

this work. My Delegation is not persuaded that a specialized agency is required or that it could accomplish anything that a greatly expanded Centre would not be able to do.

Mr. Chairman, I have touched on only a few of the 19 items on our agenda -- the largest that has ever confronted the Second Committee. Diverse though these items are, they have one common objective: to accelerate economic development by concerted international action. No small share of this action is initiated through the programmes of the United Nations system of organizations, which have multiplied in number and diversity as international needs have been identified and international capacities extended.

The very breadth and vigour of this response testifies to the scope for concerted international action. Vigour has, however, created problems of its own. There is no item on our agenda which poses more fundamental or more perplexing questions than item 100, calling for a general review of all the development programmes and activities of the United Nations and its affiliates in order to determine just what it is we are doing and how we are doing it. Every Delegation here must at some stage have felt, as the proposers of this item clearly did, that we seem at times in danger of being swamped by our own ingenuity in devising solutions and by our faith in the capacity of international machinery to combat every aspect of underdevelopment. Too often we forget that when we establish a new programme, a new institution or a new committee, we do not dispose of a development problem but merely provide ourselves with one more tool for arriving at a workable solution. We also make more imperative the need for co-ordination and central direction to ensure that these multiple operations are channelled into one sustained and consistent effort. In our view, the working responsibility for this sort of co-ordination rests inevitably with the Economic and Social Council. Only the Council has the time and the facilities, as well as the Charter responsibility, to carry on the detailed scrutiny which a streamlined common effort requires. Some of this work has already been begun by the Council; much more remains untouched. It is up to the General Assembly to encourage what has already been undertaken and to insist that the whole task be tackled comprehensively. After twenty years of experiment and ad hoc elaboration, it is time we had a detailed inventory of our activities, a more rational structure of assistance programmes and procedures, and a systematic evaluation of the impact of these programmes.