



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Fiftieth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Friday, 30 April 1971,
at 11.15 a.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. Rachid DRISS (Tunisia).

AGENDA ITEM 7

**Report of the Statistical Commission (continued)*
(E/4938, E/4989, chap. VI, sect. A; E/L.1372, E/L.1386)**

1. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution entitled "Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system" contained in chapter XV of the report of the Commission (E/4938) and invited the representative of Pakistan to introduce the amendments contained in document E/L.1386.

2. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) read out the amendments submitted by the delegations of Brazil, Pakistan, Sudan and Yugoslavia. Those amendments took into account the interests of the developing countries which would have to establish or strengthen their own statistical services, as appropriate.

3. Mr. FILIMONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection in principle to the adoption of the amendments introduced by the Pakistan representative. With regard to the new text of the second preambular paragraph, his delegation was not opposed to mention being made there of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)), but it would base its own position on the joint statement of the socialist countries on the second decade of development and social progress.¹ Moreover, if the word "Governments" was replaced by the words "developing countries" in operative paragraph 2, it should be remembered that the Statistical Commission, composed of specialists, wanted a unified method valid for all countries to be evolved. The application of the norms in question should be universal.

4. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) thanked the USSR representative and pointed out that the developing countries were also the least developed in the field of statistics. Attention should therefore be drawn to their needs, and uniformity at the international level could be achieved only when the necessary work had been done at the national level.

5. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution, as modified by the amendments contained in document E/L.1386.

It was so decided.

* Resumed from the 1741st meeting.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 42, document A/8074.

6. Mr. McCARTHY (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Statistical Commission had expressed the wish to hold its next session in February 1972.

7. The PRESIDENT said that the matter, which concerned the calendar of meetings, would be considered at the fifty-first session at Geneva.

8. He also pointed out that the debate on the agenda item was not yet concluded, since the USSR delegation was preparing another draft resolution.

Request for inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda

9. Mr. AKWEI (Ghana), invoking rule 13 of the Council's rules of procedure, asked for the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "Emergency assistance to Palestine refugees". The General Assembly had recognized the deplorable conditions in which 1.5 million Palestine refugees lived. The report of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East² stated that the Agency had had a budget deficit for the previous two years and had been obliged to reduce its services. The deficit for the current year amounted to \$6.5 million. The Working Group on the financing of the Agency, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2656 (XXV), had spared no effort to gather the necessary funds. Contributions had been promised, but they would merely make it possible to reduce the deficit, not to eliminate it. The question had not been included in the Council's provisional agenda because the Working Group had hoped that the appeals made to Governments would be heeded and that it would be possible to eliminate the deficit. As those hopes had been disappointed, it was important that the Council should urgently consider the question, which was of a humanitarian nature. His delegation was ready to submit a draft resolution on the subject.

10. The PRESIDENT said that a revision of the agenda was involved and that rule 17 of the rules of procedure should be applied.

11. Mr. HEDEMANN (Norway) supported the Ghanaian representative's request and said that the Council should, without delay, declare itself in favour of an increase in the aid which the specialized agencies provided to the Agency. If the specialized agencies were to include such an urgent item in their agenda in good time, it was essential that the Council should take a decision on the subject during the current session. His delegation was willing to join the Ghanaian delegation in submitting a draft resolution.

12. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any objection, he would take it that the item was included in the agenda.

*It was so decided.**The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.*² *Ibid.*, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13.