

Allied to this is the matter of the Draft Declaration for Social Development, a subject thoroughly debated by this Committee last year. It has also been dealt with in the Secretary-General's report before us. My delegation is pleased with the progress that has been made in preparing an initial draft but is of the view that care must be taken not to prejudice the successful preparation of a Draft Declaration by attempting to rush its completion. It would be desirable therefore to reconsider operative paragraph 3 of Resolution 2215 which, as it now stands, requires the submission of the Draft to the 23rd Session of the General Assembly - that is, next year. Our reasons for making this suggestion are twofold. First of all, we agree with the decision taken to ensure that all relevant bodies within the United Nations Organization be fully consulted in the process of preparation and we agree that adequate time should be allowed for the drafting of the Declaration, taking all comments into account. Secondly, we believe that in the actual preparation of the Draft Declaration, or in commenting upon it, all parties will wish to give the most serious consideration to its most essential features and to the way in which it can be used to foster the integration of economic and social development effort, about which so much has been said in recent years. In this regard, the Canadian delegation has noted the view advanced in that very important document -- The United Nations Development Decade, Proposals for Action. This document, basic to the activity of the last few years, made the point, in 1963, that development is a process of qualitative change and quantitative growth of the social and economic reality. This concept has been expressed in different words on many occasions both before and since that report was issued. It was examined critically in the Third Report issued by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. I mention these background facts by way of stressing the importance we attach to the opportunity afforded to all Member States by the preparation of a Draft Declaration on Social Development, to state in clear terms the social aims of all development, and the necessity of integrating all policy and operational activities into a total process of development. As we near the end of the first development decade and as we face the unhappy fact that goals, even modest goals have not been reached, and as we begin to think of proposals for the next development period, it is vitally important that the efforts of individual nations and of the international community to improve the world social situation do not suffer from fragmentation of thought and effort.

The topic under discussion is one of many facets. We have chosen to comment on only a very few. There are other notable examples of the means through which we feel there is hope for improvement in the World Social Situation, most of which have been so well described by the Director of the Commission. We think of the forthcoming 1968 Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare - of the tremendously important work undertaken by the United Nations Research and Training for Regional Development - of the centre for Housing Building and Planning to meet needs that are so crucial in some areas of the world, as Mrs. Thorsson illustrated earlier this morning. We think of the Specialized Agencies - of UNICEF and other organizations whose contributions are so vital. It would be impossible, to point to a single influence that we consider more important than another.