

essential, but not sufficient, that there be continued effort at the national level, and international support and reinforcement of that national effort in those areas which are appropriate for international action. Important as national effort and international support are, they can be of little avail by themselves unless a third condition is met, that is the creation and preservation of an international climate in which individual, national and international efforts can increasingly be devoted to the achievement of social progress in an expanding economy and in a world at peace. The range of problems to be solved is immense and the possible avenues of approach to their solution are infinite. It is by an exchange of ideas and experience in a forum such as this and through the machinery which the United Nations provides that one may expect to isolate those areas for which national and international action hold out the greatest promise of success. Some of these areas were discussed in detail by the Social Commission and by the Council during the past year.

I think that, building on the experimental work of recent years, we have now reached the stage where we are in a position to plan a well-balanced programme of international action to deal with many of the problems reflected in the report on the World Social Situation. A very large number of reports and studies dealing with these problems are now being prepared, or planned, for the consideration of the Social Commission and the Council. In due course, therefore, by virtue of its consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council, the members of this Committee will have an opportunity to discuss these matters and to express the views of their respective governments.

In none of these fields is it more important for the views and experiences of member countries to be known than in the field of community development. At the last session of the General Assembly there was an interesting discussion of this question in the Third Committee which was followed by consideration in the Social Commission and the Council of an excellent report by the Secretary-General on concepts and principles of community development and recommendations on further practical measures to be taken by international organizations. It is still true that we are not in complete agreement as to what we mean when we talk about the concept of community development; the term means different things to different peoples. However, the differences which remain are more in shades of meaning than in basic understanding and we are confident that patient exploration will ultimately produce a widely acceptable definition. The concept of community development, as the Canadian Delegation understands it, is completely worthy of support and encouragement. There is immense potentiality for social progress in soundly-conceived programmes which draw upon the initiative and capacity for self-help of the people themselves.

We are convinced that in the encouragement of community development programmes there is an appropriate field for international action and support. At the present stage, at least, the kinds of activity which are appropriate for international co-operative action, and which have been recommended, are essentially of an advisory or technical assistance nature. The development of national programmes, with international support and advice where appropriate, will be watched with great interest by the Canadian Delegation since the techniques which are being developed may well be applicable not only to the situations which exist in the underdeveloped countries but also to some of the social problems with which my own country is faced.