

1879th meeting

Friday, 10 August 1973, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. S. A. FRAZÃO (Brazil)

E/SR.1879

AGENDA ITEM 10

Science and technology:

- (a) Report the Committee on Science and Technology for Development
- (b) Report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development
- (c) The role of modern science and technology in the development of nations
- (d) Outflow of trained personnel from the developing to the developed countries
- (e) Question of the establishment of a special protein fund
- (f) Transfer of operative technology at the enterprise level

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5413 and Add.1)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Economic Committee had recommended to the Council that it adopt five draft resolutions and five draft decisions (see E/5413, para. 36 and E/5413/Add.1).

2. He put to the vote draft resolution I (Quantification of scientific and technological activities related to development, which the Economic Committee had adopted by 34 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 11 votes to 4, with 1 abstention.

3. Mr. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil) said that he had abstained in the vote on draft resolution I because he considered that the Council had insufficient technical information on which to take a decision on quantitative measures and also because the proposed schedule of activities for the intergovernmental group of experts was incompatible with the consideration which was to be given to the revision of paragraphs 60, 61 and 63 of the International Development Strategy.¹

4. Mr. RAZAFINDRABE (Madagascar), who had been unable to take part in the voting, said that he would like the summary record of the meeting to indicate that his delegation would have voted in favour of draft resolution I.

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution II (World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development),

which the Economic Committee had adopted by 36 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

6. Mr. WANG Jun-sheng (China) said that his delegation, which had abstained in the vote in the Economic Committee, would vote in favour of draft resolution II in the Council on the understanding that the provisions of operative paragraph 2 were in no way binding on Governments.

Draft resolution II was adopted unanimously.

7. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution III (Application of computer technology), which the Economic Committee had adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution III was adopted unanimously.

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution IV concerning the report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/5288).

Draft resolution IV was adopted unanimously.

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on draft resolution V (The role of modern science and technology in the development of nations and the need to strengthen economic, technical and scientific co-operation among States).

Draft resolution V was adopted unanimously.

10. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision A concerning the report of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its first session (E/5272).

Draft decision A was adopted unanimously.

11. The PRESIDENT suggested, in view of the Council's decision on the date of the twentieth session of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development under agenda item 28 (Calendar of conferences), that it was unnecessary to vote again on draft decision B.

It was so decided.

12. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to turn to draft decision C.

Draft decision C was adopted unanimously.

13. The PRESIDENT said that the Council might wish to adopt draft decision D by consensus.

14. Mr. VASILIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would agree to that procedure,

¹ For the text of the International Development Strategy see General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV).

provided the words "Fiscal and financial matters" were inserted before the words "Transfer of operative technology at the enterprise level", in order to reproduce the exact title of the document submitted under agenda item 10(f).

15. The PRESIDENT said that the phrase in quotation marks in draft decision D was the title of agenda item 10(f) and should therefore remain in the form in which it had been approved by the Council. The Soviet Union representative's request might be met by beginning the draft decision with the words: "The Economic and Social Council decides that the documents concerning fiscal and financial matters submitted to it at its fifty-fifth session in connexion with agenda item 10(f)..." the rest of the paragraph remaining as it stood.

16. He put draft decision D, as amended, to the vote.

Draft decision D, as amended, was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

17. The PRESIDENT, noting that the Council had taken a decision on all the draft resolutions and decisions in paragraph 36 of document E/5413, drew attention to the draft decision in document E/5413/Add.1, which the Council might wish to adopt by consensus.

The draft decision was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Second United Nations Development Decade: review and appraisal of progress in implementing the International Development Strategy, including a further discussion of collective economic security

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5414 and Corr.1 and Add.1-4)

18. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the draft resolution submitted by the Economic Committee (E/5414/Add.2) without a vote.

It was so decided.

19. Mr. VASILIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested that the draft decision on collective economic security should be put to the vote.

20. The PRESIDENT put the draft decision (E/5414/Add.3) to the vote.

The draft decision was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

21. Mr. VASILIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), explaining his vote, said that his delegation had made its views known at the time of voting on the text in the Economic Committee, when its efforts to have the text amended so as to make it more acceptable had been unsuccessful. The delegation had therefore been unable to support the draft decision, since it approved neither of the manner in which it had been submitted nor of the discussion to which it had given rise and because it

considered that instead of being concerned with the development of a concept of collective economic security, it virtually implied a change in the functions of the Secretary-General and the Council.

22. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft decision in document E/5414/Add.4.

23. Mr. VASILIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in view of the position which it had adopted in the Economic Committee and of the statement made by the socialist countries on 21 September 1970 on the Second Development Decade,² his delegation would abstain.

The draft decision was adopted by 14 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.

24. Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) said that although it had been understood that draft resolutions would be submitted as early as possible in order to permit the Council to adopt them by consensus, two draft resolutions had been submitted too late for consultations to be held on them. He objected to the procedure adopted at an earlier meeting, when a draft resolution had been declared adopted by consensus when there was no quorum. Whatever view might be held on the content of those draft resolutions, one of which his delegation had, in fact, supported, and while not contesting the merits of the consensus method itself, he had doubts about the procedure under which those texts had been adopted.

Financial implications of actions taken by the Council at its fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions (E/5408)

25. Mr. ARIM (Turkey) pointed out that in the informational summary appended to the Secretary-General's report, section 18 of the programme budget against the item "Travel and subsistence costs for the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East" did not indicate the expenditure for the meeting to be held in Geneva in 1974. He asked whether that meant that the expenditure on the meeting would be comparable to the expenditure foreseen for 1975.

26. Mr. VASILIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that in the Council and its subsidiary bodies, the Soviet delegation had expressed reservations concerning the financial implications of the decisions taken by the Council. His delegation considered that in view of the present critical situation of the United Nations budget, members of the Council and of other United Nations bodies should try to save as much as possible.

27. The PRESIDENT endorsed the comments of the USSR representative.

28. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council), in reply to the question from the Turkish representative, said that paragraph 1 of document E/5408 made it clear that the document contained a summary of all additions to the

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 42, document A/8074.

biennial programme budget covering the economic, social and human rights field. The fact that the 1974 column in the informational summary gave no figure therefore meant that expenditure on the meeting of the Sub-Commission was already included in the biennial programme budget estimates.

29. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial implications of the decisions taken by the Council at its fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions (E/5408).

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 20

Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine (*concluded*)*

30. The PRESIDENT announced that he had received numerous communications in reply to the appeal which he had sent to Governments and United Nations bodies for aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine (1860th meeting). The Australian Government had indicated that on 1 June 1973 it had paid \$25,000 into the FAO Sahelian Zone Trust Fund, while regretting that it was unable to make a supplementary contribution. The Austrian Government had decided to contribute \$190,000 to the FAO Fund. The Iranian Government would shortly make available to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a sum of \$15,000 for assistance to the area. The Libyan Arab Republic had informed the President that it would make a contribution of 200,000 Libyan dinars for Upper Volta and 100,000 dinars for each of the following countries: Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. In addition, the Government of the Libyan Arab Republic had decided to buy 10 transport vehicles for use in the four last-named countries. The Governments of Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua had indicated that because of the recent disasters in their countries, they would be unable to respond to the President's appeal.

31. In addition, several promises of contributions had been sent directly to the Secretary-General and FAO.

32. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) said that he was happy to announce, in response to the Secretary-General's appeal for economic assistance to Zambia, that the Government of the Philippines had undertaken to pay \$3,000 in token of its sympathy with the gallant people of Zambia, who were struggling to preserve their independence and dignity in the face of racist and colonialist régimes. That was a small contribution, but the Philippines could do no better because of the recent disasters which it had experienced; its contribution was part of the support which the Philippines had constantly given to the United Nations' humanitarian aid programmes, which support had been demonstrated at the fifty-fourth session of the Council during the examination of measures of assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened by famine, and in the Co-ordination Committee during consideration of agenda item 21.

33. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) announced that in response to the appeal launched by the President of the Economic and Social Council, Argentina had donated 2,000 tons of wheat to the United Nations aid co-ordinator appointed by FAO.

34. Mr. DIARRA (Mali) thanked the President for the appeal which he had issued and the Government which had responded to it. The drought-stricken countries were now certain of being able to meet their difficulties with the help of the aid supplied by the international community.

35. Mr. ABDOULAYE (Niger) joined the Malian representative in expressing his thanks to all the Governments which had helped to ensure the survival of the populations of the Sudano-Sahelian zone in the six countries facing disaster. But food assistance, however large, could not permanently solve the problem of drought. The only way to avoid similar situations in the future was to help the Sudano-Sahelian countries, through low-interest loans, to exploit the water resources which they possessed, and in particular the underground water existing in the region.

Election of a Vice-President

36. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) announced that his Government had requested him to take up other duties, and that he would have to give up his post as Vice-President of the Council as from 14 August 1973. In accordance with rule 23 of the Council's rules of procedure, he proposed that Mr. Karhilo, the representative of Finland, should replace him. Mr. Karhilo's great competence and outstanding qualities made him particularly suitable for the post.

37. The PRESIDENT paid tribute to the devotion and efficacy with which the retiring Vice-President had carried out his tasks, notably as Chairman of the Economic Committee and in the Working Group on Review and Appraisal.

38. He suggested that Mr. Karhilo should be appointed Vice-President of the Council for the period 14 August to 31 December 1973.

Mr. Karhilo was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

39. Mr. PATHMARAJAH (Sri Lanka) associated himself with the tribute paid to Mr. Scott by the President and wished him every success in his new duties.

Adjournment of the session

40. The PRESIDENT said that the Economic and Social Council had achieved positive results during the current session and had been able to complete its work programme in the precise time available. In 1974 it would be able to concentrate on a synthesis of the action of all the subsidiary organs of the United Nations and its affiliated bodies, and on the Organization's fundamental strategic role in the fields of economic, social and financial co-operation.

* Resumed from the 1868th meeting.

41. In 1973, the Council had engaged in resolute self-criticism. It had made real efforts to reaffirm its role and to put new life into its activities in order to take account of the constant evolution of the world, today and in the future. It had been guided in its efforts by the new concepts which must govern the establishment of a better international order, and had sought to re-define the collective interests of the international community as a whole. The decision on the rationalization of the Council's work taken at its fifty-fourth session³ expressed that new orientation, which should enable the Council fully to discharge its responsibilities under the Charter. With the same aim in view the Council had begun, slowly but surely, to adopt new measures which would enable the concept of collective economic security to be defined by consensus.

42. The founders of the United Nations had shown wisdom in establishing, at the heart of the system, an organ responsible for ensuring the co-ordination of co-operative policies and activities. Efforts made in the past to strengthen the Council's co-ordinating role had failed for lack of a framework in which to work out policies acceptable to all the organs in the system. With the launching of the International Development Strategy, the Council was now called upon to assume its true co-ordinating role with regard to the work programmes and activities of all United Nations bodies. It would also have to undertake a revision of the agreements with the specialized agencies and define its future relations with sectoral bodies in order to take account of the growing interdependence of needs in the economic, social, scientific and technical fields.

43. The formulation and the co-ordination of policies could not be dissociated if the council was to carry out effectively the centralizing role incumbent upon it by reason of the implementation of the Strategy and the demands of modern diplomacy. In fact, the Council had considered all aspects of the numerous problems facing contemporary society: monetary problems, the preparation of the International Development Strategy. Through the Sahelian region, economic assistance to Zambia, co-operation in industrial development and in the environmental field, assistance to the least-developed countries and to the land-locked developing countries, etc.

44. The fact that the present atmosphere of *détente* had enabled the Council to consider all those problems showed that its action, and the diplomatic efforts made to encourage development, could not be dissociated from the political evolution of international relations. Recourse to such endeavours might become increasingly necessary if political solutions were to be found to the problems faced by peoples and nations in other fields, which prevented them from enjoying their rights to peace and security. International peace and security were in fact closely connected with the many aspects of development. That was why it was so important that the international community

should firmly undertake to respect the aims and objectives of the International Development Strategy. Through the review and appraisal process, the Strategy had acquired a dynamic character which must be carefully fostered if it was to face up to the new problems which were continually arising in the field of development. The paper prepared by the Working Group on Review and Appraisal (E/AC.6/L.538 and Add.1) which would be discussed in detail in New York, showed that some progress had been made; and it was to be hoped that the first exercise would provide guidance and lead to constant improvement in subsequent exercises throughout the Decade.

45. The Council, the membership of which would soon be enlarged, appeared determined effectively to assume its three-fold role as an international political rostrum, as the controlling organ for all the Organization's economic and social activities, and as the co-ordinator of the United Nations system. It was therefore exceptionally well-placed to ensure the cohesion and efficiency in the performance of the tasks entrusted by the Charter to all the organs in the United Nations system.

46. In conclusion, he sincerely thanked all those who, throughout the Council's two sessions, had helped him to perform his functions to the best of his ability.

47. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) hoped that the necessary ratifications of the amendment to Article 61 of the Charter would be obtained as soon as possible to enable the enlarged Economic and Social Council to play its proper role in international co-operation.

48. On the whole, it was good for the Council to hold alternate sessions in Geneva, where delegations and secretariat were more specialized than in New York in certain fields, especially trade and customs questions. He had, however, a reservation to make concerning the documentation services of the United Nations Office at Geneva, which did not seem to work as efficiently as those at Headquarters. The Council might wish to try to find out why that was so.

49. The Council might also wish to consider modifying the structure of its Bureau, for example by appointing an extra Vice-President who would relieve the President of some of his duties and could also chair the various working groups or sessional committees. An additional advantage would be that the five regional groups could be represented in the Bureau.

50. The three sessional committees should also have their own officers and themselves elect either a vice-chairman and a rapporteur, or two vice-chairmen.

51. After the customary exchange of courtesies the PRESIDENT declared the fifty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council adjourned.

³ Resolution 1768 (LIV).