universal relevance. The many problems to which that question gave rise reflected the qualitative aspect of development, which should be a means of securing the well-being and dignity of man in all countries. His delegation was therefore unable to accept the premise that the question of the human environment should be regarded as being of greater concern to the developed countries than to the developing countries. The latter already knew the evils of pollution and the deterioration of the environment. The development of air travel networks and the question of maintaining the oxygen level in the atmosphere at 20 per cent were problems which concerned all countries. Urbanization presented special problems in tropical regions, where the hot climate called for more spacious and better ventilated living accommodation, but where the expansion of urban centres ran up against another problem, that of the scarcity of agricultural land. The question of preserving the human environment must therefore be approached from a general standpoint if the solutions and plans adopted were to be viable.

6. The problems of the human environment could not be solved simply by adopting laws or conventions, as the experience of the European countries clearly showed. The support and participation of the people at all levels was essential, and an appeal must be made for such support and participation to ensure that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment yielded results. In that connexion, he recalled the proposal made by his country's representative in the general debate at the current session of the General Assembly (see 1767th plenary meeting), to the effect that United Nations bodies should prepare manuals on the environmental sciences which could be used in education at the primary, secondary and university levels.

7. His delegation did not think that socio-economic problems could be completely excluded from the work of the Conference, because, in its view, the problems of the human environment should be considered in all their complexity so that any solutions which were proposed might go to the heart of the matter. That was something which would have to be discussed by the proposed Preparatory Committee. Without prejudging the question, his delegation felt that, since man himself was the central element in the problem of the human environment, human activities should be considered in relation to their effect in enhancing or destroying the human environment.

8. In conclusion, he wished to thank the Swedish delegation for offering (see A/7514) to act as host in Stockholm in 1972 to the Conference.

9. Mr. AKSIN (Turkey) observed that it was on the initiative of the Swedish Government that the question of the human environment had been taken up at the forty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council, the twenty-third session of the General Assembly and again at the forty-seventh session of the Council. With regard to the preparations for the Conference in 1972, his delegation

wished to thank the Swedish Government for having invited the Conference to convene in Stockholm. Thanks were also due to the Secretary-General for his report (E/4667), which clearly revealed the full complexity of the problems. The Conference would make it possible to bring those questions to the attention of a broader section of the public and to decide what kind of international action would be most appropriate to deal with them. His delegation approved the purposes and objectives of the Conference as defined in the Secretary-General's report; they should serve as a guide in the preparation of a balanced and action-oriented agenda. It was important to ensure that the documentation was not too voluminous, and also that Governments were able to study it in good time. It would be useful to hold preparatory regional seminars on questions related to the human environment in 1970 and 1971. The developing countries could be helped to participate by means of UNDP technical assistance. The idea expressed in paragraph 135 of the report concerning the establishment of *ad hoc* committees in various countries to facilitate the preparations for the Conference had much to commend it. The recommendations of the Conference must be directed towards long-term action. Finally, particular consideration should be given to the special needs of the developing countries. Turkey took an active interest in the question and approved draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1, which it would support without reservation.

10. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the importance of the problems of the human environment could be explained by the fact that it was necessary to conserve and use in a rational way the two sources of all wealth: man and nature. Both were closely linked. While it was true that the well-being of society depended largely on nature, natural wealth depended also increasingly on the activities of human society. The evolution of society was accompanied by a process of submission of nature to man. However, man had the choice between an undisciplined exploitation and a planned utilization of resources to avert their destruction. Friedrich Engels had written: "Man should not rejoice in his victories over nature. For each of his victories, nature takes her revenge. In addition to the foreseen consequences, each victory brings with it other consequences which are entirely unforeseen; and very often the latter are much more important than the former. With every step, the facts remind us that we are not the masters of nature, but that we belong to it and form part of it, and our domination is due to the fact that we know its laws and how to use them correctly." History offered many examples of irresponsible utilization, of the pillaging of natural resources, which had led to the complete disappearance of important sources of wealth. Forests had disappeared, fertile land had been impoverished, the water balance had been disrupted, many animal and vegetable species had disappeared, the climate had deteriorated, and conditions of life had grown worse over vast territories.

11. Karl Marx, in his analysis of the laws of development of capitalist society, had noted the inevitable emergence of progressive forces capable of changing the world by securing the well-being of mankind and social justice. Appealing to future generations to protect natural resources, Karl Marx had defined the duty of man, which was to leave a better world for future generations. Socialist

society was fulfilling that obligation. The Communist Party and the Government of the Soviet Union attached particular importance to the protection of nature. For the first time in history, the transformation of the natural environment for the good of all had been defined scientifically at the national level. That had only been possible through the victory of the great October Socialist Revolution and to the establishment of collective ownership of land and natural resources. Unlike capitalism, which was based on an arbitrary and anarchistic development of the economy and on the acquisition of maximum profit by all possible means, socialism secured the development of production on the basis of the rational utilization of natural wealth, in order to improve the living standard of present and future generations. Lenin had attached such importance to the question that, in the very early days of Soviet power, he had signed the first decree ending the system of private ownership of land, waters and forests, and had established the system of collective ownership. That decree had put an end to the exploitation and the pillaging of Russia's natural wealth by Russian and foreign capitalists to whom the Tsars had granted concessions in the richest territories. The land decree had formed the basis for important economic and legal steps, designed to transform nature in the interests of economic development. As a result, the Soviet Government had adopted many legislative and administrative measures for the protection, reconstitution and rational utilization of natural resources. Those long-term measures were part of the Communist Party's programme. They also played an important role in economic planning. The greater technical opportunities accessible to modern man had thus increased the importance of the problem of the mutual relationships between nature and human society.

12. The adverse consequences of the scientific and technological revolution, the pollution of water and air, the destruction of forests, land, plants and animals by insecticides could not be disregarded. Mankind now had a long series of complex problems to solve. In that connexion, mention should be made of the Intergovernmental Conference of Experts on the Scientific Basis for Rational Use and Conservation of the Resources of the Biosphere which had been organized by UNESCO in Paris in September 1968. The solution of the problems of the human environment constituted one of the most important tasks to be solved at the international level. The Soviet Government was particularly interested in collaboration at the international level and was ready to make its contribution. He recalled the initiative of the Soviet Union which had contributed to the preparation, and subsequently the conclusion, of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water.¹ It had thus been possible to solve the problem of the radioactive pollution of the biosphere. The awareness of an immediate danger and the correct evaluation of the situation had enabled the conclusion of the Treaty to be accelerated. Another example of international co-operation was the Draft Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof. The draft had been submitted to the United Nations by the Soviet Union and the United States

of America.² The adoption of the ban would free mankind from a serious threat.

13. Modern science appeared capable of organizing the human environment so as to enable man to preserve his physical and moral well-being. However, the problem was difficult to resolve, on the scientific and technological level, as well as on that of the economic and social organization of society. At the present time legislative, scientific and technological measures were adopted in the USSR to ensure the rational use of natural wealth and to protect nature. Mass information media—radio, television and cinema—were making a permanent effort at education in that sphere. In a report submitted in connexion with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution, the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, Leonid Brejnev, had stated: "The rational use of natural resources, the conservation of soil, forests, water and atmosphere, fauna and flora, is the concern of every Communist. We must protect and embellish the earth for present and future Soviet generations." Workers, collective farmers, scholars, scientific advisers, radio, press and television were endeavouring not only to draw attention to the harmful effects of technical progress but also to prepare proposals and to implement measures designed to improve the human environment. The whole population was participating in the effort. In accordance with the directives of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government, an enormous scientific study of nature was taking place. It was aimed not merely at preventing the destruction of nature but at increasing its productive capacity. The planning organs and the scientific institutions attached great importance to the preparation and implementation of a general scientific plan for the transformation of nature.

14. Everyday experience confirmed that the predominance of private ownership in the production and distribution of material wealth was contrary to a planned, rational action in regard to nature. On the contrary, that predominance was helping to destroy natural resources and ruin the biosphere. It was difficult to control forces that were inspired by the profit motive, by exploitation and by pillaging, and to avert the adverse influence which they had on nature and man. However, in the world of today where the forces of socialism and progress also existed, there was no reason to yield to the forces of capitalist anarchy. The action of international organizations and of the various Governments should lead to a solution of the many problems of the human environment.

15. His delegation supported the proposal to organize a United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm in 1972. The detailed report of the Secretary-General (E/4667) contained a description of the problems and defined the structure of the Conference. In the view of the Soviet delegation, the success of the Conference would depend in the main upon the definition of the notion of the human environment and its limits. It was not desirable to study all the problems mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General. That would only weaken the role which the Conference was called upon to play. The human

² See *Official Records of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement for 1969*, document DC/232, annex A.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 480 (1963), No. 6964.

environment should be defined as that in which mankind lived permanently, and which directly influenced the life and activities of man. In accordance with that definition, outer space, the upper layers of the atmosphere and the ocean masses beyond the continental shelf should be excluded from the human environment. With respect to the atmosphere, the limit should be set at the level of civil aviation flights. Similarly, the definition of the human environment should be restricted to the upper strata of the soil and should not extend beyond the ground-water table.

16. The Conference could profitably examine the following four categories of questions: first, general questions concerning the influence of the human environment on human life, the present state of that environment, population growth, urbanization and the consequences of the scientific and technical revolution; secondly, scientific and technical questions, particularly modern methods of protecting the environment; thirdly, social and economic issues affecting all countries, including the question of population growth, the study of ways to improve the material and cultural circumstances of the population, the effect of environmental changes on health, the creation of recreation areas and the improvement and development of the urban environment. Fourthly, it would be as well to consider juridical and legislative questions and to lay the foundations for a declaration to be adopted by the United Nations on the relationship between man and his environment.

17. His delegation's proposals should ensure that the work of the Conference was more substantial in content. In addition, the arrangement of the four categories of questions corresponded to the structure of the United Nations system of specialized agencies—a factor which would tend to reduce expenditure and facilitate the organization of work. All States which wished to take part in the Conference should be invited. The success of the Conference would depend on the application of the principle of universality in its preparation and organization as well as in the study and implementation of essential measures. His delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1, although it felt that operative paragraph 6 should in no circumstances restrict the Secretary-General's freedom to hold consultations on problems of the human environment. Nor should that paragraph prevent the Secretary-General from drawing on the information and experience acquired on the subject by certain socialist countries which were not members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies. To reduce the cost of the Conference to a minimum, outside specialists should be enlisted and the maximum use made of the specialists and technical staff of the specialized agencies and of the United Nations Secretariat. Furthermore, the preparation of documents and reports should be so organized that most of the documentation was prepared by, and at the expense of, national institutes. His delegation supported the proposal for the establishment of a small secretariat (see E/4667, para. 133), which could begin the preparatory work for the Conference very shortly. His Government was prepared to play an active part in the work of the Preparatory Committee. Finally, he thanked the Swedish delegation for its co-operative spirit and its preparations for that important international Conference. His delegation would do its utmost to ensure the success of the preparatory work and of the Conference itself.

18. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that he would like to dwell on the types of problems facing his country. Japan consisted of four main islands and a few smaller ones, with a total surface area of 370,000 square kilometres and more than 100 million inhabitants. The average population density was generally estimated at some 700 persons per square kilometre but was, in fact, approximately 3,500 per square mile. For the past seventy years, Japan had managed to feed its large population on a very restricted territory. Industrialization had been accompanied by urbanization and some 70 per cent of Japanese were now living in urban areas. Those new figures indicated the magnitude of the human environmental problems facing Japan. In the past fifteen years, the pace of industrialization and urbanization had increased and the deterioration in the human environment had been very marked. A few years previously, it had been possible to see Fuji-Yama in the distance from Tokyo. That time was now past. Atmospheric pollution prevented the effects of the sun's rays from being felt at ground level. To remedy the situation, the Japanese authorities had endeavoured to control the sources of pollution but their attempts had not always been successful.

19. In business districts, the consumption of underground water for the air-conditioning of buildings drained the soil and undermined the foundations of buildings. It had thus been necessary to enact legislation to control the consumption of underground water.

20. The harmful effects of industrialization were sometimes more direct. A few years previously, the inhabitants of Minamata had begun to suffer from paralysis. It had been some time before the cause of the illness had been traced to industrial waste containing a compound of mercury. In certain towns in the centre of Japan, near Nagoya, air pollution was so severe that many inhabitants suffered from bronchitis and children were forced to wear masks to reduce its effects. The inhabitants could not move out because they were dependent on industries established in the area. Ways of reducing pollution therefore had to be found.

21. Those examples clearly demonstrated the gravity of the environmental damage resulting from industrialization and urbanization. The Japanese authorities were naturally doing their utmost by means of legislative and administrative measures to eliminate the causes of such damage and to improve the situation where damage had already occurred. In many cases, the problems could be eradicated by technical means. Nevertheless, there were certain economic and social considerations that could not be sacrificed to technology.

22. At the end of October 1969, the number of road deaths had exceeded 13,000. Particularly serious was the fact that many of the victims had been pedestrians. Strong measures to prevent such a situation would entail the banning of motor vehicles, at least in built-up areas. But that was not a practical solution. It was therefore necessary to widen pavements and build passenger gangways and embanked roads. It was easy to talk of solutions in the abstract but difficult to apply them. Nevertheless, each country must find solutions by its own means and through international co-operation.

23. As the Iranian and Netherlands representatives had remarked during a previous meeting (see 1276th meeting),

progress should not be resisted. It was necessary to seek ways of preserving the human environment while simultaneously organizing industrialization. It was obviously difficult to change an established situation without expense and social friction. It was of paramount importance, therefore, to make provision for the future as far as humanly possible.

24. The foregoing problems belonged for the most part to the category described in part I of the Secretary-General's report (E/4667) as "problems of human settlement". Yet his delegation was equally concerned over regional and global problems. In the Economic and Social Council, it had been among the first to support the Swedish proposal that the question should be studied. His delegation was also extremely disturbed over the possible dangers of radioactive pollution of the atmosphere and earth; once detected, that problem was insurmountable. The effects of human activities on the weather and climate was another cause of concern. All those problems had implications which extended beyond national frontiers; but they were the problems most susceptible to international action, and international co-operation was essential to their solution.

25. As a result of the problems which it faced and its attempts to solve them, his country had considerable knowledge of the subject which it was prepared to share with the developed and developing countries. It could make a valuable contribution to the Conference itself and to the preparations for it.

26. The aims of the Conference as stated in the Secretary-General's report were valid. He had several comments with regard to its organization. As it was due to last only two weeks and was to deal with a very broad and complex subject, the Conference must be prepared with meticulous care. The questions to be examined should be chosen carefully and those selected should be the ones most susceptible to recommendations and international action. It was to be hoped that the Conference would also lead to periodic and systematic exchanges of information on environmental problems and to the formulation of international solutions; and also that it would be followed up by surveys. As to its financial implications, the reduction in the initial expenditure estimates was to be welcomed (see A/7707, paras. 6-8). His delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would continue his efforts to reduce such expenditure to the minimum without, however, jeopardizing the success of the Conference.

27. Finally, his delegation was glad to be among the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1.

28. Mrs. BLACK (United States of America) said that the gradual degradation of the human environment was a universal phenomenon. The United States shared the concern expressed by Sweden and continued to support the decision to hold a United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Needless to say, the United States delegation would also support draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1.

29. The concern felt by the United States was rooted in the acuteness of the social problems which pollution had caused in its urban centres. It had learned much and was

anxious to share its knowledge with others. At a meeting of the General Assembly (see 1755th plenary meeting), the President of the United States had reaffirmed his confidence in the principle of international co-operation and had emphasized that environmental problems were not confined to the local or national plane.

30. Her delegation wished to make some recommendations concerning the Conference. It supported the proposal concerning the organization of a small secretariat, the appointment of a Secretary-General of the Conference and the establishment of a Preparatory Committee of qualified representatives. However, the problems of the human environment were extremely complex and interrelated and their solution called for the services of highly competent and experienced experts in the fields of biology, physics, chemistry, transport and general ecology.

31. Since the Conference was to last only two weeks, it was essential to restrict the agenda and the scope of the matters to be discussed. For that reason, only three commissions should be established: the commission on problems of human settlements and industrial development; the commission on rational use and development of natural resources, and the commission on environmental pollution. Thus a whole series of matters of secondary importance would be excluded from the agenda.

32. With regard to the financial implications of the Conference, the reduction of \$354,000 (see A/7707, para. 7) with respect to the original cost estimates constituted a welcome first step. However, at the forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council, the United States delegation had expressed the view that the Conference costs could be brought within the range of \$1 million, particularly by limiting documentation and reducing the number of commissions.³ Her delegation still felt that the cost of the Conference could be reduced below the estimates given in the latest Secretariat document. However, it would not press the matter at the present stage of the debate, since the Preparatory Committee would, as a matter of priority, examine the Conference budget with a particular eye to further reductions, that would not impair the effectiveness of the Conference.

33. A study of the background documents for the Conference occasioned some uneasiness. It was true that they brought out clearly the urgent need to study the multiple problems of the human environment. However, it was difficult to see how the discussions, proposals and recommendations which would result would be linked to one another, although environmental problems were all interrelated. The Conference should be given clear guidance and should be invited to consider the problems of the human environment in the context of ecological systems. The Conference could be helped to ensure its own success, eliminating the risk of its becoming a seminar for the proposal of solutions which failed to have any effect.

Mr. Amirmokri (Iran), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

34. Mr. EGAS (Ecuador) said that the expression "problems of the human environment" was not altogether

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-seventh Session, 1629th meeting.*

satisfactory, since a physical environment and a human environment were involved; but it had the merit of showing that mankind as a whole faced the same dangers, for which it bore the responsibility, since they were the result of its influence upon the elements. In that field, there was no longer any conflict between the developed and the developing countries, or among those with different social and political systems; fruitful co-operation could therefore be expected.

35. The question was an extremely complex one and it should be approached methodically. It should be borne in mind, first of all, that man was a phenomenon of the earth's surface who was distinguished by his energy and by his ability to create, destroy or conserve his surroundings. His activities were therefore governed by the broad principles which ruled nature and which created close cause-and-effect relationships between all phenomena. The establishment of urban complexes and the products of a powerful technology had an impact on the environment to an extent that could not be predicted with any accuracy. Man must be aware of that process if he wished to preserve his biosphere. It would be wrong to think that a particular harmful activity could be reversed at will. It should be recognized, in all humility, that despite the progress made, more was unknown than was known about the human environment.

36. Agreements should be concluded to prohibit activities which were devoted largely to warlike ends, even at the experimental stage. The ban should apply to all terrestrial and outer space; the restrictions imposed by the principles of national sovereignty appeared obsolete in the face of the threatening forces of technology. It had hitherto been believed that the destruction of mankind would come suddenly; it was now known that the species could be annihilated much more subtly, through the degradation of the biosphere. In that way, it was not only the present but also future generations which would be affected. Moreover, man had begun to appropriate the air and the oceans; those were two new types of space which he had as yet little explored and in which he would have to proceed with extreme caution, in the light of the experience acquired on land. In that respect, the Secretary-General's report (E/4667) contained some judicious warnings. It pointed out, in particular, that destruction or depletion of marine resources had been a continuing process in the absence of effective control and management, and that the space projects in progress, such as the World Weather Watch, still required more adequate support (*ibid.*, paras. 48-49). Any agreements concluded to prohibit the use of the earth, the air and the oceans for non-peaceful purposes should therefore contain no lacunae, since the effects of harmful activities were not contained by conventional political barriers. The earth should be treated as a single, indivisible and common heritage; if it was damaged at any point whatsoever, the repercussions were felt by the whole human race.

37. It should also be pointed out that economic activities, particularly when they used natural resources which were in the process of exhaustion or which were only slowly replenished, inevitably impaired the geographical environment. Nature was less prodigal than was generally believed. There was no doubt that science and technology were

succeeding in raising output and that they often widened the economic horizons; but that was never enough to offset irreparable damage. The world was growing smaller every day, not only from the standpoint of distance but also from that of the volume of available resources. Economic planning should therefore take account of the need not only to prevent the exhaustion of resources but to use them in such a way that they made the best possible contribution to the welfare of the human race. One of the unfortunate consequences of industrialization was the anarchical destruction of the environment. Industrial undertakings were governed solely by the principle of quick profits and speculation; thus, mining irrevocably destroyed vast areas of agricultural land which, once the ore was exhausted, would turn into waste lands. Some species of fish, much in demand on the market, were on the point of extinction. In some countries, the most fertile plains had been covered up by the cement and concrete of urban complexes.

38. In the developing countries, the greed on the part of some and the need to obtain foreign exchange at any price had resulted in the irrational exploitation of particular products for which there was a demand on foreign markets. It could be held, without fear of exaggeration, that the production of one article resulted in the destruction of a hundred others. The one-crop system, which impoverished the producer as much as it did the soil, was a result of the fact that enormous quantities were required in order to participate in international trade movements. However, it often happened that the whims of an exacting customer, coupled with the pricing policy or the lack of an infrastructure for the storage of the product in question, caused enormous losses.

39. He had listened with the greatest interest to the statement made by the Netherlands representative (see 1276th meeting, para. 24) to the effect that the Stockholm Conference of 1972 should be attended not only by experts but by legislators and planners too. The degradation of the environment was attributable to the fact that there were no laws or agreements on the exploitation of resources or the conditions governing their marketing. So far as planning was concerned, it was to be hoped that man was now convinced that economics was not a set of principles and maxims which, once established, were valid for all time, and that it must be based on nature if economic activities were to be planned to suit the possibilities afforded by the geographical space.

40. Lastly, he wished to refer to a problem which might have some unexpected consequences—the deterioration of the geographical environment as a result of the absence of human settlement. Sparsely-populated countries did not produce the most consumer goods per acre—on the contrary, they were more likely to suffer from erosion by rain and wind. That could be prevented only by increased cultivation and afforestation, which required many helping hands. Contrary to what was generally believed, modern agriculture required increased human effort. There might be fewer agricultural labourers, but thousands of people were needed to construct dams and carry out land improvements, soil contouring, irrigation and all the other activities required for the effective preservation of the geographical environment. In areas where the population was small—almost a token population—nature acted with self-destructive

tive fury. In the case of the Amazon, for example, it had been estimated that the 5 million tons of alluvium swept away by the Amazon along its course and deposited in the Atlantic would cover the whole of Massachusetts with 15 cm of earth. That lost agricultural wealth could perhaps be used one day if man applied his skill to the problem. But tasks of that dimension could not be undertaken by one State or a group of States alone—they required joint action by the whole of mankind which bore the responsibility for preserving the biosphere.

41. The Secretary-General's report (E/4667) was a commendable attempt at systematization, but as the report itself noted, additional classifications were required; for example, a distinction could be drawn between activities which were harmful to the environment but were inevitable because they served some economic purpose, activities which could be avoided to some extent and required control, and lastly, activities which were unproductive, and therefore useless, and should be prohibited by law. Another break-down could also be made by sectors responsible for activities harmful to the human environment—the State, private organizations with public interests, private enterprises and individuals. Such a classification would provide a basis for better planning both of the systems to be used and also of ways of providing the resources required.

42. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's thanks to the Government of Sweden under whose auspices the international community would be studying one of the most pressing problems of the times.

Mr. Caranicas (Greece) resumed the Chair.

43. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said he had no intention of asserting the superiority of one socio-economic system over another.

44. The United Kingdom Government sincerely hoped that the Conference would be a success and that it would strongly influence both world public opinion and the action of Governments. In order to achieve its objectives, the Conference should avoid diffusing its efforts. The Economic and Social Council had clearly recognized that danger and had attempted at its forty-seventh session to avert it. However, dissipation of effort would be a constant danger throughout the period of preparation for the Conference and in that connexion his delegation attached great importance to operative paragraph 13 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1. The need to concentrate the work and efforts of the Conference was a matter which should be given constant attention in the Preparatory Committee. Considerable thought would have to be given to the scope of the Conference and also to its structure and content. Paragraphs 93 to 101 and 106 to 121 of the Secretary-General's report (E/4667) provided a sound basis for the work of the Preparatory Committee, but they should not be considered as the final word on the matter.

45. The United States representative had commented on the structure of the Conference. Documentation was another aspect of the preparations which would have to be under constant scrutiny. Although his delegation gratefully recognized the reductions made by the Secretary-General in the original estimates for the financial implications of the

Conference (see A/7707), it wished to draw attention to the illuminating report on the subject (A/7760) which the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had submitted to the Fifth Committee. His delegation was not convinced of the need for hiring outside consultants to prepare additional background material. The Office for Science and Technology should be able to produce the necessary material on the basis of contributions received from the specialized agencies. He was not convinced, either, of the need to hire high-level consultants, at least at the present stage. The Preparatory Committee should look into those matters.

46. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 contained two references to intergovernmental organizations and the contributions they could make to the preparations for the Conference. He hoped that the Secretary-General would endeavour to seek contributions from a very wide range of intergovernmental organizations.

47. His delegation accepted the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1) submitted by Sweden and would have no objection to its being put to the vote as a matter of priority.

48. Referring to the comments made by one delegation with regard to the consultations to be undertaken by the Secretary-General, he said his delegation took it for granted that the Secretary-General would be guided by the precise wording of the relevant provisions of the draft resolution.

49. Mr. COUSTE (France) noted with satisfaction the considerable progress which had been made in the discussions since, on the proposal of Sweden,⁴ the international community had first taken up the question of a United Nations conference on the human environment at the forty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council. The valuable debates since held in the General Assembly and the Council had helped to reconcile the views of delegations which had strongly supported the Swedish initiative with those of delegations like his own, which had had some reservations about the project. As a result there was now a clearer idea of the possible form which the preparations might take, and of the lines on which the Conference would be organized. That did not mean, of course, that all the problems had been ironed out or that, as far as his delegation was concerned, a completely satisfactory reply had been given to all the questions raised. In particular, the widely differing nature of the Government replies to the Secretariat inquiry seemed to suggest that the danger of over-diffusion of efforts had not been completely averted. His delegation wished therefore to make a few observations with regard to the Conference.

50. The main virtue of the Swedish initiative was that it had provided an opportunity for simultaneous consideration of problems which were not new, but whose interdependence had not perhaps been sufficiently clearly recognized by Governments and the international community.

51. The developed countries viewed the problem mainly in terms of a certain deterioration in the physical environment

⁴ Document E/4466/Add.1.

as the result of technological progress. They were, naturally, concerned about the pollution of the air, rivers and oceans, etc. caused by man in his constant exploitation of the Earth's resources. The physical environment also embraced an artificial environment which was gradually becoming the principal framework of human life: he was referring to the dehumanized cities where community facilities were often inadequate. However, there was also a sociological, a cultural and, to some extent, a moral aspect to the transformation of the human environment—namely, the gradual dissolution of traditional groups and the development of new social groups. In general, the changes in the human environment in advanced societies gave rise to new shortages—of air, water, space and time—and to undesirable excesses, for example, the omnipresent advertisements and noise which represented a constant assault on the senses and the intelligence.

52. For the developing countries, the problem was even more serious: the consequences of industrialization were superimposed on the specific problems of poverty. For the poorest of the developing nations, the environment was particularly harsh, and their world was full of hardships. But in all, or nearly all the developing countries, those primitive forms of civilization coexisted with the environment created by material progress. Because those countries had to move quickly and increase their output at all costs, the social and human effects of hasty industrialization were often ignored. For persons moving without a period of transition from one world to the other, the problems—though different from those of the developed countries—were even more acute.

53. The diversity of the problems thus created could provide an endless list of possible topics for the Conference. It was therefore essential to be selective, and his delegation suggested three possible criteria. Since the Conference was to be organized by the United Nations, its agenda should include only those questions which were already, or were likely to be, of concern both to developed and developing countries. Secondly, the questions discussed should be practical problems. Lastly, since the Conference would be held at the intergovernmental level, it should deal only with those problems whose solution depended most directly on suitable action by national public authorities or international institutions.

54. The adoption of those three criteria should make it possible to focus attention on problems relating to man's material environment, namely, the problems of the physical and biological environment, without however neglecting certain directly related social and cultural problems. Problems of that kind were of common concern to the international community as a whole, to the developing and the advanced countries alike. Both groups of countries were aware that their populations were seriously endangered by some of the consequences of industrialization, particularly air and water pollution, the disturbance of ecological balances and the growing scarcity of natural space. Their objectives went far beyond the mere conservation of the natural environment; and delegations of the developing countries, like those of the developed countries, were fully in agreement on the need to improve the artificial environment created by industrialization. The valuable work done by United Nations organs and the specialized agencies had

provided relatively precise and objective data on the problems of the physical and biological environment, which would provide a solid basis for a fruitful exchange of views. An attempt could therefore be made to identify common objectives for future Government action. It was at the Government level that action was both desirable and possible—whether Governments exercised direct control of industrialization, urbanization and economic development in general or whether they took action through legislation or regulation.

55. The French delegation hoped therefore that the agenda for the 1972 Conference would in the main be concerned with action taken by man in relation to his material and natural environment. If the Committee could at the present stage agree to ask the Preparatory Committee to adopt those subjects as the main issues to be discussed at the forthcoming Conference, it would have taken an important step towards adopting a realistic idea of the whole undertaking.

56. The Committee should also decide at the present stage how the Conference was to be prepared and what methods it should use; and it should further attempt to define the nature of the follow-up action to be taken.

57. With regard to the methods to be adopted at the Conference, the Committee must decide precisely at what level and in what form the discussions were to be held. Clearly, on problems such as water pollution, conservation of the species and the normalization of the habitat—on which the specialized agencies had produced useful studies—there was no need for scientific discussions. On the contrary, the Conference should endeavour to benefit from existing knowledge in order to promote action at the Government level. To achieve that objective, the participants should prepare a list of activities which could be undertaken by national authorities, and a list of activities for which international regulations could be recommended.

58. With regard to the preparation of the Conference, the French delegation believed that the Committee should enlist the co-operation of national experts who already had some experience of international conferences and who would constitute the Preparatory Committee. In order to work effectively, the Preparatory Committee should be a small body no larger than the Economic and Social Council. Each country invited to participate in its work should take care to ensure that the composition of its delegation reflected the diversity of the subjects that would necessarily have to be discussed by the Preparatory Committee.

59. The agreement to be reached on the content of the discussions at the Conference would also have some impact on its results. In his delegation's view the participants in the Conference, after listing specifically all possible types of activity, would in the normal course have to address recommendations to all Governments and to the specialized agencies concerned. Those recommendations would at least have the merit of enlightening public opinion and political leaders and would perhaps induce the latter to work out, accept or improve appropriate institutional and legislative measures. Some degree of international co-operation should undoubtedly be continued after the Conference, in the form of consultations which should be held in a flexible

rather than an institutional framework. Any suggestion for the creation of a new specialized agency, which could only trespass upon the competence of the existing agencies, should be viewed with suspicion.

60. His delegation was prepared to support draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1 submitted by the Swedish delegation. That draft took account of the comments which his delegation had made in the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session with a view to ensuring the Conference's success. In any case, his delegation thought that the purport of the provision of the draft was the same as that of the resolution (Council resolution 1448 (XLVII)) adopted at the conclusion of the Council's debate.

61. Nevertheless, there was still a danger that the Conference might merely be an occasion for disbursing large sums of money on convening a large number of representatives to undertake a hurried and superficial examination of problems of concern to all mankind. His delegation therefore attached the highest importance to the composition of the Preparatory Committee, to the organization of its work and to a precise and realistic definition of the Conference's objectives.

62. Mr. MARTOHADINEGORO (Indonesia) recalled that his delegation had been one of the sponsors of General Assembly resolution 2398 (XXIII) and the Economic and Social Council resolution 1448 (XLVII) on the question of the human environment. As could be seen from the Secretary-General's report (E/4667), the problems of the human environment were the concern not only of the developed countries—although they often applied to them to a greater extent—but also of the developing countries. For example, the population explosion, unorganized urbanization and the effects of poorly planned industrialization were already noticeable in many developing countries, including Indonesia.

63. The Conference would provide the international community with an opportunity to take collective action to solve problems that could not be solved solely by national action. He agreed with those speakers who had called for broad participation and felt that the specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should therefore be invited to express their views. The only difference of substance between the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1) and the text adopted by the Economic and Social Council (see Council resolution 1448 (XLVII)) was that the former envisaged broader participation. His delegation warmly supported the draft while maintaining an open mind with regard to possible future improvements.

64. Mr. STRADOWSKI (Poland) expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-General for his valuable report (E/4667). Poland had long been aware of the seriousness of the problem and was closely co-operating with its neighbours in preserving and improving the human environment by eliminating in particular the deleterious effects of industrialization. For example, the Polish Academy of Science and numerous other scientific institutions were co-ordinating their efforts with the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR scientific institutes to prevent pollution

in border areas. Poland was also co-operating with Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic and had held exchanges of views with Swedish scientists with a view to the protection of the Baltic area. The most intense work had been carried out in the highly industrialized regions of Poland, and the best results had been obtained in the region of Silesia, where millions of trees had been planted, parks had been laid out and great efforts had been made to reduce air and water pollution. More than forty Polish scientists of the University of Cracow were engaged in over-all research and analysis of the human environment. That team of scientists, in co-operation with seventy-five Polish universities, had already published a large number of scientific papers and books that might be useful to other countries, and Poland was willing to help them benefit from its experience. His delegation was convinced, that, despite the difficulties that might arise, unanimous agreement could be reached on the principal items of the Conference's agenda. It hoped that the Conference on the Problems of Environment, to be held at Prague in 1971, would be equally useful. As a member of the Preparatory Committee of the Prague Conference, Poland would do its best to ensure the success of that important meeting.

65. The 1972 Conference required careful preparation. His delegation believed that the following groups of subjects should be considered: (i) the conditions necessary for the preservation and rehabilitation of the human environment; (ii) the influence of the environment on the human being; (iii) the best methods for establishing adequate social and economic conditions in each particular area; (iv) the possibility of a rational transformation of the human environment in the context of development in particular fields; (v) the elaboration of guidelines for the prevention of deteriorating conditions due to urbanization and industrialization.

66. In order to ensure that the Conference would be successful and that all its decisions would be respected, participation must be truly universal. All countries wishing to take part in the Conference should therefore be admitted, whatever their political system. The Preparatory Committee should be set up on an equitable geographical basis and should consist of scientists, politicians, economists and technicians. The budget should be carefully prepared. Lastly, his delegation, as a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1, hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

67. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that the crusade against man's "inhumanity" to nature was long overdue, as could be seen from the excellent report of the Secretary-General (E/4667). The current age was one of paradoxes: the reduction in mortality rates and the progress of technology, while most welcome in themselves, were among the main reasons for the evils besetting the human environment. All countries, developed and developing, whatever their ideologies, should participate in the struggle; as had been pointed out by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, environmental problems affected the whole of mankind. Economic and social development would be of no avail if human survival were to be jeopardized. The Philippines had already made modest efforts to solve the problem, and the Government had set up a number of official organs to deal

with such matters as fish, fauna and flora resources, air and water pollution, soil erosion, reforestation and rational mining techniques. In addition, stress was laid in education on the need to preserve the country's resources.

68. His delegation had been a sponsor of Economic and Social Council resolution 1448 (XLVII), and General Assembly resolution 2398 (XXIII) and had therefore been glad to co-sponsor the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1). It generally endorsed the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council concerning preparations for the Conference. Emphasis should be placed on action rather than debate, and the commissions to be established should be composed of highly skilled experts. His delegation supported the proposal for the establishment of a Preparatory Committee and a provisional secretariat and was glad to note that the Secretary-General had been able to reduce the estimated cost of the Conference (see A/7707, paras. 6-8). However, the figure of 1,200 participants seemed too large for a two-week Conference. It might well be that such a large attendance would not be conducive to positive results, as had been the case at the second session of UNCTAD. Only such advisers and experts as were absolutely necessary for the success of the Conference should be invited, and other reductions could be made in the estimates, particularly with regard to documentation, conference services and the printing of the final report. A lesson should be learnt from the mistakes made at the second session of UNCTAD, when the documentation had been far too copious. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

69. Mr. KOH (Singapore) said it was wrong to think that the problems of the human environment affected only the rich countries. Although there were differences in the degree of intensity of the evils which beset or threatened the industrialized and the developing countries, those problems were facing all countries. The main causes seemed to be urbanization and industrialization, and the conclusion could be drawn that the more successful a country was in accelerating its industrialization, the more rapidly its surrounding environment would be affected. That being so, countries embarking on a course of development should learn from the errors of those who had preceded them, since prevention was better than cure.

70. Singapore was probably in a unique position and its degree of urbanization surpassed that of even the most developed countries; for example, over 65 per cent of the population lived in towns, where the density was about 25,000 persons per square mile, and the average density for the whole island was almost 9,000 persons per square mile. Despite the paucity of its resources, however, Singapore had managed to achieve satisfactory results. At the time of its accession to independence, it had been confronted with a very serious housing shortage. Since then, the Government had built more than 10,000 housing units each year, and one quarter of the population currently lived in public housing. The lesson was that no man-made problem was insoluble when energy, determination, imagination and pragmatism were applied to its solution. By following a master plan, Singapore had been able to avoid an urban sprawl covering the whole island and the reserved open spaces and parks.

71. Measures to improve the quality of the human environment were not necessarily costly or beyond the means of the developing countries. In fact, many of them cost nothing but human energy, which was plentiful in the developing countries. It was bad tenants who made slums; dirt and unsanitary conditions were primarily the result of a lack of discipline and civic sense. In Singapore, the authorities had recently launched a cleanliness campaign, mobilizing all social and civic organizations. The central theme was that the nation was the people's home and that the Singaporeans should be not only house-proud but nation-proud. He had described the experience acquired by his Government and the successes achieved in the hope that other countries would follow its example. His delegation supported the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1) and hoped to be able to participate in the preparatory work for the Conference.

72. Mr. ANASTASESCU (Romania) said that the initiative and perseverance of the Swedish delegation had opened a new and important chapter in the annals of the United Nations—that of the human environment. He entirely agreed with that delegation about the need for international action to solve some of the problems which arose in that connexion and about the categories of problems which should be considered at the forthcoming Conference. Valuable assistance in that regard was provided by the excellent documentation produced, and particularly by the report of the Secretary-General (E/4667), which highlighted the urgent need for active international co-operation to solve the problems of the human environment and might also provide useful guidance for the preparation of the 1972 Conference. An increasing number of factors were influencing the human environment and threatening to turn it into an "inhuman" one. In many countries, for example, the long-term effects of applications of science and technology were not viewed in the light of their effects on the surrounding environment. Rational planning and utilization of the environment were vital in order to preserve the ecological balance and ensure the well-being of present and future generations and the success of true economic development.

73. Natural resources were treasures which should either be left intact or put into economic circulation. It would be a disavowal of basic truths to sacrifice them to short-sighted financial interests. He agreed with the opinion expressed in the Secretary-General's report that most problems of the human environment appeared amenable to solution by wise and proper management, which required appropriate administrative measures and practices, enlightened economic and social planning and support of national and international legislation (*ibid.*, para. 81 (d)). The proposed Conference would undoubtedly produce useful answers to all those problems.

74. Romania was concerned about the protection of the human environment, and its concern was reflected in its national policies, particularly those concerning physical planning. It had followed with great interest the discussion in the Economic Commission for Europe and the plans for a Conference on the Problems of Environment to be held at Prague in 1971. At the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, the Romanian delegation had taken part in the discussion on the human environment and had been one of

the sponsors of the resolution on that subject (Assembly resolution 2398 (XXIII)).

75. International co-operation could do much to elucidate the complex problems of the human environment, and the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1 would be an important step in that direction.

76. Mr. LUBAKI (Democratic Republic of the Congo) stressed the importance of the Secretary-General's report (E/4667) which distinguished three main classes of environmental problems: problems of human settlements, territorial problems and global problems. The report gave an over-all view of the work undertaken and contained some excellent proposals bearing on the 1972 Conference. The impairment of the human environment affected both the developed and the developing countries and manifested itself in various forms. In its resolution 2398 (XXIII), the General Assembly had emphasized the importance of the problem and had decided to convene in 1972 a United Nations conference to deal with the planning, organization and control of the human environment. That conference would encourage national Governments and international organizations to find specific solutions. The complexity of environmental problems necessitated intensified international co-operation and mobilization of technical skills and experience. His delegation welcomed the Swedish Government's initiative and endorsed the idea of establishing an intergovernmental Preparatory Committee. It hoped that the Governments represented would be chosen on the basis of geographical regions.

77. The problems of urban planning were complicated by the magnitude of the exodus from rural areas. Air and water pollution in urban areas could have serious economic and social consequences. Attention should be given to effective steps for combating those phenomena, particularly in the developing countries and also to the conservation of natural sites, historical monuments, fauna and flora. The Democratic Republic of the Congo attached special importance to the preservation of wild life and biological communities of great scientific and cultural value, as illustrated by the Albert National Park at Goma.

78. In order to help the developing countries to solve the problems of the human environment, the United Nations, through its specialized agencies, should give particular consideration to the transfer of skills and technology from the developed to the developing countries. The establishment or strengthening of advanced national research institutes also seemed useful. The specialized agencies should study physical and biological problems, socio-cultural factors, anti-pollution techniques and the rational utilization of resources. His delegation hoped that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which would coincide with the beginning of the Second United Nations Development Decade, would open up new horizons for the application of science and technology. It asked to be included among the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1.

79. Mr. BRATHWAITE (Barbados) thanked the Swedish Government for its generous offer (see A/7514). Barbados was a small tropical island with a population density of 1,400 persons per square mile, and 40 per cent of its

population lived in the capital or its suburbs. Since the economy depended essentially on the sale of sugar and its derivatives and the population density was one of the highest in the world, his Government had had to take steps to solve its serious problems. Fortunately, the development of tourism in Barbados had lessened the impact of fluctuations in the price of sugar. His delegation, which was a sponsor of the draft resolution, congratulated the Secretary-General on his excellent report (E/4667) and hoped that the Conference would be successful.

80. Mr. RIOS (Panama) said that his delegation wished to become one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1. His country had already taken some steps to conserve natural resources and protect the human, animal and vegetable environment, and would do all it could to contribute to the success of the Conference.

81. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) said that although his country was not yet experiencing all the harmful effects of technological progress, his Government was aware of future dangers and had already formulated plans in urban development, the conservation of water resources, soil protection and other fields. In his delegation's view, the agenda of the Conference should include a study of the influence of land tenure systems on soil conservation and a study of the effects of uncontrolled urbanization. Since the ills afflicting many countries resulted from shortcomings in human behaviour, consideration should also be given to the problems of "self-control". At the present stage of human advancement, the question was not how to reach the goal but what were the best means to use. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

82. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) recalled that his delegation had already taken part in the debate on the important question of the human environment both in the General Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council; it would therefore give enthusiastic support to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and had joined in sponsoring it. It hoped that the Conference would remain purely scientific, dealing solely with the questions envisaged, and would not turn into a political meeting.

83. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Venezuela) said that his Government attached great importance to the problems of the human environment. His delegation had been a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 2398 (XXIII) and intended to take part in the 1972 Conference. Although not a member of the Economic and Social Council, Venezuela had followed the Council's work with close attention. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference should begin its work as soon as possible and member countries should include in their delegations their best experts in the disciplines involved. If the Preparatory Committee was to do its work effectively, the number of its members should be limited; the number should be the same as that of the Economic and Social Council, and the principle of equitable geographic representation should be observed.

84. Mr. ÅSTRÖM (Sweden) expressed gratification at the apparently unanimous support of the draft resolution. While the draft did not indicate how many members the Preparatory Committee should have, the consultations held seemed to indicate that the number should be twenty-

seven, and he proposed that the list of countries invited to participate should be drawn up by the Chairman of the Second Committee. He hoped that the necessary consultations could be completed before the end of the week.

85. The CHAIRMAN said that the names of the following countries should be added to the list of sponsors given in documents A/C.2/L.1069 and A/C.2/L.1069/Add.1: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Cameroon, Ceylon, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Guinea, Guyana, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Panama, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Upper Volta. He then asked the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

86. Mr. ÅSTRÖM (Sweden) expressed his delegation's thanks to the members of the Committee for their spirit of co-operation and their support, and particularly to the many delegations which had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1. The General Assembly, when taking a decision according to the resolution which had just been accepted, would not divorce itself from the issue. In operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution it was expressly said that the General Assembly would consider the progress of the preparatory work and take the necessary further decisions at its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions. That meant that the Assembly would then take up such matters as the precise agenda of the Conference, the detailed organization of the Conference and the question of the invitations to the same. It was obvious that the adoption by the Assembly of the present draft resolution did not in any way prejudice the consideration of those matters at the two sessions mentioned.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.