

(g) **SUB-COMMISSION ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC AND RELATED MATTERS IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST**

71. The PRESIDENT suggested that the confirmation of the members of the Sub-Commission should be postponed until the organizational session of the Council for 1974, since the *curricula vitae* of the candidates had not yet been received from the Governments concerned.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 5.10 p.m. and resumed at 6.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Convocation of a world food conference under the auspices of the United Nations

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5436)

72. The PRESIDENT invited the Chairman of the Economic Committee to present an oral report on the Committee's consideration of item 11.

73. Mr. KARHILO (Finland), speaking as Chairman of the Economic Committee, said that at the 672nd meeting of the Economic Committee, the United States delegation had introduced draft resolution E/AC.6/L.543; amendments to that draft resolution had been submitted by Pakistan, Poland and Algeria. At the 674th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee had announced that, as a result of informal consultations on the matter, both the draft resolution and the amendments to it had been withdrawn. In lieu of those proposals, a draft decision had been submitted to the Committee and adopted without a vote. The text of the draft decision was contained in paragraph 8 of the report.

74. The foregoing remarks supplemented the report of the Economic Committee to the Council and had been made in accordance with established practice. The comments made by several delegations on matters both of substance and of procedure would be reflected in the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly, under items 12 and 102 of the latter's agenda, and would appear in document A/9003/Add.1.

75. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft decision in paragraph 8 of the report

(E/5436), bearing in mind the observations contained in that report.

It was so decided.

76. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he wished to reiterate the reservations made by his delegation during the discussion of the item in the Economic Committee. His delegation particularly objected to the fact that a decision on so important a question had been adopted hastily and without adequate consideration in the Committee or adequate consultation among delegations. The rules of procedure regarding financial implications had also been violated. His delegation would speak on the substance of the question when it came before the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

77. Since the decision involved preparatory work on the part of the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system, he wished to draw attention to the need for bearing in mind the provisions of the resolutions on the rationalization and improvement of the methods of work of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Unfortunately, the burden that would be placed on the Organization and its Members during the consideration of possible resources for the world food conference had not been discussed.

78. He also wished to draw attention to the need for linking the question of the conference to the new item on the agenda of the General Assembly, item 102, which had been proposed by his delegation and was entitled "Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries".

79. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said he wished to confirm the statement made to the Economic Committee at its 674th meeting by its Secretary to the effect that the decision adopted had no financial implications.

80. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that he reserved the position of his delegation for the reasons he had stated in the Economic Committee at its 674th meeting. In particular, his delegation was not persuaded that the decision had no financial implications; on the contrary, it would surely involve the expenditure of millions of dollars.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.

1886th meeting

Tuesday, 11 December 1973, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Sergio A. FRAZÃO (Brazil).

E/SR.1886

AGENDA ITEM 11

Convocation of a world food conference under the auspices of the United Nations (concluded) (A/9003/Add.1 (Part VI); E/5441, E/5442, E/5443; E/L.1574/Rev.1 and Add.1)

1. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council of its decision, adopted at its 1885th meeting on 18 October 1973, recommending that the General Assembly at its

twenty-eighth session should convene a world food conference in 1974 under the auspices of the United Nations. The complete text of that decision and the report of the Council on the first part of its deliberations on item 11 were contained in document A/9003/Add.1 (Part VI).¹ He drew attention to the documents now before the Council, in particular draft resolution

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3A.

E/L.1574/Rev.1 and a statement of its administrative and financial implications (E/L.1574/Rev.1/Add.1), and announced that the following Member States should be added to the list of sponsors: Algeria, Belgium, Bolivia, Denmark, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Niger, Philippines, Sweden, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

2. Mr. FERGUSON (United States of America), introducing draft resolution E/L.1574/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors, recalled that on 24 September 1973² the Secretary of State of the United States had suggested that the current shortage of food stocks was precipitating a crisis of enormous proportions. As a result, there existed an urgent need to take interim measures which would ensure that the world as a whole could be adequately fed in case of natural disasters. In addition, there was a long-term problem of food security and of achieving equilibrium between the factors of supply and demand. The Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries had expressed the same concern at their recent Conference.³

3. Because of the community of the objectives, his delegation had undertaken extensive consultations with the delegations of non-aligned countries and a number of others vitally interested in the matter. Broad agreement on the content of a draft resolution had been reached at an informal meeting of members of the Second Committee open to all interested parties, and he hoped that the text could, upon endorsement by the Council and by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, be the basis of a world food conference commensurate with the aims and objectives to which he had alluded.

4. He wished to announce some mainly editorial changes in the text of the draft resolution. The fourth preambular paragraph should read "Also noting with appreciation the views of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development expressed on 20 November 1973 ...", and the words "production and" should be inserted before the word "supplies" in the seventh preambular paragraph. In the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly, the word "of" in the third preambular paragraph should be replaced by "in", and the word "about" should be inserted before the words "two weeks" in operative paragraph 1.

5. In view of the many compromises which had produced the revised text, his delegation sincerely hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

6. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said that Italy, which was a sponsor of the draft resolution, had always actively participated in all the scientific and political work relating to the alarming food situation in many countries and had provided concrete assistance when tragic food situations had arisen for certain countries. It had participated in the seventeenth Conference of FAO, held at Rome from 10 to 29 November 1973, and considered that strenuous efforts on the part of the United Nations would be a most appropriate con-

tribution to dealing with one of the greatest causes of concern throughout the world, in particular for developing countries. Italy therefore fully supported the holding of a world food conference in 1974, and he had pleasure in communicating to the Council the Italian Government's invitation for the conference to be held in Rome, subject of course to the approval of the Council and the General Assembly.

7. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution because the convening of a world food conference under the auspices of the United Nations was timely and appropriate and would strengthen international co-operation in solving the world food problem. However, that problem could not be solved by agriculture alone, and an integrated approach, covering all the areas related to agriculture, was necessary. The organizations of the United Nations system competent in relation to agriculture should therefore participate and co-operate in the preparations for the conference, using their specialities to the full and avoiding duplication. FAO should play a central role in the preparations, utilizing its accumulated knowledge and experience in collaboration with UNCTAD and other competent organizations. His delegation also felt that the world food problem was a matter not only for developing countries but also for countries with centrally planned economies and free market economies, and it therefore hoped that all countries would co-operate closely with a view to the solution of that serious problem. It intended to participate actively in the work of the preparatory committee.

8. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) expressed appreciation of the spirit of co-operation and conciliation which had led to the establishment of a text that he hoped would be adopted by consensus. He also hoped that the world food conference would produce practical results which would help to overcome the grave problem of the food shortages affecting countries throughout the world, especially the poorest among them.

9. His delegation interpreted the insertion of the word "about" in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in a flexible rather than a restrictive sense.

10. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection to the adoption of draft resolution E/L.1574/Rev.1, since the matters to be discussed at the proposed conference were of vital interest to all countries and peoples of the world, and above all to the developing countries. As the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had recently stated, countries which had liberated themselves from foreign domination were now faced with solving problems of mass poverty, hunger and backwardness. The solution of those problems, which affected the majority of the population of the earth, was obviously of world-wide importance. It could only be achieved through land reform, the organization of agricultural co-operatives and the improvement of productivity through the introduction of the most modern methods of agricultural technology, including irrigation and the better use of fertilizers. As noted in the revised draft resolution, the solution to that problem could not be found in the agricultural sector alone but should be considered in the broader context of the problems of development.

11. The organization of such a conference called for very careful preparatory work at the national and inter-

² *Ibid.*, Twenty-eighth Session, Plenary Meetings, 2124th meeting.

³ Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973.

national levels, which he did not think it would be possible to complete by November 1974, especially since two other important international conferences were to be held during that year and the world food conference would coincide with the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. Those preparations would impose a heavy burden on the United Nations Secretariat and on the smaller delegations. His delegation and a number of others therefore considered that the effectiveness of the conference would be enhanced if it were held at a later date than that proposed. His delegation was ready to participate in the work of the appropriate preparatory bodies and was glad to see that the draft resolution recognized the need for UNCTAD to play an active part in that work.

12. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that his delegation endorsed the text and the spirit of the draft resolution and would like to become a sponsor of it. The Sudan had a special interest in the convening of a world food conference, because of its enormous potential for assisting in the solution of the world food crisis. With bilateral and multilateral assistance, the Sudan could put its vast unexploited lands to work. He drew the attention of the Council to the statements made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan in the General Assembly⁴ and by the Sudanese representative in the Second Committee during its general debate,⁵ which gave the facts and figures regarding the Sudan's potential in that respect.

13. Mr. HAQ (Pakistan) said that his delegation agreed with the provisions of the draft resolution. Pakistan had participated in the seventeenth Conference of FAO and had worked with other delegations to bring about a decision on the issue. He had consulted the sponsors of the draft resolution regarding the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly. Since that paragraph had been taken directly from paragraph 5 of the report of the Conference of FAO, the sponsors had now agreed to maintain the wording of the original text by reverting to the use of the word "of", and not "in" as announced by the United States representative. He wished to make it clear that the change did not prejudice or prejudice the outcome of other meetings on the issues involved in other forums. Since the original text of the paragraph in question was to be maintained, his delegation would like to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

14. Mr. UDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation had no objection to the convening of a world food conference. However, such a conference would have to be carefully prepared if it was to make a useful contribution to the solution of the world food problem, and he therefore agreed with the representative of the USSR that it should be held not in 1974 but at a later date. His delegation also considered that the convening of such a conference could not by itself solve all the complex problems involved. A social and economic transformation of the agricultural sector and other sectors in the developing countries was required. His delegation understood operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution to mean that the conference would be a world conference and would therefore be open to the participation of all interested States.

15. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that the food shortages which were being suffered throughout the world justified the holding of a world food conference, and his delegation would therefore agree to the proposal that such a conference should be convened. However, he wished to propose that the words "and international economic co-operation" should be added at the end of the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly. As the representative of Japan had said, the problem of food was of concern not only to the developing countries but to all groups of countries, including the socialist countries. Furthermore, the food problems of the world had grown to such an extent that they affected other problems of international co-operation.

16. The success of the world food conference would depend on its preparation, and his delegation therefore agreed that it should be efficiently prepared. Poland wished to participate in the work of the preparatory bodies to be convened at a later stage. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly stated that the conference was to be an intergovernmental conference, and governmental delegations should therefore take part in the work of the preparatory committee. As other delegations had stated, it would be easier to prepare effectively for the conference if it were held later than November 1974. His delegation endorsed the view expressed in the draft resolution that the conference should give special attention to the question of trade. At the fifty-first session of the Council, Poland had introduced a draft resolution on land reform. The world food conference must touch on the question of the structures dominating agriculture in many countries. Land reform and co-operative movements should be taken into account in the preparatory work for the conference.

17. Mr. JAIN (India) said that his delegation firmly supported the position of the representative of Pakistan concerning the wording of the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly.

18. The constructive approach which had led to a consensus on the text of the draft resolution during informal consultations was a trend which had been evident in the Second Committee at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Such a trend was desirable and must be strengthened. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus, since it would reflect the evolving harmonious atmosphere with regard to international co-operation. It was essential that the developed countries should co-operate with the developing countries if the Second United Nations Development Decade was to be a success.

19. He hoped other delegations would agree that the success of the conference would be ensured by the widest possible participation in the preparatory work. The problem of world food shortages was a universal problem and all countries, particularly the most highly populated and those which were important grain producers, should participate in the preparations for the conference on an equal footing, in order to ensure that it had the desired impact on the serious food problems confronting the world. As a member of the group of non-aligned countries, India was glad that the recommendations made by the Heads of State and Government at Algiers had been taken into account in the draft resolution.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 2142nd meeting.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Second Committee, 1527th meeting.

20. In conclusion, he wished to thank the Italian Government for its invitation to act as host for the world food conference. Italy had a highly developed agricultural sector and had made important progress in improving its agricultural methods. He was confident that the venue of the conference could not have been better chosen.

21. Mr. ROUGÉ (France) said that his delegation was glad to be a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1574/Rev.1, since it concerned what would certainly be one of the most important conclusions of the current session of the General Assembly. At the opening of that session, it had seemed clear that the major item for discussion would be the review and appraisal of the results of the International Development Strategy, and the adoption by the Second Committee of the report of its Working Party on Review and Appraisal⁶ had, of course, been an outstanding event. But, in view of the serious deficiencies in agricultural production revealed by the review, the convening of a world food conference would be a valuable contribution to the success of the Strategy for the Second Development Decade. His delegation appreciated the efforts made by the delegations of the United States and the non-aligned countries to combine their ideas so as to make the draft resolution acceptable to all and to give the conference maximum authority.

22. His delegation had noted with interest the Pakistan delegation's interpretation of the third preambular paragraph of the resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly. His Government had already drawn attention, at the seventeenth Conference of FAO, to the view of a number of important producer States that the world food conference should concentrate on food problems, particularly those relating to agricultural production, and aid problems, and that it should not give the related trade questions, which were dealt with in other forums, a prominence that was not warranted in view of the basic purpose of the conference.

23. In conclusion, he stressed the responsibilities of the Council and the Governments of its member States in the present circumstances. As the Minister of Agriculture of France had stated at the Conference of FAO, it was essential to concentrate on the most important problem, namely, world food supplies. It was neither politically nor morally possible to continue to ignore the food situation of one third of the world's population. The international community must face up to that problem. As the President of the French Republic had said recently, the countries of the world must make a joint effort to fulfil a duty to humanity. The decisions taken, or not taken, would be vital to the evolution of the world of the future, and history would be a harsh judge of any who failed to assume their responsibilities now.

24. Mr. OLIVERI LÓPEZ (Argentina) said his delegation welcomed the proposal to convene a world food conference and was sure that the results would help to improve the situation of the developing countries. It appreciated that the precise aims and goals of the conference could be set only by the preparatory body, and it congratulated those who had produced a balanced text in draft resolution E/L.1574/Rev.1. His delegation fully supported the position expressed in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution and in the third preambular paragraph of the text

recommended for adoption by the General Assembly and hoped that the preparatory work for the conference would result in the inclusion in the agenda of items which would be conducive to specific solutions to the food problem, particularly in the form of commitments by the developed countries to promote the food production, consumption and trade of developing countries. He welcomed the fact that FAO and UNCTAD would participate in the conference and hoped that, with regard to world food security and emergency assistance, account would be taken of the experience and the very successful activities of the World Food Programme. His delegation was interested in participating in the preparation for the conference.

25. Mr. GARCÍA BELAÜNDE (Peru) said that his delegation would like to become a sponsor of the draft resolution. He recalled that at the seventeenth Conference of FAO Peru had expressed full support for the convening of a world food conference. It hoped that specific goals could now be set for the conference and that the Rome meeting would result in a commitment by all States to the achievement of those goals.

26. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) congratulated the non-aligned countries and the United States for their initiative in producing the text of the draft resolution, which merited universal support. All countries were indeed affected by the food problem, and he therefore welcomed the indication, in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, that the preparatory committee would be open to all States Members of the United Nations. The universality of the food problem also enabled him, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, to accept the Polish proposal that the words "and international economic co-operation" should be added at the end of the first preambular paragraph of the resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly.

27. Mr. MÜEZZINOGLU (Turkey) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution, including the paragraph concerning the date of the conference as revised by the United States representative. Turkey would like to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

28. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) felt that the world food conference was of great importance to the future of mankind and, in particular, to the efforts exerted by developing countries with respect to their food production, consumption and trade. Tunisia might be interested in becoming a member of the preparatory committee for the conference and would perhaps have occasion to confirm its interest to the Secretary-General. His delegation interpreted operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution as meaning that the Secretary-General would, immediately after the adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly, send invitations to all Member States to participate in the committee's work and that acceptance of those invitations and the date for replies would be left to the discretion of Member States.

29. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

30. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) welcomed the fact that the Council seemed to be prepared to adopt the draft resolution by consensus. He agreed with those who had said that the food problem should be studied in the context of measures to increase the food production, consumption and trade of developing countries. He also agreed that the results of the world food conference

⁶ A/C.2/L.1329 (mimeographed).

should not prejudge negotiations in other appropriate bodies. His delegation was, in principle, interested in becoming a member of the preparatory committee.

31. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/L.1574/Rev.1, as orally revised, by consensus.

Draft resolution E/L.1574/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.⁷

⁷ Council resolution 1831 (LV).

32. Mr. FERGUSON (United States of America) said his delegation was deeply grateful to the sponsors of the resolution, particularly the delegations of non-aligned countries, with which it had been able to hold lengthy and close consultations. On behalf of his Government, he thanked the Italian Government for its invitation to act as host for the conference.

Closure of the session

33. The PRESIDENT declared the fifty-fifth session of the Council closed.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.