

On the general subject of balanced social and economic development, my Delegation believes that the last report on the World Social Situation has contributed materially to a better understanding of the problems involved.

It seems to my Delegation that the pressing needs of developing countries with limited resources can best be met by strengthening the technical machinery for planning and by co-ordinating the planning efforts of international agencies in ~~the~~ programmes which they carry out in co-operation with these governments.

The basic difficulty, of course, is that the concept of balanced development cannot at present be translated into precise quantitative terms. This difficulty is particularly true of countries with limited resources. It is not easy to measure economic and social assets in comparable terms since development in the social sector cannot be translated into monetary terms.

The task of the Social Commission remains to see what steps could be taken to improve our understanding of social development. It is fairly clear from the studies already produced that there can be no standard formula and the case studies are therefore extremely valuable in contributing to the finding of certain general criteria, even though they may be limited in scope to certain sectors like housing or education. A good deal of attention should be directed towards the key indicators and time ought not to be wasted on surveys when it is already obvious that their conclusions could not be carried out for lack of resources.

In this connection my Delegation is pleased to learn of the proposals of the Netherlands Government concerning the establishment of a United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. We shall await with great interest the report which the Secretary-General is expected to present shortly,