

10th meeting

Tuesday, 2 May 1978, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.10

In the absence of the President, Mr. Martynenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (E/1978/56, E/1978/L.27)

1. Mr. BERKOL (United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (E/1978/56), said that the main conclusion of the report was that the basic problem in distributing relief was the lack of internal transport. Although there had been no significant improvement in the situation, the Government's *ad hoc* trust fund for the purchase of vehicles had received a further contribution of \$100,000 from the Lutheran World Federation. A donor Government had also pledged five more trucks to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission on a bilateral basis and UNICEF would seek to make 15 to 20 trucks available to the Logistic and Technical Support Project for Food Aid Transport. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees intended to provide 20 trucks to be used for the victims of the conflict in the Ogaden region. Further efforts were nevertheless needed to provide the transport required, and the Ethiopian Government had recently informed his Office that air-lifting of trucks from their place of manufacture to Ethiopia might be necessary in order to save the lives of many who were exposed to the dangers of famine.

2. The situation in the port of Assab was also extremely serious. Food-laden ships had to wait for up to three months for berths, thus dramatically increasing demurrage charges. It was estimated that imports through Assab during the remaining months of 1978 would total 264,000 tons, comprising 160,000 tons of commercial imports, 36,000 tons of fertilizers and 68,000 tons of pledged food aid, including 41,000 tons of grain and vegetable oil from the World Food Programme and 20,000 tons of grain and other food items from the European Economic Community. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission estimated that 150,000 tons of additional food assistance would be required for western Wollo, and FAO had contacted selected donor Governments and EEC concerning a possible multi-donor assessment mission to appraise emergency food needs in Ethiopia. Twenty thousand tons of the extra amount requested was in process of shipment from EEC and WFP. Although the port of Assab could not at present handle such large quantities, it was estimated that a discharge rate of 15,000 tons a month could probably be sustained. The study to improve bulk grain discharge and storage in Assab, referred to in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report, had been completed, and the proposals submitted to the Ethiopian authorities included the use of evacuators capable of handling 50 tons per hour and tractor/trailers to transport the grain to storage depots for

bagging, or the use of barges into which grain would be discharged through evacuators while ships were anchored outside the port. However, further means of road transport were essential in order to solve the distribution problem.

3. According to reports received, rainfall had recently been inadequate in Wollo, and more than 600,000 people were affected by food shortages in that province alone. Well over a million people, including those affected in northern Shoa, Tigre and Begemdir, might need food assistance during the remainder of 1978, but the large-scale operation launched by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission would be hampered by the over-all lack of transport.

4. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had appealed for \$5 million to meet the immediate requirements of displaced persons in the Ogaden region. A multi-donor mission to Ethiopia was under consideration by UNHCR, FAO and WFP.

5. Mr. OLCESE (Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme) recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 32/55, had requested the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Administrator of UNDP, UNICEF and other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue and intensify their assistance to Ethiopia. Such international assistance was to be used for the sole purpose of relief and rehabilitation.

6. The inadequate food supply in Ethiopia was clearly caused not only by the drought but also by an inadequate internal food transportation and distribution system, and the situation had been aggravated by the displacement of population in certain areas. Following the drought of 1973-1974, UNDP had allocated \$2 million to Ethiopia from its Programme Reserve for relief and rehabilitation assistance, and a further \$109,000 had been committed under its Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries. A number of drought-related projects started at that time were still in progress, particularly in the fields of agricultural research, settlements and reforestation. Of the funds carried over into the second programming cycle, \$220,000 was still available for the current year. The UNDP programme of assistance financed from the indicative planning figure had also been restructured in order to finance activities related to the Government's rehabilitation efforts, and the UNDP Resident Representative in Ethiopia had been involved in the task of mobilizing support from WFP and UNHCR for Government relief work. The Government had undertaken several rehabilitation projects under the auspices of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, with financial contributions from several donors, particularly the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP and WFP.

7. Transport remained a serious problem. At the end of 1977, 87,000 tons of grain had been awaiting trans-

port at the port of Assab. The national distribution bottleneck had also affected the transport of coffee. To help to deal with that problem, UNDP/ILO project ETH/77/025 (Logistic and Technical Support for Food Air Transport) had been approved in November 1977. It would provide a team of experts, at a total cost of \$702,000, to manage an emergency transportation fleet of 150 trucks for the movement of approximately 100,000 tons of food aid and fertilizers a year to distribution centres in the affected areas. The trucks were to be purchased from an *ad hoc* trust fund of \$10 million, of which \$5.4 million had been made available and had been used for the purchase of 94 trucks, which were expected to arrive in the country at the beginning of June.

8. Further funds, to support the Government's medium-term and long-term rehabilitation endeavours, had been provided by the United Nations Capital Development Fund, which in 1975 had approved \$1,266,000 for equipment, vehicles and materials for rural water supply, and \$1,793,000 for the building and rehabilitation of rural roads. Savings from the two projects, amounting to \$277,000 and \$700,000 respectively, were being used for supplementary assistance, a sum of \$455,000 having been approved in March 1978 for the provision of vehicles to the Ethiopian Water Resources Authority (EWRA). Those vehicles would ensure the timely delivery of materials and supplies needed for the IPF-financed projects "Assistance to EWRA" (ETH/75/005) and "Assistance to EWRA in Wollo" (ETH/77/006). Supplementary assistance for a second rural road project was still under consideration.

9. In order to improve disaster preparedness, an early warning system had been established with the assistance of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), UNICEF and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). A UNDP/UNDRO meeting aimed at improving the capacity of UNDP resident representatives to deal with natural disasters would take place at Dakar early in June and would be attended by the Resident Representative in Ethiopia.

10. Mr. CHABALA (Observer for Zambia), introducing draft resolution E/1978/L.27 on behalf of the sponsors, expressed deep appreciation to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for his untiring efforts to organize and co-ordinate assistance to the drought-stricken areas. The report of the Secretary-General (E/1978/56), together with the statements of the Co-ordinator and of the Deputy Assistant Administrator of UNDP, gave an up-to-date picture of the magnitude of the task facing the international community in assisting the relief operations of the Ethiopian Government. Ethiopia had suffered from drought for six years and much remained to be done, despite the generous response of Member States, United Nations organs and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and voluntary bodies. The situation was increasingly critical in Bale, Hararghe, Shoa and Sidamo, and more than a million people would require food assistance in the next four months. The food supply had been directly affected by crop failure, drought, pests and flooding, and the distribution of available food was seriously hampered by the logistical impasse described in the Secretary-General's report. Attention must therefore be focused on solving the transport problem. Despite the fortitude and determination of the Ethiopian people and

Government, the task was too immense to be tackled by Ethiopia alone, and the international community must demonstrate its solidarity in concrete terms and on a scale commensurate with the problem. Generous aid had already been given, but it was essential to continue and increase assistance.

11. Draft resolution E/1978/L.27 emphasized the urgent need to resolve the internal transport problems. It recalled the previous resolutions of the Council on aid to the drought-stricken areas in Ethiopia and the appeals already made to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies, and urged the various United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue and intensify their assistance to Ethiopia in its relief and rehabilitation effort, in implementation of the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Council. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

12. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country had great sympathy for Ethiopia's efforts to overcome the consequences of drought. The Soviet Union provided considerable assistance to countries affected by natural disasters, including Ethiopia. Co-operation between the Soviet Union and Ethiopia in the economic, technical and cultural fields was developing successfully on the basis of mutual respect for national sovereignty. In May 1977, the two countries had issued a joint communiqué announcing that they had signed a protocol on economic and technical co-operation, an agreement on cultural and scientific co-operation and a consular convention. Both sides had emphasized their respect for the principles of self-determination and non-interference in internal affairs. They had also stressed their support for the struggle being waged by developing countries to eliminate imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, to ensure that all peoples exercised full control over their national wealth and to restructure international economic relations on the basis of justice and equality. In April 1978, the Soviet Union and Ethiopia had issued a further communiqué announcing the establishment of an intergovernmental commission on questions of economic, scientific and technical co-operation and trade. His delegation supported draft resolution E/1978/L.27 and wished the Ethiopian people success in its efforts to achieve further social and economic progress.

13. Mr. FELDMANN (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that on 12 April 1978 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had launched an appeal for \$12,150,000 to provide assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa. The appeal was related in part to a programme of assistance amounting to some \$5 million for displaced persons in Ethiopia. The UNHCR programme in the Ogaden region was complementary to the programmes of other United Nations agencies in the area. Acting in close co-operation with the Ethiopian Government, and in particular with the relief and Rehabilitation Commission, UNHCR had provided assistance to some 150,000 of the most seriously affected persons in the region. UNHCR would stay in close contact with the other components of the United Nations system and with the Government of Ethiopia.

14. Mr. ZACHMANN (Observer for the German Democratic Republic) reaffirmed his country's solidarity with Ethiopia. With respect to the report of the Secretary-General, his delegation agreed that Ethio-

pia's problems were no longer directly connected with drought. They were, above all, a consequence of the country's feudal past and the concomitant oppression and exploitation of the people. With regard to the close bilateral co-operation that existed between Ethiopia and the German Democratic Republic, the Joint Economic Commission set up by the two countries had agreed in 1977 to embark upon a long-term programme of co-operation in the fields of agriculture, transport and industry. The German Democratic Republic had also provided the Ethiopian people with large quantities of food-stuffs, clothing, medical supplies and other items. His country would make every effort to develop its fraternal co-operation with the Ethiopian people in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/55, paragraph 3. His delegation supported draft resolution E/1978/L.27 and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

15. Mr. WEIBGEN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that Ethiopia was in need of large-scale food assistance. As a result of an initiative by FAO, 20,000 tons of grain, contributed in part by the European Economic Community and in part by the World Food Programme, were being shipped to Ethiopia. In addition, WFP was currently implementing three projects, valued at almost \$30 million, in Ethiopia. Representatives of FAO had recently met with the Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation to discuss a multi-donor mission to Ethiopia, and it was intended that the mission should be on its way by about mid-May. FAO had already contacted representatives of several countries in connexion with the mission, and it invited all interested potential donors to come forward. The mission would attempt to undertake an over-all assessment of the situation in Ethiopia. The possibility of additional allocations of FAO/WFP emergency food aid was also under active consideration.

16. Mr. OLDAEUS (Sweden) said that in 1977 his country had made a substantial contribution to the *ad hoc* trust fund for emergency relief to drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia, and in April 1978 his Government had decided to contribute 5 million Swedish kronor to UNHCR for its work in the region.

17. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) said that the report of the Secretary-General showed the generous contribution made by the international community to alleviate the suffering of the population of Ethiopia. Somalia had also been seriously affected by drought in 1974 and 1975 and, although the Government had received assistance from the international community and had been able partially to remedy the situation, further assistance was required. Many of the people affected by the drought in the Ogaden region had entered Somalia, placing a tremendous burden on a country which already had its own serious problems. His Government was trying to deal with the situation as best it could with the resources available to it, but the displaced persons were mainly nomads and were scattered over a large area. His Government had asked UNHCR for assistance with a view to resettling half a million people, but UNHCR had not had the necessary funds and the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner had not had time to consider the matter. Fortunately, other Governments had helped.

18. Draft resolution E/1978/L.27 dealt with the situation of people affected by drought; however, drought was not the only problem that faced the Governments of Ethiopia and Somalia. His delegation therefore sup-

ported the draft resolution, but with the inclusion of an additional paragraph which had been agreed upon by Somalia and Ethiopia. The text of the proposed paragraph had been submitted to the sponsors of the draft resolution for their consideration.

19. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation favoured the provision of additional assistance to Ethiopia and supported draft resolution E/1978/L.27. Poland would continue to support multilateral assistance programmes for Ethiopia and would pursue its bilateral co-operation with Ethiopia within the framework of the friendly relations that existed between the two countries. His delegation recognized that the needs of Ethiopia were genuine and would transmit draft resolution E/1978/L.27 to the Polish Government without delay.

20. Ms. VARRATI (United States of America) said that the United States supported draft resolution E/1978/L.27. The United States Government had long been a leading advocate of humanitarian assistance to many countries of the world, and that had been particularly true recently in the context of increasing emphasis on human rights. Her country's concern for the victims of natural and man-made disasters had been demonstrated not only by its bilateral assistance programmes but also by its support for the establishment and strengthening of UNDRO. In Ethiopia, the United States bilateral economic assistance programme, which included an ongoing Food for Peace programme administered by voluntary agencies, had been aimed at the rural poor, and in focusing on drought-stricken areas her Government hoped to develop a comprehensive package of inputs, which might include seeds, food, medicines and transportation support. To that end, an *ad hoc* task force had been set up within the Government to consider the humanitarian and economic assistance requirements of the whole Horn of Africa, including Somalia and Djibouti as well as Ethiopia. The United States had recently contributed \$2 million to the *ad hoc* trust fund established by the Ethiopian Government for the purchase of trucks to transport relief supplies to victims of both drought and war.

21. Mr. CHABALA (Observer for Zambia) announced that Kenya, Rwanda and Togo had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1978/L.27, which had been revised to include a new operative paragraph, reading as follows:

"4. Calls upon all concerned to ensure, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/55, that the international assistance provided shall be used for the sole purpose of relief and rehabilitation".

The existing paragraph 4 would become paragraph 5.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.27, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/2).

22. Mr. ADUGNA (Observer for Ethiopia, Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation), referring to paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report, said that the main Kiremt rains had been inadequate in western Wollo and northern Shoa and even the small rains in February and March had failed, resulting in crop losses of 50 to 100 per cent in subsistence agricultural areas. That fact was accepted by the UNDP Resident Representative and the other relevant United Nations bodies such as FAO, WFP and UNICEF.

23. He had suggested on previous occasions that the emergency fund of \$200,000 directly administered by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator should

be included in the programme budget, so that the Co-ordinator could act with speed. The Secretary-General's report gave the impression that \$20,000 had been made available to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission but had not been used. What had actually happened was that rehabilitation funds had been used to meet the flood emergency in the hope that they would be at least partly replaced by UNDRO assistance, but reimbursement had not been allowed by UNDRO although the Commission had spent over \$100,000 to assist the flood victims.

24. The report also stated that the factors determining the situation in Ethiopia were no longer directly connected with drought. However, the UNDP Resident Representative's assessment was that natural factors were at work, compounded by transport and distribution difficulties and by the fact that some surplus producing areas were now in deficit as a result of recent armed conflict. That statement reflected the situation as it existed in Ethiopia.

25. The task of relief and rehabilitation was made more difficult by the existence of three basic problems. First, the drought continued to affect the country and was becoming increasingly serious in the Wollo, Tigre and Shoa regions. Secondly, the impact of the drought in Hararghe, Bale and Sidamo had been aggravated by the consequences of recent armed conflict in the south and south-eastern parts of the country, which had left almost a million people homeless and without means of livelihood. Thirdly, the critical shortage of vehicles and other logistic factors had made the distribution of relief assistance extremely difficult. That problem must be tackled with vigour and speed.

26. With regard to the prevalence of natural disasters, Ethiopia continued to face the problems of pests and of unreliable and erratic rainfall or failure of the rains in the most populous regions. Disaster was once again in the offing in those regions. The situation was rapidly becoming critical in western Wollo, south-western Tigre and northern Shoa. It was estimated that about 1.5 million people would urgently require food assistance over the next 12 months and that at least 150,000 tons of food assistance would be needed. As Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation, he had submitted a request for assistance to the Director-General of FAO, who was preparing an appeal.

27. The people in the war-torn areas were also desperately in need of assistance in the form of food, reconstruction materials, seed, tools and medicine. UNHCR had made an appeal which might provide the bare essentials for some of those affected. The recent armed conflict had contributed significantly to the deterioration of the situation and had further aggravated an already serious logistic problem. All measures taken to mitigate the effects of the drought in the south-eastern part of the country prior to the outbreak of hostilities had been undone by the conflict.

28. The critical shortage of transport remained a serious impediment to effective relief work, despite Ethiopia's pleas to the international community over the past four years and its own efforts to mitigate the problem. It was necessary to use helicopters for a bridging period of at least two months to deliver food to areas which were otherwise inaccessible during the rainy season.

29. The Ethiopian Government had used all means at its disposal to combat the ill effects of natural disasters and of the war and had called on Member States,

international organizations and voluntary agencies for support. He expressed his Government's appreciation to all who had provided humanitarian assistance, particularly those countries and organizations which had generously contributed to the *ad hoc* trust fund for the purchase of vehicles. He appealed to States Members of the United Nations, the international organizations and the voluntary agencies to continue to assist the Government's efforts to provide relief and rehabilitation services to all those affected by natural disasters and by the war. Without prompt and generous action, the current drought problem in Ethiopia could have effects as disastrous as those of 1973. He earnestly hoped that timely assistance would be forthcoming and that history would not repeat itself.

30. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 2.

AGENDA ITEM 3.

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including preparations for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued)* (E/1978/24 and Add.1 and 2, E/1978/25 and Add.1, E/1978/26, E/1978/L.24, E/1978/L.25)

31. Mr. SEVAN (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out a drafting change in the French text of draft resolution E/1978/L.24.

32. Miss NURU (United Republic of Tanzania), introducing draft resolutions E/1978/L.24 and E/1978/L.25 on behalf of the sponsors, said that, in the latter text, paragraph 4 of the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly had been revised to read:

"Calls once again upon all Governments which have not yet done so to take legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in southern Africa, in order to put an end to such enterprises".

33. The sponsors of draft resolution E/1978/L.24 were deeply concerned at the persistence of racism and racial discrimination, particularly in southern Africa, and hoped that their text would be adopted without a vote.

34. She announced that Bangladesh, the Philippines, Togo, Tunisia, the United Republic of Cameroon and the Upper Volta had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1978/L.24; India had become a sponsor of draft resolution E/1978/L.25; and Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan had become sponsors of both draft resolutions.

35. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Observer for Ghana) noted that Ghana was not listed among the sponsors of draft resolution E/1978/L.24 and E/1978/L.25, in spite of the fact that the Secretariat had been informed earlier of his delegation's wishes in that regard. Ghana should therefore be added to the list of sponsors of both draft resolutions.

36. Mr. ACEMAH (Uganda) said that Uganda also wished to become a sponsor of draft resolutions E/1978/L.24 and E/1978/L.25. His Government attached great importance to the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Dis-

* Resumed from the 8th meeting.

crimination and to the forthcoming World Conference, and hoped that they would make a significant contribution to the elimination of the evils of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, which still flourished in southern Africa and other parts of the world. His Government pledged its co-operation in implementing the Programme for the Decade and urged all Governments to do likewise.

Draft resolution E/1978/L.24 was adopted without a vote (resolution 1978/3).

37. Mr. MEZVINSKY (United States of America) said that his delegation had not participated in the decision on draft resolution E/1978/L.24. His Government's commitment to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination remained deep-seated, as evidenced by the progress made in that respect in the United States itself. Nevertheless, for the reasons already stated on a number of occasions, the United States would continue to pursue a policy of non-participation in the Programme for the Decade and would therefore be unable to take part in the forthcoming World Conference.

38. Mr. HERZOG (Observer for Israel) recalled that, when in 1973 the Third Committee of the General Assembly had recommended the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Israel had supported it firmly and unequivocally. Its support had flowed not merely from an abhorrence of the very notion of discrimination based on race, colour or creed, but from the fact that for centuries the Jewish people had been the victim, indeed the classical victim, of racism in different parts of the world.

39. The Jews were a multiracial people, whose religion could be freely adopted by all, regardless of race,

colour and sex. As a democracy and having regard to its diverse ethnic, religious and linguistic grouping, the State of Israel had from its very inception been guided by the principles of freedom, justice and peace, and had done its utmost to ensure equality of social and political rights for all its inhabitants, including, despite the sea of hostility which surrounded it, its Arab citizens, who were represented in every walk of Israeli life, ranging from the parliament and Government to the defence forces. With much to contribute, Israel had been eager to participate in the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

40. In 1977, Israel had explained to the Council the reasons why it had been obliged to withdraw its support from both the Decade and the World Conference. It regretted that those reasons still obtained. The prospect that the Conference would be contaminated by extraneous issues, such as the infamous resolution on Zionism, still existed, so that an important opportunity to address the critical issue of racism—on which there could be no doubt about Israel's position—would be lost. His delegation must therefore reiterate that it would be unable to participate in the Conference.

41. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Secretary-General of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) said that he had done everything possible to expedite preparations for the World Conference, which he hoped would receive the widest possible support. With regard to draft resolution E/1978/L.24, paragraph 5, the Office of Public Information had already taken a number of steps to ensure maximum publicity for the Conference and would continue to carry out intensive publicity campaigns before, during and after the Conference.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

11th meeting

Tuesday, 2 May 1978, at 3.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Donald O. MILLS (Jamaica).

E/1978/SR.11

In the absence of the President, Mr. Scheltema (Netherlands), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Elections (E/1978/20, E/1978/40 and Add.1-3, E/1978/73, E/1978/L.4 and L.10-17)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, at the request of the Chairman of the group of Asian States, he would delay the start of proceedings in order to enable the members of that group to complete consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/1978/L.17)

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members of the Commission for Social Development for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1979.

3. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were four vacancies for African States but only three endorsed candidates, Chad, Senegal and Togo. Cyprus, India and Thailand were candidates for the two vacancies for Asian States. There were two vacancies for Latin American States, and Bolivia and Nicaragua were the endorsed candidates of the Latin American group. The group of Western European and other States had endorsed Norway and the United Kingdom for the two vacancies for that group. The endorsed candidate for the vacancy to be filled by a socialist State of Eastern Europe was Romania.

4. The PRESIDENT pointed out that, in the case of the Latin American States, the Western European and other States, the socialist States of Eastern Europe and the African States, the number of candidates was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each group. He therefore proposed that the candidates of those groups should be elected by acclamation.