

COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

REPORT ON THE SEVENTH SESSION

(31 August-11 September 1981)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1981

SUPPLEMENT No. 9



UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. ISSUES REQUIRING ACTION BY OR BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Commission on Transnational Corporations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution and draft decisions:

Draft resolution

Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa
and their collaboration with the racist minority régime in
that area

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 35/206 F of 16 December 1980 entitled "Role of transnational corporations in South Africa", 35/227 A of 6 March 1981 entitled "Situation in Namibia resulting from the illegal occupation of the Territory by South Africa" and 35/227 B of 6 March 1981 entitled "Intensification and co-ordination of United Nations action in support of Namibia", and the Special Declaration on Namibia adopted at the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, held in Paris from 20 to 27 May 1981, 1/

Reaffirming the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its previous sessions on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régime in that area, 2/

Having considered the report of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations entitled "Transnational corporations in southern Africa: update on financial activities and employment practices", 3/

1/ See Report of the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, Paris, 20-27 May 1981 (A/CONF.107/8), chap. X.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5986), para. 14, Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 12 (E/1978/52 and Corr.1-3), para. 1, and ibid., 1980, Supplement No. 10 (E/1980/40/Rev.1), para. 1.

3/ E/C.10/83 and Corr.1.

Considering the internationally documented fact that the employment practices of transnational corporations in southern Africa have brought no positive contribution to the improvement of the situation of the majority populations in that area,

Considering also that the operations of transnational corporations in industrial and technological development of South Africa contribute to the survival of the racist minority régime and the continued illegal occupation of Namibia,

Considering further that the role of transnational corporations in critical sectors of South Africa's economy undermines the sustained efforts of the international community directed against the policy of apartheid and the continued illegal occupation of Namibia,

Concerned that some governments of home countries of transnational corporations operating in southern Africa have not taken effective measures at the national level responding directly to the concerns of the international community to prevent collaboration by transnational corporations with the racist minority régime in southern Africa,

Affirming the need for action at the international level by intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organizations in order to complement national measures,

1. Notes with satisfaction the report of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations entitled "Transnational corporations in southern Africa: update on financial activities and employment practices";

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat for the efforts made by it to publicize in home countries of transnational corporations information on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa;

3. Supports the legitimate struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia towards their self-determination and independence, including their right to armed struggle;

4. Commends those non-governmental organizations which have made efforts to combat apartheid and, in particular, to stop bank loans and capital transfers to South Africa and calls upon such organizations to intensify their useful efforts in these areas;

5. Welcomes as a positive step the policies of some Governments to bring about an end to the activities of their transnational corporations in southern Africa;

6. Condemns the racist minority régime in South Africa for its perpetuation of the inhuman system of apartheid and the illegal occupation of Namibia;

7. Condemns those transnational corporations which collaborate with the racist minority régime in southern Africa, and calls upon all transnational corporations to respect the various United Nations resolutions concerning southern Africa.

8. Condemns the actions of those home countries of transnational corporations designed to promote and perpetuate investments by their transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia in contravention of United Nations resolutions;

9. Calls upon all home countries of transnational corporations to take effective measures to terminate the collaboration of their transnational corporations with the racist minority régime in southern Africa, to prevent further new investments and reinvestments and to bring about an immediate withdrawal of all existing investments in Namibia;

10. Calls upon all those countries concerned to re-examine their relations with the transnational corporations operating in their territories which collaborate with the racist minority régime in southern Africa;

11. Calls upon all anti-apartheid movements, religious institutions and bodies, trade unions, universities and other institutions which are shareholders of transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia to contribute to the efforts of the international community to eradicate apartheid by withdrawing their shareholdings in such transnational corporations;

12. Urges all transnational corporations to comply fully with the relevant United Nations resolutions by terminating all further investments in South Africa and Namibia and by ending their collaboration with the racist minority régime;

13. Reaffirms Security Council resolution 301 (1971) of 20 October 1971 calling upon states to abstain from entering into economic relations with South Africa in respect of Namibia and declaring that rights, titles or contracts granted to individuals or corporations by South Africa after the termination of the mandate are not subject to protection or espousal by their home states against the claims of a future lawful government of Namibia;

14. Reaffirms that the code of conduct on transnational corporations should include effective measures against the collaboration of transnational corporations with the racist minority régime in southern Africa;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to:

(a) Intensify the useful work of the Secretariat in the collection and dissemination of information on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa;

(b) Make arrangements for the organization of public hearings, at an appropriate time, to be conducted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations or an ad hoc body, with the assistance of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia;

(c) Disseminate the text of this resolution as widely as possible, particularly to anti-apartheid movements, religious institutions and bodies, trade unions, universities and other institutions and transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia, and to seek their reaction and follow-up action on the same;

(d) Report to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its eighth session on the measures taken in pursuance of this resolution;

(e) Prepare a report on the policies and practices of transnational corporations regarding their activities in South Africa and Namibia for the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its ninth session; and to include as an annex to that report a list of transnational corporations which continue to operate in strategic sectors, including military and nuclear sectors, of the southern African economy in violation of United Nations resolutions as well as those transnational corporations which have taken measures to terminate their activities in such sectors.

Draft decision I

Calendar of meetings of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and its subsidiary bodies for 1982

The Economic and Social Council, having accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Philippines to act as host to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its eighth session decided (a) that the eighth session of the Commission be held at Manila, the Philippines, in late August or early September 1982 instead of from 12 to 21 May 1982 at United Nations Headquarters as was previously scheduled; (b) to authorize the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct to hold three more sessions before the eighth session of the Commission; and (c) to authorize the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting to hold two more sessions in 1982, with the objective of submitting its final recommendations to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its eighth session.

Draft decision II

Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council decided to approve the provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations set out below:

1. Recent developments related to transnational corporations and international economic relations

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat

2. Activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations:
 - (a) Activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

Documentation

- (i) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
- (ii) Report on the activities of the joint units
- (b) Financial implications of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations' programme elements

Documentation

Note on the financial implications of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations' programme elements

- 3. Work related to the formulation of a code of conduct

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct

- 4. Comprehensive information system

Documentation

Report on the comprehensive information system

- 5. International standards of accounting and reporting

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

- 6. Technical co-operation

Documentation

- (i) Report on the programme of technical co-operation on matters related to transnational corporations
- (ii) Financial implications of the technical co-operation programme of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
- 7. Studies on the effects of the operations and practices of transnational corporations:
 - (a) Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with racist minority régime in that area

Documentation

Report on measures taken pursuant to the resolution recommended by the Commission at its seventh session for adoption by the Council

- (b) The role of transnational corporations in transborder data flows and their impact on home and host countries, particularly of developing countries

Documentation

Report on transnational corporations and transborder data flows

- (c) Other studies

Documentation

- (i) International financial transfers and transnational banks: their role and impact, in particular in developing countries
- (ii) Transnational corporations in the shipping industry: the case of bauxite
- (iii) Measures taken by Governments to strengthen their negotiating capacity: multinational corporations and joint ventures in Latin America
- (d) Review of ongoing and future research

Documentation

Report on ongoing and future research

- 8. Work related to the definition of transnational corporations

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct

- 9. Question of expert advisers

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

- 2. The Commission brings to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the following resolution:

Control, limitation and distribution of documentation

The Commission on Transnational Corporations,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/1 of 9 February 1979, 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, 1979/69 of 2 August 1979 and 1981/83 of 24 July 1981, which set out, inter alia, a number of practical measures designed to reduce the volume of documentation and to ensure its circulation on time and simultaneously in all official languages, and which approved revised guidelines for the format and contents of the reports of subsidiary bodies of the Council,

Taking into account General Assembly resolutions 33/56 of 14 December 1978 and 34/50 of 23 November 1979,

Seriously concerned at the fact that, in spite of the above-mentioned measures, there has been an increase in the total volume of documentation as well as serious delays in the submission and circulation of documentation,

Convinced that problems related to control and distribution of documentation are closely linked to the establishment of a rational calendar of meetings,

1. Expresses its deep regret at the extent to which the work of its seventh session has been impeded by the fact that documents have not all been distributed on time and in all the official languages.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Commission and its working bodies, before decisions are adopted, any request for documentation that exceeds the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and on the conditions specified, and within its approved resources;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is effectively disseminated on time and simultaneously in all the official languages, in accordance with rule 13, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to inform the Bureau of the Commission, eight weeks prior to the beginning of each session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, of the state of preparedness of the documentation for that session, in order to enable the Bureau to make appropriate recommendations to the Commission on its agenda and organization of work;

5. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission appropriate recommendations on the problem of documentation.

II. OPENING STATEMENT

3. At the opening of the seventh session, on 31 August 1981, the Commission on Transnational Corporations was addressed by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

4. In his opening statement, the Director-General noted that since the sixth session of the Commission, the world economic crisis had continued to deepen, and that the developing countries had been the most adversely affected by the recession. He pointed to the efforts of the international community to cope with those problems, among which efforts he mentioned the High-level Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries held in May 1981 at Caracas. He also referred to the so far unsuccessful attempts by the General Assembly at its eleventh special session and its subsequent regular session to launch the global negotiations, and to his hopes for the success of the forthcoming Cancún summit meeting.

5. Matters related to the activities of transnational corporations constituted a major component of the agenda for the global negotiations. He felt that the continuing deterioration of the world economic situation was likely to weaken the bargaining position of the developing countries and make them more dependent on transnational corporations. Thus, foreign control over economic activity had increased as developing countries sought to compensate for declining export revenues and aid receipts with flows of direct investment.

6. Transnational corporations continued to be one of the main vehicles to bridge the economies of the developed and the developing countries; many countries were going to go on looking to the transnational corporations for inputs into their development process, such as capital, technology, raw materials and managerial know-how. While attempting to ensure that these positive features of the operations of transnational corporations were maintained and maximized, it was of vital importance also to continue to regulate and minimize the negative effects on the host country which could often result from their activities.

7. In the face of this situation, the Director-General concluded that the several work programmes of the Commission and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations were of great importance for the development process, including assistance to the developing countries in their dealings with transnational corporations.

III. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

(Agenda item 4)

8. The Commission took up item 4 of the agenda at its 93rd, 94th and 95th meetings. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (E/C.10/77), the report on the joint units established in the regional commissions (E/C.10/78) and a note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983 (E/C.10/VII/CRP.1).
9. In his introductory statement, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations commented on the over-all situation in which the work of the Centre has taken place, as well as on some aspects of the work itself.
10. He noted, inter alia, that transnational corporations operating in the present world economic setting had made several adjustments and were capable of adjusting further to political, economic and institutional changes.
11. Transnational corporations, through their investment and production patterns, employment practices, product mix and technology, represent a force in the world economy. It was therefore not surprising that governments were increasing their efforts, at the national and international levels, to prevent and eliminate the negative effects of the activities of transnational corporations and to promote the positive contributions to development. The Commission, with the support of the Centre, had an important role to play both in devising an effective code of conduct in providing support to governments through a variety of means. There was therefore no doubt that the basic reasons for which the Commission and the Centre were created remain as important and urgent today as they were at the outset.
12. Most delegations complimented the Secretariat on its report on the activities of the Centre, which was comprehensive and very useful. They welcomed the progress achieved by the Centre during the past year in all its areas of activity, namely, research, information and advisory services. While reserving comments on specific progress until later in the session, they generally considered that the various facets of the Centre's work were helping developing countries to adopt appropriate policies and increase their negotiating capacity in their dealings with transnational corporations.
13. All the delegations reaffirmed that the highest priority should be attached to the formulation of a code of conduct, and urged the Intergovernmental Working Group to finalize the draft before the eighth session of the Commission.
14. Some delegations, while expressing their general appreciation of the work of the Centre, felt that those activities ran the risk of becoming too extensive. In view of the current limitations on resources, the Centre should concentrate its work on the most important priority areas. Selectivity was indicated by which

additional emphasis could be placed on the quality of the work rather than on the quantity of documents produced.

15. Other delegations felt that the Centre had not paid adequate attention in its work to the negative aspects of transnational corporations, and that there was still a lack of analysis with respect to their political activities and to their social and political impact; in particular, the delegations mentioned the involvement of transnational corporations in the armaments industry and arms trade as one of the subjects that should be more closely studied by the Centre. It was suggested that future such reports should be restructured so as to provide more details of all the different activities of the Centre.

16. With respect to the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983, several delegations stated that adequate resources should be allocated to the work on the code of conduct in order to reflect the priority that the Commission attached to that particular issue among its various tasks. In that connexion, they noted that as the work on the code was nearing completion, it would be helpful if the Centre could take steps to familiarize the countries which had not been involved in the drafting of the code with that work. In view of budgetary constraints, the task might require some reallocation of the resources available to the Centre in the period 1982-1983.

17. Some delegations expressed the opinion that, in order to facilitate discussion of the Centre's future programme of work, somewhat more detailed information on the allocation of resources among the programme's components would be useful. Such information could indicate the relative share of the budget devoted to each programme element as well as more specific information on the nature and timing of future work.

18. Delegations noted with appreciation the report on the joint units, and expressed support for the work carried out by them. Some delegations also emphasized the need for continued close co-ordination between the work of the Centre and that of the joint units. The wish was expressed that the Centre continue to present annual reports on the joint units to the Commission.

19. The delegation of Italy announced that the Government of Italy had made a voluntary contribution of \$320,000 to be used for the Centre's technical co-operation activities.

20. All delegations paid a tribute to the late Deputy Executive Director of the Centre, Alberto Jiménez de Lucio, who had died suddenly on 17 May 1981. His many qualities were praised and his passing was considered to be a great personal loss as well as a loss for the Organization.

Action by the Commission

21. The Commission:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the reports on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the joint units in the regional commissions;

(b) Expressed a wish to receive and discuss under a separate subitem of the agenda more detailed information on the financial implications of the Centre's programme elements;

(c) Emphasized the vital importance of having documentation in all the working languages available well in advance of the meetings of the Commission.

IV. WORK RELATED TO THE FORMULATION OF A CODE OF CONDUCT: REPORT OF
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON A CODE OF CONDUCT

(Agenda item 5)

22. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 96th and 97th meetings. The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct, Mr. Sten Niklasson (Sweden), introduced the report of the Working Group on the work accomplished during the 14 sessions so far held (E/C.10/79). He reported that, despite intensive efforts, the Working Group had not managed to conclude its work, although a rather impressive amount of work had been done. He stated that more than two thirds of the provisions had been drafted, including almost all the paragraphs under the sections on activities on transnational corporations, treatment of transnational corporations and intergovernmental co-operation. More than half of those paragraphs contained no brackets. On the sections relating to the preamble, objectives and scope of application, definitions and the implementation of the code, on which concluded provisions remained to be evolved, discussions had taken place more than once in the Working Group and texts had been elaborated in the form of Chairman's formulations and proposals of delegations. The Chairman of the Working Group touched upon some of the basic issues that remained to be resolved and re-emphasized the importance of the code in the light of the considerations that had led to the decision to formulate and adopt it as a matter of priority.

23. The Chairman of the Working Group further reported that the Group had considered at its fourteenth session the options available to it on the work on the code and had agreed to continue with the elaboration of concluded provisions on the remaining paragraphs of the code. The Working Group had consequently decided to request the Commission to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the Working Group hold three more two-week sessions before the eighth session of the Commission.

24. All the delegations expressed their appreciation of the statement made by the Chairman of the Working Group.

25. They agreed that the Working Group should hold three more sessions in order to complete its task before the eighth session of the Commission and reaffirmed the highest priority attributed to the formulation of the code of conduct.

26. During the discussion, delegations reiterated many of the views expressed at the sixth session of the Commission regarding the considerations that had led to the initiation of the work on the code, the evolving international situation, the objectives of the code, the principles on which it should be based, its scope of application, and its effectiveness. With regard to its objectives, most delegations stated that the aim of the code should be to regulate and control the activities of transnational corporations, recalling by this effort the origins of the exercise. Other delegations stated that the code should aim at maximizing the positive contributions of transnational corporations to the development process in developing countries and at promoting a climate for mutually beneficial relations.

A few delegations emphasized that the promotion of a favourable climate for mutually beneficial investment relations was not the function of the code, which was not a code for foreign investment but rather a code designed to eliminate the negative effects resulting from the activities of transnational corporations in various countries and in international relations.

27. Several delegations expressed disappointment at the slowness of the progress being achieved and the fact that the draft code had not been completed despite the decisions taken in Mexico at the sixth session of the Commission. Some delegations attributed the slow pace of the work to a lack of political will on the part of some governments to achieve a code. Others considered that, although the progress was on balance not fully satisfactory, this was attributable to the complexity of the issues before the Working Group rather than to a lack of political will: the delay should be attributed neither to developed nor to developing countries. It was noted by those delegations that the past four years of negotiation had had an important educational impact on all the parties concerned. Several delegations expressed the view that the completion of the code was an urgent task and that the code should be meaningful. According to them, its implementation was an important element of the code in which the Centre should play a significant role.

28. All the delegations expressed the view that the Working Group should complete its mandate and submit the draft code to the Commission at its eighth session in 1982. The three sessions to be held by the Working Group should be its final sessions and the results should be submitted to the Commission, even if the level of agreement on the various parts of the code was uneven.

29. The Commission also considered the question of associating countries which are not members of the Commission with the work of the Working Group. Some delegations stated that non-member countries should, in an appropriate way, be involved in the work since that would facilitate the adoption of the code by all countries.

30. The discussion also related to the usefulness of initiating activities to familiarize countries not members of the Commission and the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct with the concepts behind, and the issues involved in, the formulation of the code. Some delegations were of the view that such activities would be useful at this stage.

31. One delegation raised the issue of the role of expert advisers in the context of the work on the code of conduct. It emphasized that the experts could play an important role in bringing about general acceptance of the code after its adoption.

32. One delegation pointed out that in paragraph 44 (a) of the concluded provisions contained in annex I to the report of the Working Group, the term "practice" should have read "practices" in order to reflect the agreement reached in the Working Group.

Action by the Commission

33. The Commission on Transnational Corporations:

(a) Took note of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct on its 14 sessions (E/C.10/79) and the introductory statement by the Chairman of the Working Group;

(b) Noted that the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct had still not completed its work on the formulation of a draft code of conduct;

(c) Reaffirmed that the code of conduct has the highest priority among the tasks of the Commission and the Centre;

(d) Decided to request the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct to finalize the work entrusted to it and submit the results to the Commission at its eighth session, and further decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it authorize the Intergovernmental Working Group to hold three more sessions before the Commission's eighth session (for the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, para. 1, draft decision I);

(e) Reaffirmed that the code of conduct should be universally adopted and, to that end, decided to take all necessary measures during its eighth session.

V. COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM

(Agenda item 6)

(a) Establishment of a comprehensive information system

34. The Commission considered agenda item 6 (a) at its 98th and 99th meetings. It had before it a progress report of the Secretariat on the information system (E/C.10/80), and it heard introductory remarks by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations.

35. The Executive Director informed the Commission that significant progress had been made in the development of the information system during the past year. The information was now increasingly oriented to meet user requirements, especially those of developing countries. Several studies had also been completed during the year, including one on salient features and trends in foreign direct investments, two studies on the role and activities of transnational corporations in the power equipment and fertilizer sectors; analyses of contractual provisions in turnkey and management contracts, and of features and trends in petroleum and mining agreements, and a survey of national legislation relating to transnational corporations in 20 countries. The preparation of corporate profiles of some 200 corporations had been undertaken and was proceeding satisfactorily. The Centre had also initiated a programme to assist in the building of national information systems in developing countries. Procedures for verification had been further improved. During the next biennium, it was intended to expand further the scope and coverage of the system as indicated by the Commission and as required by the principal users of the system, particularly developing countries.

36. All the delegations stressed the importance of the comprehensive information system as being an essential element of the Centre's work and expressed their appreciation of the progress achieved during the past year. They recognized that the scope and content of the system had expanded considerably and that the Centre was increasingly in a position to meet user requests. It was also noted with appreciation by most delegations that the improved verification procedure would ensure greater accuracy and reliability of the data. Other delegations, however, emphasized that, while factual data could usefully be verified with the corporations concerned, the corporation should not be permitted to revise the structure and content of the profiles and studies undertaken by the Centre. A few delegations suggested that trade unions should be given the opportunity to verify the data.

37. It was pointed out that, in view of the expanding content of the system, priorities would need to be defined so that resources could be utilized optimally. In view of the present budgetary constraints it was all the more important to review the utility of the various elements of the system and avoid unnecessary duplication. Several delegations expressed the opinion that the orientation of the various components of the system should accord with the needs of the host countries, particularly developing countries.

38. Some delegations, taking note of the survey of national legislation relating to transnational corporations in selected countries, emphasized the need to extend the survey to a number of other countries. The survey would also need to be updated in order to incorporate the latest changes and modifications.

39. A few delegations made reference to the technical papers analysing various aspect of contracts and agreements between governments and transnational corporations. Some delegations suggested that future studies should include contracts and contractual arrangements of all different types. One delegation proposed that the Centre should conduct a study on the effects of the performance requirements placed on transnational corporations by home and host countries. Studies should also be conducted on common contractual provisions, such as renegotiation provisions and those relating to settlement of disputes, force majeure and the like. All such studies should be co-ordinated with the activities of other international agencies. However, the Centre should not initiate studies unless requested to do so by the Commission.

40. The Commission noted that the study on salient features and trends in foreign direct investments would be circulated, in unedited form, in the course of the session. Taking note of the study, several delegations suggested that such a study should be a regular feature of the Centre's information system and should include information on other capital flows and flows of technology and technical services. It was also noted that information was being collected and analysed regularly on several important issues such as incentives, divestment of holdings by transnational corporations in response to national policies, exports of manufactured products by transnational corporations, together with certain aspects of technology transfer through transnational corporations, particularly in the capital goods sector.

41. The two industry studies relating to the role and activities of transnational corporations in the power equipment and fertilizer sectors were mentioned. Several delegations stressed the need for undertaking further studies in respect of other resource-based industries, such as minerals, wood-processing, agro-industries and high-technology industries, including data processing and micro electronics, and other sectors of importance to developing countries such as chemicals and petrochemicals and capital goods production. The importance of sectoral and problem-oriented studies was underlined. The necessary co-ordination should be effected with other international and national institutions. A few delegations stressed the need for greater emphasis in these studies on the social, economic and political activities and impact of transnational corporations.

42. All the delegations took note with appreciation of the improvement achieved in the preparation of corporate profiles on individual corporations. Some delegations pointed to the need for including in the profiles the experience of particular countries in respect of individual corporations, and also the political activities and the socio-economic impact of the activities of transnational corporations. The profiles should also include information on the participation of transnational corporations in the arms race, manufacture and trade of goods with hazardous effects, and their collaboration with the illegal minority régime in southern Africa. There was also a need for regular updating of the information contained in the profiles.

43. Several delegations emphasized the importance of developing national information systems and capabilities in developing countries concerning the activities of transnational corporations and of linking such systems with the Centre's information system, so that an international network of information could ultimately be developed. It was suggested that the Centre should provide technical assistance for the development of such national information systems and capabilities. A few delegations, while expressing their satisfaction with the effort to improve the national information capabilities in developing countries, requested further information on how those national systems were to be linked to the comprehensive information system. It was also suggested that the joint units provide assistance in the development of those capabilities.

44. A few delegations proposed that the Centre prepare for each session of the Commission a paper detailing the studies to be completed before the following session together with a list of those planned for future sessions. Such a list should include estimates of the timing of the studies and their resource implications.

45. The Director, Information Analysis Division, on behalf of the Centre, clarified a number of issues that had been raised during the discussion. The activities under each component of the information system were in accordance with the priorities set by the Commission. The information system was increasingly capable of responding to a wide variety of requests from governments, particularly those of developing countries. Requests for in-depth information had increased during the past year and the User's Guide had proved of value. Sixty per cent of such requests had come from the governments of 27 countries, including some from developed countries. Those requests related principally (70 per cent) to data on individual corporations and on transnational corporations' activities in particular sectors, laws and regulations relating to transnational corporations and macro data on foreign investments. It was expected that as the studies on national legislation, the industry studies and the studies of different types of contracts and on aspects such as incentives, divestment policies, tax havens etc. were completed and published, there would be considerable demand for such information, particularly from governments of developing countries and from institutions. Requests for information from other international agencies had also risen significantly, by 34 per cent. The Centre's information system was thus emerging increasingly as the principal source of data on transnational corporations. Close co-ordination was being maintained in the industry studies and in the analyses of different types of contracts with other organizations, particularly the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The information system was based primarily on non-confidential information, but if materials were provided on a confidential basis the confidentiality would be respected. In conclusion, the Director welcomed the various comments and suggestions of delegations, which he had found most constructive; they would be taken fully into account in the further development of the comprehensive information system.

Action by the Commission

46. The Commission:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretariat on the information system (E/C.10/80) and the introductory statement by the Executive

Director, and of the improvement in the performance of the Centre's information system during the past year;

(b) Took note of the technical papers submitted by the Centre, namely, Salient Features and Trends in Foreign Direct Investments (ST/CTC/14); Transnational Corporations in the Power Equipment Industry (ST/CTC/22); Transnational Corporations in the Fertilizer Industry (ST/CTC/25); National Legislation and Regulations relating to Transnational Corporations (ST/CTC/26, parts I and II); Management Contracts in Developing Countries: An Analysis of their Substantive Provisions (ST/CTC/27); Features and Issues in Turnkey Contracts in Developing Countries (ST/CTC/28); and Main Features and Trends in Petroleum and Mining Agreements (ST/CTC/29);

(c) Reiterated that the objectives of the system should be those defined at earlier sessions of the Commission and, for that purpose, further attention should be given to legal information, including national legislation and different forms of contracts, macro data, studies of the activities of transnational corporations in sectors of special significance to developing countries, and corporate profiles on individual corporations;

(d) Stressed the need for the development of national information systems on transnational corporations, to be linked to the Centre's information system, the Centre providing necessary assistance for the purpose;

(e) Urged the Centre to continue its efforts to ensure the accuracy and reliability of all the information collected.

(b) International standards of accounting and reporting

47. The Commission took up agenda item 6 (b) at its 99th meeting. It had before it the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its first to fourth sessions (E/C.10/81), and it heard introductory remarks by the Executive Director of the Centre. Pursuant to resolution 1979/44 and decision 1980/172 of the Economic and Social Council, the Working Group had held four sessions during the period from February 1980 to March 1981. Several working papers had been prepared by the Centre for the Working Group, including a survey of ongoing efforts of various bodies to achieve harmonization in respect of corporate accounting and reporting; a study of disclosure of information in respect of number of employees, and a survey of accounting and reporting practices in respect of gross operating profit and depreciation.

48. The Working Group had recommended that the Commission request the Economic and Social Council to authorize the Working Group to hold two additional sessions of two weeks each during appropriate periods in 1982. This was necessary in order to enable the Working Group to consider the remaining items of its mandate. The Executive Director also informed the Commission of the voluntary contribution of \$40,000 by the Government of Finland, which funds had been utilized to cover the travel and per diem expenses of several participants representing developing countries at the second and third sessions of the Working Group.

49. Most of the delegations expressed their appreciation of the report of the Working Group on its first four sessions and of the professional thoroughness with which the Working Group had approached its difficult and complex task. Several delegations expressed the belief that the only realistic objective for the Working Group should be to try to suggest ways to achieve a sufficient degree of comparability of accounts prepared in accordance with different standards which would continue to exist side by side, and that world-wide, comprehensive standardization was not a practical proposition for the foreseeable future. They stressed the need for the Working Group to complete its work during the two further sessions in 1982 and to report its conclusions to the Commission later in that year. One delegation, however, expressed the view that the Working Group would necessarily have to consider the basic issues of disclosure by transnational corporations and must try to harmonize standards of accounting and reporting on a comprehensive, equitable and global basis.

Action by the Commission

50. The Commission:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its first four sessions (E/C.10/81);

(b) Requested the Economic and Social Council to authorize the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group to hold two additional sessions in 1982, with the objective of submitting its final recommendations to the Commission at the eighth session (for the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, para. 1, draft decision I).

VI. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

(Agenda item 7)

51. The Commission considered agenda item 7 at its 101st and 102nd meetings. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the programme of technical co-operation on matters related to transnational corporations (E/C.10/82). The report covered developments in the Centre's programme since the sixth session of the Commission.

52. In his introductory remarks, the Executive Director of the Centre stated that, in view of the efforts by many developing countries to attract foreign investment and technology, it was all the more important that such developments take place within a framework which would ensure that the activities of transnational corporations were consistent with host countries' objectives and priorities. The technical co-operation offered by the Centre had therefore never been more important. This was reflected in the declarations made at various recent regional intergovernmental meetings as well as in the fact that requests from governments for assistance from the Centre had quadrupled over the past two years. Those requests had been received from a wide range of developing countries from all regions and had increasingly involved projects of major significance to national development efforts. During the past year, 47 per cent of the experts used in advisory services and 53 per cent of those used in workshops came from developing countries. These percentages were significantly above those of the United Nations system as a whole.

53. The evaluation of the advisory and training projects completed during the period under review had brought out the fact that recipient governments recognized the usefulness of the Centre's technical programme, appreciated the rapidity of its delivery system and had confidence in the services being provided.

54. The Executive Director informed the Commission of the Centre's efforts to broaden the scope and increase the beneficiaries of its training services. The Centre planned to add to its existing programme of workshops for middle- and senior-level officials a programme of assistance to existing institutions in developing countries for developing interdisciplinary training programmes on matters related to transnational corporations.

55. He referred to the growing co-operative links being developed between the Centre and the joint units in the regional commissions, as well as with numerous organizations both within and outside the United Nations system. He stressed that even though the number of UNDP-financed projects had increased, the importance of voluntary contributions from governments remained critical if the Centre was to keep pace with the growing number of requests. In 1981, the Governments of Finland, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland had donated or pledged a combined total of \$851,000. He expressed the hope that other governments would also contribute to this important activity of the Centre.

56. All the delegations that took part in the discussion agreed on the importance of the Centre's advisory and training services. They stated that the report brought out the successful way in which the technical co-operation programme had developed and been carried out during the past year, for which they commended the Centre. Most delegations noted the rapid increase in the Centre's technical co-operation activities and the efficiency of its delivery system. The growth in those activities and the wide range of substantive areas covered reflected the important need of developing countries for such support, and these services proved useful in strengthening their capability for dealing with transnational corporations. They referred to the results of the evaluation of the projects completed during the past year and noted that the views expressed by recipient governments were a further testimony to the success and value of the programme. Several delegations informed the Commission that their governments had, during the past year, benefited from the Centre's advisory and training projects. This enabled them to attest to the high quality and usefulness of the services provided, as well as to the promptness of their delivery. The Centre should continue to reinforce and expand its technical co-operation programme to meet the needs of developing countries.

57. Several delegations stated that priority should be given to requests from the least developed among the developing countries. One delegation, however, pointed out that special attention should also be given to requests from the countries having the least experience in dealing with transnational corporations. While agreeing with those positions, other delegations stated that the programme of technical co-operation should continue to be available to all developing countries. Several delegations pointed out the possible inequity in the distribution of the technical co-operation services in view of the growing number of governments which were addressing repeated requests to the Centre. Some delegations urged that recipient governments also use their own funds for financing their requests when they are in a position to do so or funds from other sources, such as UNDP indicative planning figures (IPF).

58. Most delegations noted the growing co-operative links between the Centre and the joint units in the regional commissions and stated that these should continue to be strengthened. They also noted that a growing number of projects executed by the Centre were being financed by UNDP, and expressed the hope that that support would continue to increase.

59. Noting that about half of the experts involved in that programme were from developing countries, many delegations urged the Centre to continue to strengthen its efforts in this regard. The Centre was also urged to involve experts from transnational corporations in its training workshops and to draw experts from various geographical areas.

60. Referring to the Centre's proposal to assist existing institutions in developing countries to develop training programmes on matters related to transnational corporations, the belief was expressed that this would prove to be a useful institution-building activity for strengthening the capability of existing national and regional institutions in developing countries. The important multiplier effect of the activity was stressed.

61. The suggestion was made that the documentation prepared by the Centre in connexion with its technical co-operation activities should be widely distributed

so as to maximize the benefit that developing countries could derive from them. It was urged that the documents mentioned in section E of document E/C.10/82 be published as quickly as possible, and that they also be made available to the Commission.

62. Several delegations expressed the wish that future reports of the Centre on its technical co-operation programme include more detailed information on the cost of projects, the consultants used, the content of and documentation for workshops, and on future activities.

63. Some delegations cautioned the Centre against becoming directly involved in negotiations between host countries and transnational corporations.

64. The delegations of Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden informed the Commission that their Governments would make voluntary contributions in 1981 to the Centre's technical co-operation programme of 400 million lire, 200,000 guilders and 1.5 million kronor, respectively. Delegations expressed their appreciation for these contributions and many expressed the hope that other governments would also find it possible to contribute to this important activity.

65. In responding to questions raised during the discussion, the Associate Director in charge of the Centre's Advisory Services thanked the members of the Commission for their many encouraging remarks and for their very useful comments and suggestions. He informed the Commission that experts were not directly involved in negotiations. Many of the advisory projects related to the Centre's approved mandate to assist governments in preparing for negotiations and were in response to specific requests received from those governments. The advisory services were geared to the local conditions and the objectives of requesting governments. Their purpose was to assist in examining the options based, inter alia, on the experiences of other developing countries. The decisions were, of course, taken by the governments. The same was true for workshops. The workshop programme was prepared in conjunction with the requesting government and the lecturers were approved by it. In response to the wishes of requesting governments, workshop lecturers have included experts from corporations of developed and developing countries.

66. In response to the comments of various delegations that priority should be given to the requests from the least developed among the developing countries, and those of other delegations who, while agreeing with that position, maintained that the programme of technical co-operation should continue to be available to all developing countries, he stated that the Centre responded to all requests that fell within its mandate and that that would continue to be the case for the foreseeable future.

Action by the Commission

67. The Commission:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the report on the Centre's technical co-operation programme (E/C.10/82), the introductory statement by the Executive Director and the manner in which the Centre had developed and implemented its technical co-operation programme;

(b) Reaffirmed the great importance it attached to the Centre's advisory and training services and emphasized the necessity for them to continue to correspond to the needs of developing countries;

(c) Endorsed the Centre's proposal to assist existing institutions in developing countries in developing interdisciplinary programmes of training on matters related to transnational corporations. It underlined the usefulness of this institution-building activity in strengthening self-reliance within and among developing countries;

(d) Stressed that full use should be made of experts with extensive experience, especially those from developing countries;

(e) Noted that a growing number of projects executed by the Centre were financed by UNDP. It expressed the hope that UNDP support would continue to increase;

(f) Expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for making voluntary contributions in 1981 to the Centre's technical co-operation programme. It reaffirmed the vital importance of voluntary contributions to enable the Centre to keep pace with the growing demand and urged other governments to consider making similar contributions;

(g) Requested the Centre to submit to the Commission at its eighth session a report on its technical co-operation programme, including the results of the evaluation of its completed activities, and requested also that the report contain more information on the cost of projects, the experts used, the content and documentation of workshops, and on future activities.

VII. STUDIES ON THE EFFECTS OF THE OPERATIONS AND PRACTICES
OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

(Agenda item 8)

(a) Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and
their collaboration with the racist minority régime in that area

68. The Commission considered item 8 (a) of the agenda at its 103rd, 104th, 105th and 108th meetings. It had before it a report of the Secretariat entitled "Transnational corporations in southern Africa: update on financial activities and employment practices" (E/C.10/83 and Corr.1). In his introductory remarks, the Executive Director of the Centre presented the report and gave an account of the symposia that had been organized by the Secretariat in line with the resolution adopted by the Commission at its sixth session. He further drew attention to General Assembly resolution 35/206 F of 16 December 1980 entitled "Role of transnational corporations in South Africa" which at the Assembly's request, had been conveyed to the Commission (E/C.10/INF.11).

69. Many delegations expressed their satisfaction with the report prepared by the Centre, as well as their appreciation of the introductory remarks of the Executive Director. They considered that the Centre's work on the subject was valuable and should be intensified.

70. Some delegations were critical of the study. They expressed the belief that some of the information utilized in preparing the report had not been accurate and the report had not taken fully into account recent official data from Governments and publicly available annual company reports; in some cases it had relied on secondary sources, with the result that a number of factual errors rendered some of the conclusions questionable.

71. Many delegations were of the opinion that the Centre should carry out further studies designed to expose the collaboration of transnational corporations with the racist minority régime of southern Africa. A few delegations suggested, in particular, that, for the eighth session of the Commission, the Centre should update its reports on the activities of transnational corporations in the energy, military and industrial sectors of South Africa.

72. During the discussion, many delegations referred to the conditions in southern Africa arising out of the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa, the apartheid policies of the régime in southern Africa and its aggressive activities against neighbouring countries. They considered that the southern African régime was reinforced in these policies and practices by the operations of transnational corporations in that area, as well as the support of the home countries of those transnational corporations; in their view, continued foreign investments in southern Africa undermined the efforts of the international community to bring about change in that area.

73. Some delegations recalled the measures taken by their Governments at the national level, particularly with respect to the operations of transnational corporations in southern Africa, with a view to promoting change. In that

connexion, they referred to the voluntary codes adopted for the purpose. It was too early to say that such voluntary codes were not effective. In the opinion of many other delegations, the measures taken by Governments at the national level were both insufficient and ineffective: the view that voluntary codes could lead to meaningful change was rejected. One delegation described the policies of its Government, which prohibited further investment in South Africa, and underlined the necessity of action on the part of the Security Council.

74. Several delegations expressed concern over the fact that, despite the pressures that were being exerted, foreign investments and bank loans to South Africa continued to increase, as the Centre's report demonstrated. They described the trend as disturbing and appealed to the countries that were originating such investments and loans to take adequate measures in line with the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations on the subject. Underlining the importance of the contribution of transnational corporations to the southern African economy, some delegations asserted that the régime could not survive without such collaboration.

75. Concerning the symposia organized by the Secretariat, delegations stressed the usefulness of that activity in disseminating information to the public: it was felt that it should be continued. Some delegations stated that the function of the symposia was to inform the public in home countries: they considered that the symposia were not intended to be platforms for the representatives of transnational corporations to put forward justifications for their continued collaboration with southern Africa.

Action taken by the Commission

76. At its 105th meeting, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régime in that area" (E/C.10/L.41).

77. At its 108th meeting, the Commission considered the draft resolution. The representative of Venezuela, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, underlined the continuing importance of the subject and proposed that the Commission adopt the draft resolution. On the proposal of the representative of Uganda, a roll-call vote was taken. The Commission adopted the draft resolution contained in document E/C.10/L.41 by 23 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions (for the text, see chap. I, para. 1, draft resolution). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Guatemala, India, Jamaica, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstentions: Canada, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden.

78. Before and after the roll-call vote, the representatives of a number of countries made statements in explanation of their votes. Many delegations

expressed their strong support for the resolution and underlined the need for the Commission and other United Nations bodies to take effective measures to deal with the problem. One delegation expressed regret that the consultations on the draft resolution had not made it acceptable to more delegations. A number of delegations explained their vote against the resolution: although opposed to apartheid, they stated that the resolution contained broad propositions which they could not support and that it dealt with matters that were outside the competence of the Commission. A number of delegations that had abstained expressed their strong opposition to the apartheid system of South Africa and that country's illegal occupation of Namibia but felt that the draft resolution contained elements which were more appropriate for consideration by the Security Council.

79. One delegation, while voting in favour of the resolution, made a reservation regarding operative paragraph 3. Another delegation stated that had it been present at the roll-call vote, it would have voted in favour.

(b) Other studies

(c) Review of ongoing and future research

80. The Commission considered item 8 (b) and (c) of the agenda at its 100th, 101st, 105th and 106th meetings. At its 100th meeting, the Executive Director introduced the report of the Secretariat entitled "Transnational corporations and transborder data flows: an overview" (E/C.10/87). He pointed out that transborder data flows resulting from impressive technological progress in telecommunication and computers have acquired manifold significance and that transnational corporations were involved both in producing the equipment used and in utilizing the new technologies for corporate and commercial purposes. The report of the Centre examined the role of transnational corporations in that area and reviewed the potential benefits and problems associated with transborder data flows.

81. At the 105th meeting, the Officer-in-charge of the Policy Analysis Division introduced the other studies under item 8 (b) and (c) of the agenda. He noted that the Centre's research activities concentrated on six main areas, namely, linkages of transnational corporations with host economies; the political and socio-cultural impact of transnational corporations; the role of transnational corporations in international financial transfers; transnational corporations in international trade; concentration, competitions and corporate strategy; and measures to strengthen the negotiating capacity of host, particularly developing, countries. A summary of the work undertaken in each of those areas was contained in document E/C.10/88. Over the next year and a half, the Centre would devote considerable resources to the completion of the comprehensive integrated study to be presented to the Commission at its ninth session in 1983. Given the resource constraints, the Centre was planning to exercise high selectivity in the preparation of research papers for the following year, having in mind the importance of quality and the professional standards required for research work. He then introduced the study on transnational corporations in the pharmaceutical industry in developing countries (E/C.10/85) which contained the preliminary findings of a larger paper which will be published later in 1981. The report was based on case studies of 11 countries and examined, inter alia, the issues involved in the development of indigenous pharmaceutical industries in developing countries. The report on the direct effects of transnational corporations on

balance-of-payments (E/C.10/84) reviewed the literature on the subject, highlighted the methodological problems involved in assessing the balance-of-payments effects of transnational corporations, and focused on a case study in Mexico, the results of which, however, did not permit generalizations. The report dealing with aspects of the social and political effects of the activities of transnational corporations (E/C.10/86), discussed the effects of transnational corporations on consumption patterns and the socio-cultural environment of host countries.

82. The Commission paid a tribute to the memory of Alberto Jiménez de Lucio, who, in his capacity as Director of the Policy Analysis Division, had been instrumental in the launching and conduct of the studies currently being submitted to the Commission.

83. All the delegations expressed the view that the Centre's research activities were an integral part of its work programme, as set forth in the mandate received by it at the second session of the Commission and at subsequent sessions. Many delegations underlined the importance that research held for policy-makers in developing countries and expressed their support for the general orientation of the Centre's research programme. Some delegations emphasized that the research should encompass the activities and impact of transnational corporations in both home and host countries, whether developed or developing, since several problems were common among countries. The traditional model of one transnational corporation based in one developed country and operating in one developing country was sometimes an oversimplification.

84. Some delegations thought that the research should examine the ways that would enhance the contributions that transnational corporations make to development and should deal also with issues related to an investment climate to foster mutually beneficial relationships. Many delegations, however, strongly objected to that idea which they considered deviated from the Centre's original mandate and stressed that the Centre should continue along the lines already indicated by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. A few delegations urged the Centre to intensify its research on the political activities of transnational corporations.

85. The view put forward by some delegations that the Centre should take specific steps towards verification of data through exposure drafts was opposed by others which thought that outside influences should not be allowed to enter into the conduct of the Centre's research. Several delegations suggested that the Centre should study appropriate mechanisms for disseminating the results of the research. The reports should be available well in advance of a session so as to facilitate national preparations for the debate.

86. A number of delegations emphasized that clear priorities should be established for the preparation of studies. The Centre was commended for the selectivity it was proposing to exercise in the submission of its reports. Some delegations reiterated their request that the Centre prepare for each session of the Commission a paper detailing the studies to be completed before the following session, together with a list of those planned for future sessions. Such a list should include estimates as to the timing of the studies and their resource implications.

87. Many delegations agreed with the future research proposed by the Centre and, in particular, underlined the importance of the comprehensive integrated study. Some delegations proposed that more research be conducted on issues related to the activities of transnational corporations on transborder data flows, international financial transfers, marketing and production of primary commodities, transnational banking and purchasing policies, and international trade, and measures that developing countries have taken to strengthen co-operation among themselves, particularly in the area of state enterprises. Many delegations emphasized that the Centre's research activities should contribute to the work on the code of conduct and to the strengthening of the negotiating capacity of host, particularly developing, countries, as had been agreed at the sixth session of the Commission.

88. All the delegations expressed their appreciation of the report on transnational corporations and transborder data flows (E/C.10/87) and congratulated the Centre on the quality and the forward-looking nature of the study. It was felt that the paper depicted accurately the major role of transnational corporations in commercial and corporate transborder data flows, the potential implications of that role for developing countries, and the efforts that have been undertaken to understand the new phenomenon. In the view of some delegations, developing countries in particular ought to be aware of the possible changes associated with the increasing use of transborder data flows and the potential they entail for the furtherance of development efforts. In that context, the importance was underlined of access to computerized data banks and remote-sensing data for the improvement of the negotiating capacities of developing countries. It was recognized that the ability of developing countries to have access to the international data market and to utilize fully the underlying technology and equipment was important for the development process, including the achievement of greater economic co-operation among those countries. As regards the impact of transborder data flows on the decision-making of transnational corporations, several delegations doubted the existence of a trend towards centralization; rather, the effects of transborder data flows may be neutral or possibly even allow greater decentralization.

89. Many delegations stressed the priority they attached to further research on transnational corporations and transborder data flows and thought that, in view of the importance of the subject, it should appear as a separate item or as a subitem on the agenda of the Commission. Further research, as outlined in the concluding section of document E/C.10/87, apart from contributing to the demystification of the subject-matter, should focus on the role of transnational corporations in transborder data flows and its impact on developing countries. It was agreed that the Centre should submit further documentation to the Commission in order to increase its understanding of the subject.

90. Many delegations expressed their appreciation of the Centre's report on transnational corporations and the pharmaceutical industry in developing countries (E/C.10/85), commending its quality and the important information it contained. Some delegations underlined the significance of regulation in the area of pharmaceuticals and others pointed to the undesirable practices that some transnational corporations followed in the field, as indicated in the report. Speaking of the interim character of the report, they expressed the view that the technical paper on the topic which would be issued later should deal with such issues as the importance of industrial property, research risks, and appropriate policies to achieve the optimum supply of pharmaceutical products. It was felt

that the present report tended to favour interventionist policies on the part of Governments. One delegation noted that the report accurately reflected the favourable effects achieved through the policies followed by its Government.

91. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation of the report of the Centre on the direct effects of transnational corporations on the balance-of-payments (E/C.10/84); they considered it to be a useful survey of the literature and of the methodological issues, as well as an interesting analysis of the direct balance-of-payments effects in Mexico. The data contained in the report and the issues raised were of great relevance to developing countries given the constraints that they faced in that area. Several delegations noted that the effects of transnational corporations on the balance-of-payments, as pointed out in the study, were broader, covering also indirect effects, and that Governments sometimes had objectives other than the mere improvement of the balance-of-payments, such as increase of skills, technological capability, or employment. It was also recognized that it was difficult to measure the effects of transnational corporations on the balance-of-payments given the scarcity of data. It was suggested that Governments should take steps to improve their statistics by separating transactions related to transnational corporations from other items in the balance-of-payments. It was also suggested that further work should be undertaken on certain aspects of the subject.

92. Other delegations found that the report had little usefulness because of methodological short-comings; they were critical of conclusions reached on the basis of a partial treatment of the issue. Although the report acknowledged the methodological problems involved, it nevertheless presented its conclusions somewhat categorically. Given the difficulties encountered and the ensuing disappointing results, the study should not receive further dissemination.

93. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation of the report on the social and cultural impact of transnational corporations (E/C.10/86). They found the report most interesting and a positive step forward, and noted in particular the importance of the relationship between the socio-cultural and the economic dimensions of development. A few delegations, however, deplored the fact that the report did not address itself to the political activities of transnational corporations. The Centre was encouraged to continue its work on the social and political activities of transnational corporations. One delegation remarked that the study was timid in its conclusions, while a few found some flaws in it.

94. In his response, the Officer-in-charge of the Policy Analysis Division pointed out that the Centre, in carrying out its research work, was following the mandate it had received at the second session of the Commission and at subsequent sessions. He indicated that the comments made by delegations on the reports on pharmaceuticals and the socio-cultural impact of transnational corporations would be taken into account in the preparation of the technical papers which would be issued as sales publications in the near future.

95. With regard to the report on the balance-of-payments, he recalled that the methodological problems involved in assessing direct effects were fully explained in the paper which only aimed at providing a survey of the literature, highlighting the paucity of data and the measures that could be taken by Governments to improve them, and submitting findings from the pilot study of Mexico; generalizations were studiously and expressly avoided. The Centre did

not plan to issue the study as a sales publication. He also informed the Commission that some political aspects of the activities of transnational corporations would be covered in the comprehensive integrated study under preparation. The effects of those activities on both home and host countries would be examined especially when the subject-matter lent itself to such an approach. Over-all, the Centre took all possible steps in its research to ensure the accuracy of data, recognizing that such efforts were indispensable to achieving high-quality, in-depth research which permitted the drawing of conclusions and policy recommendations.

Action by the Commission

96. The Commission:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the research activities of the Centre and the introductory statement made by the Officer-in-charge of the Policy Analysis Division on behalf of the Executive Director;

(b) Took note of the report on ongoing and future research (E/C.10/88) and requested the Centre to continue its useful research work as suggested in that report and in the light of the discussion held in the Commission regarding topics, priorities and efforts to ensure selectivity, accuracy and appropriate orientation in its research work;

(c) Took note of the reports submitted by the Centre to the Commission: "Transnational corporations: direct effects on the balance-of-payments" (E/C.10/84); "Transnational corporations in the pharmaceutical industry of developing countries" (E/C.10/85); "Aspects of the social and political effects of the activities of transnational corporations" (E/C.10/86); and "Transnational corporations and transborder data flows: an overview" (E/C.10/87), and decided to add to the agenda for the eighth session of the Commission, a subitem on transnational corporations and transborder data flows;

(d) Reiterated the importance it attached to the research on the economic, political, social and legal aspects of the activities of transnational corporations in home and host, particularly developing, countries and reaffirmed that the research should be action-oriented and contribute to the work on the formulation of the code of conduct and to the strengthening of the negotiating capacity of host, particularly developing, countries;

(e) Commended The CTC Reporter as a useful means for disseminating information of the research activities and requested the Centre to explore new channels to permit discussions of research findings by governmental officials, particularly in developing countries, and thus to increase the usefulness of the research work.

VIII. WORK RELATED TO THE DEFINITION OF
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

(Agenda item 9)

97. The Commission considered agenda item 9 at its 101st meeting. It had before it the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct on its fourteenth session (E/C.10/79), and heard introductory remarks by the Executive Director of the Centre. In his statement, the Executive Director recalled the various decisions the Commission had taken in the past on this issue and the relevant documentation on the subject submitted by the Centre. He noted that the Commission had requested the Intergovernmental Working Group to find a definition in the context of a code of conduct.

98. As the deliberations on a definition of transnational corporations had not yet been concluded by the Working Group, several delegations suggested that the discussion be postponed to the eighth session of the Commission.

Action by the Commission

99. The Commission:

(a) Decided to postpone consideration of agenda item 9 to the eighth session of the Commission, and to discuss it in the context of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct:

(b) Expressed the wish that the Intergovernmental Working Group give full attention during its next session to the issue of the definition of transnational corporations.

IX. QUESTION OF EXPERT ADVISERS

(Agenda item 10)

100. The Commission considered agenda item 10 at its 107th meeting. It had before it a note by the secretariat entitled, "The question of expert advisers" (E/C.10/89).

101. The Chairman stated that, following consultations among the various regional groups, agreement had been reached that Messrs. Da Silva, Neves and von Planta be selected to fill the three vacancies for the remainder of the current term (i.e., through the eighth session of the Commission). The Chairman expressed, on behalf of the Commission, his appreciation to Messrs. de Andrade Faria, Sandri and Tacke for their valuable contribution to the work of the Commission.

Action by the Commission

102. The Commission:

(a) Decided to select the following expert advisers to fill the three vacancies for the remainder of the current term (i.e., through the eighth session of the Commission):

Mr. Mario Joel Ramos DA SILVA
(Portugal)

Economic and Social Department,
World Federation of Trade Unions

Mr. Jones Santos NEVES
(Brazil)

Managing Vice-President,
Brazilian National Confederation
of Industries

Mr. L. von PLANTA
(Switzerland)

Chairman of the Board and
Managing Director, CIBA-GEIGY

(b) Decided to consider at its eighth session the question of expert advisers and to select 16 expert advisers for the following two-year term (i.e., through the tenth session of the Commission), in line with the decision taken by the Commission at its sixth session;

(c) Requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, after consultation with States members of the Commission, to submit to the Commission at its eighth session, a list of candidates for expert advisers for its consideration.

X. ISSUES ARISING FROM DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

(Agenda item 11)

(a) Role of the information system on transnational corporations regarding the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceuticals

103. The Commission considered agenda item 11 (a) at its 100th meeting. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the possible role of the information system regarding exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceuticals (E/C.10/90).

104. The Executive Director, in his introductory remarks, referred to General Assembly resolution 35/186 of 15 December 1980, in which the Assembly requested, inter alia, the Commission to study the possible role of the Centre's information system in improving the exchange of information on toxic chemicals and pharmaceuticals. There was growing international concern regarding the manufacture, distribution and use of certain chemicals and pharmaceuticals which were considered hazardous for human health and safety or dangerous for the environment. There was also growing recognition of the need for international co-ordination and for improving exchange of information between governments in this regard. The United Nations had published a review of the over-all United Nations efforts for exchange of information among governments on these products (A/36/255), which had been considered by the Economic and Social Council in its second regular session of 1981. The Council's views will be before the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

105. The Executive Director pointed out that in respect of the activities of transnational corporations, the concluded provisions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct contained two separate sections which sought to increase the reporting by such corporations on environmental and consumer product safety measures. While transnational corporations were generally viewed as being the principal manufacturers of chemicals and pharmaceuticals on a global basis, it was extremely difficult to assess their specific role in the manufacture, sale and use of hazardous and toxic products. The possible role of the Centre's information system in respect of such products had to be viewed against the background of other United Nations organizations. The lead bodies in the United Nations system were The International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). Those bodies had already undertaken programmes for the supply and exchange of information on hazardous and toxic products, as well as for exchange of information on regulatory measures in different countries. The role of the information system in this issue could only be complementary to the activities of those organizations. It could provide information on the involvement of transnational corporations in the manufacture and sale of products considered sufficiently toxic or hazardous for inclusion in the current information exchange programmes of those United Nations organizations. Such information could be collected by the Centre and supplied to the specialized United Nations bodies for incorporation, as appropriate, in their information exchange systems or for dissemination in other forms.

106. Most delegations emphasized the importance of the problem arising from the manufacture, distribution and use of chemicals and pharmaceuticals considered toxic and hazardous and emphasized the need for greater exchange of information on this matter. It was noted that the specialized United Nations organizations, ILO, FAO, WHO and UNEP, had already initiated programmes for exchange of information on such products; efforts should be made to improve that exchange as far as possible. Some delegations stressed the fact that transnational corporations were not the only enterprises involved in the production and marketing of such products; a number of other enterprises were also involved. Consequently, the role of the Centre's information system would necessarily have to be a limited one. Other delegations were of the view that transnational corporations were the principal manufacturers of such products and played a significant role in the marketing and use of toxic chemicals and pharmaceuticals adversely affecting human life and the environment in a number of countries. In some cases, such corporations had undertaken manufacture only for export or had set up production facilities in other countries in respect of products that were banned in their home country. They considered information between governments on the activities of the corporations in this area to be of crucial importance.

Action by the Commission

107. The Commission:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the report of the Centre on the role of the information system on transnational corporations regarding the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceuticals (E/C.10/90);

(b) Requested the Centre to co-operate with other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, i.e., ILO, FAO, WHO and UNEP, in their programmes for exchange of information on such toxic products and to inform the Commission on those activities at its eighth session.

(b) Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: Programme on transnational corporations

108. The Commission considered agenda item 11(b) at its 104th meeting. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989; Programme on transnational corporations (E/C.10/91) and it heard introductory remarks by the Executive Director of the Centre.

109. The Executive Director recalled that the Secretariat had been requested, in the preparation of the medium-term plan, to take account of the requirements of the International Development Strategy, which was to determine the over-all policy framework of the plan. He noted that the presentation of the proposed medium-term plan differed somewhat from that of the current 1980-1983 plan, since the instructions given to the Secretariat specifically called for subprogrammes which were to reflect the objectives placed in the programme by the legislative bodies, i.e., the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Transnational Corporations. The Centre's areas of activity would remain basically the same, i.e., it would continue to assist intergovernmental working groups in formulating and implementing international arrangements and agreements relating to

transnational corporations, to conduct research and analysis with respect to transnational corporations, to collect and disseminate information on matters related to transnational corporations, and to carry out advisory and training services upon requests of governments.

110. Most delegations expressed their appreciation for the presentation of the proposed medium-term plan, which they considered to be a very important document, and they welcomed the opportunity to comment on it.

111. Some delegations had the impression that the proposed medium-term plan gave less emphasis to research as compared to the current medium-term plan. One delegation stated that reference should be made in the plan to the decisions taken by the Commission at its second session. Other delegations asserted that the mandates on the programme of work related to transnational corporations adopted by the Council and the Commission should be taken fully into account. Some delegations stated that it was difficult to consider at such an early stage a medium-term plan for 1984-1989. They expressed their wish to revert to it at a later date.

112. Several delegations stated, with reference to the proposed subprogramme 1: Securing an effective code of conduct and other international arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations, that the wording used in the medium-term plan should be the same as that decided by the Commission. It was also premature to anticipate the implementing and monitoring procedures of the code and the Centre's role in them. Some delegations expressed the view that the role of transnational corporations and the impact of their activities should be analysed with respect to both host and home countries. The view was expressed that the programme objectives should not include matters related to the promotion of foreign direct investment which in their view were not covered by the terms of reference of the Centre.

113. Some delegations were of the opinion that the medium-term plan on the programme on transnational corporations should take into account the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action.

114. A number of suggestions were made regarding the content of the medium-term plan, among them that the conclusions of the discussions on various agenda items at the seventh session of the Commission should be reflected in the revised medium-term plan.

115. In his response to the questions raised in the discussion, the Associate Director in charge of the Office of the Executive Director noted that the purpose of the medium-term plan was mainly to provide the over-all general framework for the work of the Commission and the Centre in the period 1984-1989, and that it should not be regarded as a detailed programme of work. The medium-term plan would come up for revision in 1985. He pointed out that there was no intention on the part of the Secretariat to downgrade the Centre's research function and that its importance would remain unchanged. The proposed plan was broad enough to allow the Commission to mandate the Centre to undertake a variety of research topics in all three proposed subprogrammes. In responding to the more detailed comments by delegations, he stated that the proposals for amendments of the text that had been put forward during the discussion would be taken into account in the revision of the proposed medium-term plan.

Action by the Commission

116. The Commission:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the note by the Secretariat on the proposed medium-term plan 1984-1989: Programme on transnational corporations (E/C.10/91);

(b) Requested the Secretariat to revise the proposed medium-term plan in the light of the discussions on agenda item 11 (b) as well as on the other items on the agenda for the seventh session of the Commission and to ensure that the plan is consistent with the approved objectives of the Centre.

XI. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

(Agenda item 12)

117. The Commission considered agenda item 12 at its 108th and 109th meetings. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing a draft provisional agenda and the documentation for the eighth session of the Commission (E/C.10/L.43).

118. The Secretary of the Commission made a statement on the item in which he brought to the attention of the Commission Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/83 of 24 July 1981 on the control and limitation of documentation. He pointed out that the Council, by that resolution, inter alia, had reaffirmed that intergovernmental and expert bodies should keep their requests for documents to the minimum compatible with the efficient conduct of their work and within the limits of the resources available to the Secretariat, and had instructed the subsidiary bodies of the Council to take urgent measures to streamline their agendas and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

Action by the Commission

119. At the 109th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft provisional agenda and list of documentation for the eighth session (for the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, para. 1, draft decision II).

XII. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

120. The Commission on Transnational Corporations held its seventh session at Geneva from 31 August to 11 September 1981. The Commission held 19 meetings, (92nd to 110th).

121. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, Mr. Philippe Lévy (Switzerland).

122. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Mr. Kenneth Dadzie, addressed the Commission.

B. Membership and attendance

123. The following States are members of the Commission: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

124. All the members of the Commission were represented at the session except Costa Rica, Cuba, Guinea, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Swaziland.

125. The following expert advisers attended the session: Mr. Michael A. Ajomo (Nigeria), Mr. Carlos Omar Navarro Carrasco (Venezuela), Mr. S. Babar Ali (Pakistan), Mr. José A. Encinas del Pando (Peru), Mr. Johan M. Goudswaard (Netherlands), Ms. Elizabeth Jager (United States of America), Mr. David Lea (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. James Denis Akuma (Kenya), Mr. Samuel Paul (India), Mr. Gianadrea Sandri (Italy), Mr. Bogdan Sosnowski (Poland), Mr. Gerd Tacke (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Brank Vukmir (Yugoslavia) and Mr. Ralph Weller (United States of America).

126. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Australia, Bulgaria, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Norway.

127. The following United Nations bodies were represented: Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Latin America, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme.

128. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund.

129. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also represented.

130. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: European Economic Community, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

131. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: in category I consultative status: International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Organization of Consumers Unions, International Organization of Employers, World Federation of Trade Unions; in category II consultative status: International Christian Union of Business Executives, World Peace Council.

C. Election of officers

132. At its 93rd meeting, the Commission elected by acclamation the following Bureau:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Nitish Kumar Sengupta (India)
<u>Vice-Chairmen</u>	Mr. Gabriel Ljewere (Nigeria) Mr. Horst Heininger (German Democratic Republic) Mr. Seymour Rubin (United States of America)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Julio Freyre (Argentina)

D. Adoption of the agenda

133. At its 93rd meeting, the Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Report on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
5. Work related to the formulation of a code of conduct: report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct
6. Comprehensive information system:
 - (a) Establishment of a comprehensive information system
 - (b) International standards of accounting and reporting
7. Technical co-operation
8. Studies on the effects of the operations and practices of transnational corporations:

(a) Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régime in that area

(b) Other studies

(c) Review of ongoing and future research

9. Work related to the definition of transnational corporations

10. Question of expert advisers

11. Issues arising from decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

12. Draft provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission

13. Adoption of the report of the Commission

134. Speaking on the organizational aspects of the work of the Commission, several delegations expressed regret that some documents for the session had been issued very late and they therefore had had no time to study them. In that connexion, at the 107th meeting, the representative of France introduced, on behalf of Algeria, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela and Zaire, a draft resolution (E/C.10/L.42) entitled, "Control, limitation and distribution of documentation".

135. At the same meeting the Commission adopted the draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, para. 2).

E. Documentation

136. The documents that were before the Commission at its seventh session are listed in the annex to the present report.

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

137. The Commission considered the draft report (E/C.10/L.40 and Add.1 to 13) at its 109th and 110th meetings. Various amendments were made to the draft report. At the 110th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report, as amended.

Dates and venue of the eighth session of the Commission

138. At the 108th meeting, the delegation of the Philippines informed the Commission of his Government's offer to hold the eighth session of the Commission at Manila. The delegations expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for its kind offer.

139. All delegations stressed the importance of the three sessions in 1982 of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct being spaced over the first half of 1982 so as to provide the Working Group with sufficient time to fulfil its task and therefore suggested that the eighth session of the Commission be scheduled for late August/early September 1982.

140. Action by the Commission

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it accept the offer of the Government of the Philippines to act as host to the eighth session of the Commission and that the session be convened in late August or early September 1982 (for the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, para. 1, draft decision I).

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.10/76 and Add.1	3	Provisional agenda
E/C.10/77	4	Report on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.10/78	4	Report on the joint units established between the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the regional commissions: report of the Secretariat
E/C.10/79	5 and 9	Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct on its fourteenth session
E/C.10/80	6 (a)	Establishment of a comprehensive information system: report of the Secretariat
E/C.10/81	6 (b)	Report of the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its first, second, third and fourth sessions
E/C.10/82	7	Programme of technical co-operation on matters related to transnational corporations: report of the Secretariat
E/C.10/83 and Corr.1	8 (a)	Transnational corporations in southern Africa: update on financial activities and employment practices: report of the Secretariat
E/C.10/84	8 (b)	Transnational corporations: direct effects on the balance-of-payments: report of the Secretariat
E/C.10/85	8 (b)	Transnational corporations in the pharmaceutical industry of developing countries

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/C.10/86	8(<u>b</u>)	Aspects of the social and political effects of the activities of transnational corporations: report of the Secretariat
E/C.10/87	8(<u>b</u>)	Strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries Transnational corporations and transborder data flows: an overview: report of the Secretariat
E/C.10/88	8(<u>c</u>)	Review of ongoing and future research: report of the Secretariat
E/C.10/89	10	The question of expert advisers: note by the Secretariat
E/C.10/90	11(a)	Role of the information system on transnational corporations regarding the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceuticals: report of the Secretariat
E/C.10/91	11(<u>b</u>)	Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: Programme on transnational corporations: note by the Secretariat
E/C.10/L.40 and Add.1-13	13	Draft report
E/C.10/L.41	8(<u>a</u>)	Draft resolution
E/C.10/L.42	3	Draft resolution
E/C.10/L.43	12	Draft provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission
E/C.10/INF.11		Note by the Secretariat
E/C.10/INF.12		List of participants
E/C.10/VII/CRP.1	4	Proposed programme budget for 1982-1983: transnational corporations; note by the Secretariat