



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Resumed Forty-ninth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Friday, 9 October 1970,  
at 10.20 a.m.

NEW YORK

*President: Mr. J. B. P. MARAMIS (Indonesia).**Adoption of the agenda (E/L.1355)*

1. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the arrangements for its resumed forty-ninth session (E/L.1355). Replying to a question from the representative of Tunisia, he said that item 7 emanated from item 29 of the agenda for the forty-ninth session and that only new suggestions would be entertained. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the agenda and arrangements for the resumed forty-ninth session.

*It was so decided.*

## AGENDA ITEM 1

Report of the Trade and Development Board  
(E/4926 and Add.1)

2. Mr. DELL (Director, New York Office of UNCTAD), introducing parts I and II of the report of the Trade and Development Board (A/8015) covering the third part of its ninth session and the first part of its tenth session respectively, said that the fourth special session of the Board was scheduled for 12 and 13 October 1970 for the purpose of considering the final report of the Special Committee on Preferences.

3. The Board had reached a consensus to adopt the contribution of UNCTAD to the Second United Nations Development Decade. The relevant texts were contained in decisions 64 (IX) and 67 (X) of the Trade and Development Board. Several issues remained unresolved notwithstanding sustained efforts to arrive at generally accepted agreements. The Board had agreed that UNCTAD's contribution to the Decade should be regarded as a continuing effort designed to accelerate the growth of developing countries through the adoption and implementation of appropriate trade and aid policies, and had decided to endeavour, through the permanent machinery of UNCTAD, to tackle effectively, on a continuing basis, the major problems within its competence that the international community would face during the Decade, taking into account all relevant developments and seeking new areas of agreement and the widening of existing ones. The Board was fully conscious of the significance of UNCTAD's responsibilities on matters within its competence in the implementation of the international development strategy, and would continue to work in close co-operation with other United Nations bodies and international organizations to achieve the goals of the Decade.

4. The Board had continued to devote considerable attention to special measures in favour of the least

developed among the developing countries and had decided to establish an *ad hoc* group of experts to assist it in the formulation, development and review of policies and projects in that area. Increasing attention had also been given to the special problems of the land-locked countries.

5. The Board had adopted resolution 73 (X) on pricing policies and liberalization of trade as a step towards the adoption of an international policy on primary commodities. The resolution did not prejudice the search for new arrangements within UNCTAD and in other international bodies and the Board had therefore requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to submit proposals for future work in those fields to the Conference at its third session, after consultations with the Governments of member States and the international organizations concerned.

6. The Board had by resolution 74 (X) established an Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology to assist in identifying obstacles to the transfer of technology to developing countries; recommending measures for overcoming them and facilitating access to modern technology by developing countries. UNCTAD, and specifically the new Intergovernmental Group, would co-ordinate its activities with those of other bodies in the United Nations system and other international organizations with a view to avoiding any duplication of work. Specific reference had been made to the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council, particularly with respect to co-ordination, and to the agreements governing the relations between the United Nations and the international organizations concerned.

7. A sessional Committee of the Whole established to consider problems of trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems had arrived at a number of conclusions which had been endorsed by the Board. The Committee of the Whole had noted the increasing growth of trade in 1969 between countries with different economic and social systems, but had stressed that there existed further scope for the expansion of such trade. The Board had welcomed the readiness expressed by most of the socialist countries of Eastern Europe to establish preferential tariffs for imports from developing countries. Fifty-one bilateral trade consultations involving thirty-eight countries had also taken place on a confidential, voluntary and non-committal basis and it had been generally agreed that such consultations should be continued at the next meeting of the sessional Committee.

8. The Board had adopted a declaration on supplementary financial measures in which it had stated that it was necessary for an effort to be made to work out the details of a discretionary scheme of supplementary financing that could be implemented within the World Bank Group and to assess the possible costs of such a scheme.

9. The Board had taken note of a statement on international monetary issues submitted by the developing countries, and of the hope expressed by the developed countries that the question of establishing a direct link between the creation of special drawing rights and the provision of additional development finance would be considered at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and that studies would be initiated in that respect as soon as possible.

10. Lastly, the Board had reviewed the work carried out by all its subsidiary bodies and had taken note of an illustrative list of substantive items prepared by the secretariat for inclusion in the draft provisional agenda for the third session of the Conference. The Board had agreed by its decision 71 (X) to recommend to the General Assembly that it should decide that the third session of the Conference should be convened in April-May 1972.

11. Mr. VIAUD (France) said it was essential to take into account the reservations and interpretations expressed in the Board regarding various aspects of government trade policies. The delicate compromise reached on certain issues—in particular, international commodity policies—must be respected. At the same time, efforts to overcome remaining difficulties should continue; unofficial consultations among the members of UNCTAD would prove most helpful in attaining that objective.

12. UNCTAD had important responsibilities in the field of transfer of technology and its activities in that area must be closely co-ordinated with those of other interested bodies. The Economic and Social Council would have to assume major co-ordination duties, particularly once institutional arrangements in UNCTAD were worked out, and the discussions already held in the Board regarding the transfer of technology would have to be reviewed in the light of the work of the recently established Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology.

13. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Council should take note of the Board's report and transmit it to the General Assembly. The report

indicated that progress had been made in a number of areas, particularly with regard to preferential tariffs for developing countries.

14. Although his delegation had no objection in principle to the establishment of an UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology, it considered the financial implications of its establishment unjustifiably high. In that connexion, he drew attention to paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1547 (XLIX) and to the statement by the Secretary-General to the 1357th meeting of the Fifth Committee to the effect that the total level of staff resources for 1971 should be maintained at that approved for 1970.

15. A sessional committee of the Council established to deal with questions of science and technology would be in a position, with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to carry out the essential task of co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the field, ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolutions and eliminate duplication. Any proposals to establish new United Nations machinery to deal with science and technology must be implemented with existing resources and within the framework of existing institutions.

16. Mr. DUBEY (India) proposed that the Council should take note of parts I and II of the report of the Trade and Development Board and transmit them to the General Assembly, on the understanding that detailed comments on those parts could be made on 19 October when the Council met to consider part III of the report.

17. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to transmit to the General Assembly parts I and II of the report of the Trade and Development Board. The Council could adopt a formal resolution after it had considered part III of the report.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 11 a.m.*