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

AGENDA ITEM 21

Problems of the human environment: report of the Secretary-General (*concluded*) (A/7514, A/7603, chap. V, sect. D; A/7707, A/7780, E/4667)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that agreement had been reached concerning the three members from the Eastern European group to be on the list of States to be named to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. In accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its 1278th meeting on 12 November 1969, he read out the list of States named by their respective groups to represent them on the Preparatory Committee:

African Group: Ghana, Guinea, Mauritius, Nigeria, Togo, the United Arab Republic, Zambia;

Asian Group: Cyprus, India, Iran, Japan, Singapore;

Eastern European Group: Czechoslovakia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia;

Latin American Group: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico;

Western European and other countries Group: Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America.

2. The list had been established following consultations in the various groups and any Member State not appointed could send observers to the Committee's meetings; they would have the right to participate in its discussions.

3. He suggested that the Committee should approve the list of members of the Preparatory Committee.

It was so decided.

4. Mr. CAMEJO ARGUNDIN (Cuba), speaking on a point of order, said that the Latin American Group had selected

its representatives in a discriminatory manner. Cuba, a Latin American country, obviously had been completely ignored and his Government wished to register a solemn protest against the procedure followed.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the Cuban delegation's statement would be reflected in the summary record.

Completion of the Committee's work

6. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the fact that the Committee had been able to consider all the items on its agenda except for one aspect of agenda item 12 concerning the proposed amendment to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly which had been postponed (see 1283rd meeting, para. 22). The Committee's work had been able to proceed smoothly as a result of the wise recommendations to streamline it which had been submitted at previous sessions.

7. The substantial increase in pledges to UNDP, although still insufficient, and the growing interest in the work of UNITAR, the World Food Programme, UNIDO and other bodies testified clearly to the importance attached to their activities. Furthermore, the functioning of UNDP was being followed very closely with a view to improving it. The Committee had held a fruitful debate on the proposal to establish an international university (agenda item 41) and there was reason to hope that a truly universal university would be founded in the near future. In adopting the draft resolution relating to the establishment of an intergovernmental tourism organization (agenda item 97), the Committee had paved the way for the necessary work to co-ordinate the activities of the various bodies concerned. Thanks to the initiative of the Swedish delegation, which had introduced the draft resolution (see 1276th meeting) calling for the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (agenda item 21), the serious problems mankind must face in that area would receive all the attention they deserved. Despite their complexity, a way must be found to solve them if future generations were to be spared serious harm.

8. In 1970, the General Assembly would launch the Second United Nations Development Decade. The decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council showed that economic and social development was a long and arduous process. Although the results of the First Development Decade had been widely criticized, it did not seem right to attach such terms as "failure" or "deception" to that Decade.

9. It was wiser to remember the lessons of the First Development Decade and put the experience gained to use in order to lay a solid foundation for vigorous action during

the 1970s. The very notion of strategy implied commitments on the part of both the developed and the developing countries. Mere generalities or vague promises would not suffice.

10. In his statement (see 1284th meeting), Mr. Lester B. Pearson, Chairman of the Commission on International Development, had imparted a new dimension to the Committee's discussions. The Commission's report entitled *Partners in Development*,¹ had shown the importance of genuine co-operation among countries to obtain the goal of self-sustained development by the end of the century. Mr. Pearson had stated that indifference rather than opposition was the greatest obstacle to progress.

11. It was regrettable that the Committee had been unable to consider the report entitled *A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System*,² prepared by Sir Robert Jackson, Commissioner of the study published on 1 December, for it complemented the Pearson report. Whereas the latter dealt with the broad perspective of the problems of development aid, the former dealt with the capacity of the United Nations system to make an effective contribution to world economic and social development. Moreover, the capacity study was closely related to the work undertaken by the Committee for Development Planning, under the chairmanship of Mr. Tinbergen. All those documents, which contained a wealth of ideas, formed a solid basis for the work of the Economic and Social Council, UNDP and the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade. It was to be hoped that that Preparatory Committee—whose Chairman, Mr. Chtourou, deserved congratulations—would be able to complete its work in time for the forty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council, so that the Second Development Decade could be launched during the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. By the next session of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee should have carefully studied the report of the Commission

on International Development and the recommendation contained therein, as well as the capacity study. It should not be expected that every Government or agency would agree with every recommendation. However, Governments and agencies that did agree with specific recommendations should move forward and transform them into agreements to facilitate an active and genuine partnership between rich and poor nations. If that were the case, the Committee would have made a useful contribution to the efforts to attain the goal of self-sustained development by the end of the century. It was not possible to deal with all the questions which the Committee had considered or to believe that definitive solutions had been found; however, the Committee had unquestionably dramatized the problems. Moreover, while the question of the deteriorating quality of life in the most developed countries could not be neglected, the masses in the majority of the world's countries could not be denied access to a new world. The revolution in transport, communications and production methods could bring lasting benefits to all human beings. Development was no longer an option, it was an imperative. The difficulties involved in governing human affairs were increasing with the population explosion.

12. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation to all who had taken part in the Committee's work: each of its members; the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Amirmokri; the Rapporteur, Mr. Warsama; the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. de Seynes; the representatives of the Office of Public Information, the conference and documents officers and the interpreters and précis writers.

13. Following an exchange of courtesies, in which Mr. DECASTIAUX (Belgium), Mr. VIDHAMALI (Laos), Mr. GETMANETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico), and Mr. CHTOUROU (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of their respective groups, and Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia), Rapporteur, took part, the CHAIRMAN declared the session closed.

¹ New York, Praeger Publishers, Inc., 1969.

² United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.I.10 (DP/5).

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.