



# Economic and Social Council

Provisional

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## Substantive session for 2000

### Provisional summary record of the 39th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 July 2000, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Mbayu ..... (Cameroon)

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*In the absence of Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia), Mr. Mbayu (Cameroon) took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.*

**Regional cooperation** (*continued*) (E/2000/10 and Add.1-3, E/2000/11, E/2000/12, E/2000/13, E/2000/14 and E/2000/15)

1. **Ms. Hübner** (Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)), speaking in her capacity as coordinator for the five regional commissions, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/10 and Add.1-3). The report gave a detailed account of the regional commissions' main areas of work and the issues they had addressed since the last session of the Council. The regional commissions had continued to act decisively, under the overall guidance of the Council, in fulfilling their dual role as outposts of the United Nations and as the regional expression of the Organization, in line with Council resolution 1998/46, annex III. The Council had also been provided with summaries of the economic surveys prepared by the regional commissions, which analysed major regional issues such as the reform of the international financial architecture, the regionalism and globalization processes and their impact on development.

2. As indicated in section I (A) of the report, the regional commissions had participated actively in the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). Their cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) remained strong; they had organized, together with UNCTAD, an interactive debate on information technology and development during the high-level segment of the Council's current session, as well as an earlier debate on globalization, regionalism and development at the tenth session of UNCTAD. They were also working on the substantive arrangements for the regional consultative meetings on financing for development to be held in the second half of 2000. With respect to cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Administrator of UNDP and the coordinator for the regional commissions had signed a strategic compact for collaboration between UNDP and the commissions.

3. Section I (B) of the report indicated how the regional commissions continued to bring regional perspectives to global debates, inter alia at the regional meetings on the follow-up to world conferences and in the preparations for the Millennium Assembly, the high-level segment of the Council and the regional consultative meetings to be held in preparation for the high-level event on financing for development. All those meetings were held in cooperation with other regional bodies; details on those working relationships were given in document E/2000/10/Add.1. Regional coordination meetings had enabled the regional commissions and other United Nations bodies to improve their cooperation at the regional level and to reach consensus on each region's major issues and priorities.

4. Section II of the report referred to document E/2000/10/Add.2 on the regional commissions' normative and operational activities, which reflected not only the commissions' common mandates, but also the specificities of each region and the guidance given by their member States. The commissions also served as funnel points through which international cooperation was directed at the regional level.

5. Section III of the report indicated that all regions faced internal and external challenges in relation to the issues addressed at global United Nations conferences and summits. All the regional reviews held in follow-up to those events had reflected the need to develop a system of indicators, benchmarking and monitoring to refine and complete current follow-up arrangements. All the regional commissions sought to strengthen their collaboration, and were already working together in areas such as trade and investment facilitation, transport and communications, energy efficiency, agricultural standards and enterprise development. The Executive Secretaries regularly exchanged information and views through their joint meetings on recent and ongoing initiatives to enhance effectiveness and efficiency; information on those initiatives was given in section IV of the report.

6. Section V, on the report of the Executive Secretaries, included regional perspectives on the prevention, management and resolution of international financial crises, as well as on globalization and regionalism and on globalization and development. The Executive Secretaries considered regionalism a useful means of preparing countries for the challenges of globalization. They were concerned about the

asymmetries of globalization and the risks they posed for development. The Executive Secretaries had made two proposals for strengthening the interaction between the regional commissions and the Council: first, that the following year's report should focus more on new developments and significant initiatives undertaken by the commissions; and second, that summaries of the regional economic and social surveys should be provided to the Council at the high-level segment of its substantive sessions.

7. **Ms. Grčić Polić** (Croatia) said that ECE had performed its basic role of setting norms and standards very well, particularly in the areas of health, environment and transport, and had fostered regional economic cooperation through policy convergence and normative instruments. It played an important role in supporting the process of economic transition, which affected many of its member States. Transition affected not only the economies of the countries concerned, but also social development, institution-building and the rule of law. Although some aspects of transition were not wholly within the control of the State concerned, appropriate policies, such as those which facilitated the flow of private-sector resources, could be used to create an enabling environment for transition. Regional mechanisms could help to address the regional dimensions of the international financial architecture, such as regional development banks.

8. Croatia appreciated the participation of ECE in the Working Table II of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. Despite the importance of that initiative and the Organization's active engagement in it, there seemed to be relatively little awareness among the Member States of the work done to promote long-term stability. The process could not succeed unless the funding community fulfilled its commitments. As a regional entity with specialized knowledge, ECE was also well equipped to play its role in the South-East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), which Croatia had recently joined.

9. The summary of the economic survey of Europe (E/2000/11) presented a sound analysis when it remained within the parameters of economics; occasionally, however, it strayed beyond them. Nevertheless, Croatia agreed with the report's conclusion that the pursuit of economic regeneration and stability in the region would have to be a long-term commitment.

10. Considering the importance of regional inputs for the substantive preparations for the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development, Croatia looked forward to the outcome of the regional meetings to be held in the second half of 2000. The European regional meeting should focus on financing for development in the particular circumstances of economic transition. The regional perspective of ECE in that context would be valuable for the process as a whole.

11. **Mr. Widodo** (Indonesia) said that he endorsed the three draft resolutions which ESCAP had submitted to the Council for action (E/2000/10/Add.3) and that he welcomed the valuable input which ESCAP had provided for the discussions on sustainable development, especially in the area of energy. The Council should endorse the two recommendations put forward by the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions (E/2000/10, para. 252).

12. His delegation welcomed the activities of ESCAP, as described in the Secretary-General's report, and shared the views expressed on the importance of energy for economic and social development and for improving the quality of life. The unsustainable production and management of energy could seriously threaten the quality of the environment in the Asia-Pacific region. The report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development provided a good basis for further discussion at the regional level. Active exchanges of information in the region were needed so that substantive regional inputs could be provided to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Accordingly, Indonesia had offered to host the high-level regional meeting on energy for sustainable development, which would take place in Bali from 21 to 24 November 2000. It encouraged all member States, associate members, United Nations bodies and regional and other organizations, as well as civil society, including the private sector, to participate fully and actively in the meeting.

13. **Mr. Yang Tao** (China) said that the Secretary-General's report and the interaction with the regional commissions had enhanced the Council's understanding of the general situation in the regions. The Asia-Pacific region had recovered from its financial crisis to become, once again, the fastest-growing region in the world. In the last year, ESCAP had done useful work in the areas of regional trade and

investment promotion, reform of the international financial system and poverty reduction. It had also strengthened its cooperation with other United Nations bodies and regional organizations.

14. The complementary development of regionalism and globalization would help all States, especially developing ones, to use their local resources and comparative advantages to achieve economic and social development. As a multisectoral institution, ESCAP had a unique advantage; it should therefore be further strengthened and its resources should be guaranteed. ESCAP should undertake restructuring and reform measures, in the light of its regional characteristics and the demands of the majority of its members, while adhering to agreed priorities by continuing to promote the broadening and deepening of regional economic and social cooperation. It should also play an important role in the follow-up to global conferences and summits and in preparations for future ones.

15. **Ms. Guitton** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, said that the regional commissions' knowledge of economic and social developments in their regions and of intra-regional differences was vitally important for ensuring that all actions taken addressed the issues and met the challenges specific to each country in the same geographical area. The regional commissions helped to strengthen economic, social and cultural ties and exchanges within regions, to integrate economies into international trade and to create an enabling environment for growth, investment and sustainable development. They also promoted peace and security and helped to create favourable conditions for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Efforts to strengthen regional integration should be encouraged.

16. Closer partnerships between the regional commissions and other organizations in their regions that pursued the same goals would make it possible to mobilize resources more efficiently and to share successful experiences. The European Union supported the steps taken to strengthen cooperation between ECE, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe in order to speed up the economic regeneration of South-Eastern Europe. It welcomed the active involvement of ECE in

the work of SECI, whose aim was to implement the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe.

17. Likewise, efforts to bring about the economic integration of Africa should continue. It was necessary to build on the impetus given by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and regional cooperation bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in order to ensure that the process yielded maximum benefits.

18. She drew attention to the benefits of closer cooperation between the European Union and the regional commissions. The Economic Commission for Europe had drawn up joint proposals with ECA and ESCWA for the Mediterranean area. The European Union was now engaged in the so-called "Barcelona process" for the Mediterranean, and hoped to be kept informed of any work done on that area.

19. The European Union was making a grant of almost 120 million euros to eight Pacific countries, under programmes relating to natural resources, the environment and human resources, fisheries, tourism, agriculture and transport. She hoped the ESCAP secretariat would join with the European Commission in seeking complementarity in those areas.

20. The European Union was continuing its trade negotiations with the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Caribbean region, and would also favour closer cooperation with ECLAC.

21. She welcomed the efforts of the secretariats of all the regional commissions to streamline their resources, and for that purpose urged them to target projects, define strategies for action and concentrate activities on fewer areas. Vast gains in productivity could be expected from the appropriate use of computer technology. Reprographical costs in the commissions could be much reduced by distributing publications and meeting documents on the Internet.

22. The regional commissions had played a very useful role in the preparations for the review of major United Nations conferences and summit meetings, and she hoped they would become even more closely involved in future review processes.

23. **Mr. Clodumar** (Observer for Nauru) expressed some disappointment with the lack of coverage of the Pacific region in the summary of the economic and

social survey of Asia and the Pacific (E/2000/13). The region warranted continuing attention. The Asian crisis had had an enormous impact on small island and developing States in the Pacific, which should not be ignored. The table for "Selected economies of the ESCAP region" showed that the Pacific region was expected to show a growth rate of only about two per cent in the next three years, compared to about six per cent for the rest of Asia. Moreover, the report on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2000/10/Add.1) gave only limited coverage to the work in progress between ESCAP and the South Pacific Forum to enhance cooperation in trade and investment.

24. Much more effort was needed to enable the Pacific region to achieve the goals laid down in the Barbados Plan of Action, including sustainable development in small island developing States. Regional cooperation could foster efficiency and cost-effectiveness, by combating diseconomies of scale in the public and private sectors. ESCAP, together with the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Asian Development Bank, must work with regional organizations to address the challenges facing the Pacific. The report entitled "Small States: Meeting the Challenges in the Global Economy", produced by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Bank, showed that many small States would face special difficulties in making the transition to the global economy. They would need clear signals about the direction of trade and regulatory policies and the length of transition periods, and would benefit from the reduction or removal of barriers to their exports. They also needed funds to enable them to be represented at negotiations within the World Trade Organization. ESCAP could help to coordinate such efforts, and the multilateral institutions and other donors could enhance their lending and other services to assist regional organizations which worked mainly with small island States. The ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre should be strengthened, and a new head appointed as soon as possible. ESCAP and the Asian Development Bank should collaborate more closely, and should bring issues relating to small island developing States to the fore in their activities.

25. **Mr. Suh Dae-won** (Observer for the Republic of Korea) welcomed the progress made by the regional commissions in streamlining their programmes and administrative structures. Reform of the United

Nations system was an ongoing process requiring constant scrutiny, clear vision and political determination. ESCAP had adopted a series of constructive measures for reform, including measures to downsize its subprogrammes, reorganize the structure of its secretariat and foster regional coordination. Further measures were needed, however; ESCAP should concentrate on areas in which it enjoyed a comparative advantage and should scale down the non-programme costs of its regular budget to meet the system-wide target. It should continue to promote coordination and cooperation with other regional organizations such as the Asian Development Bank and private sector actors, in order to respond to social and economic development needs in the region. His country was confident that ESCAP would make substantial progress under its new Executive Secretary.

26. **Mr. Skrybant** (Poland) said that although the Berlin wall was now in pieces, there were still other barriers to be overcome, notably the "digital divide". As one of its long-term tasks, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) could work to reduce disparities in technological sophistication and help the least developed parts of the region to face up to the impact of globalization. All the regional commissions should contribute to the follow-up to major United Nations conferences and meetings. In the case of ECE, there was a formal difficulty in that it had no mandate to deal with social questions; however, it could and did tackle such questions on an ad hoc basis, with the consent of its members, and it would be more realistic to enable it to do so under its mandate. In an increasingly interdependent world, the concept of sustainable development should encompass social as well as economic issues. All countries, not only those with transitional economies, suffered a degree of social tension because of the effects of globalization and trade liberalization. He congratulated the Executive Secretary of the Commission on the work done at the regional level in preparing for the high-level event on financing for development, a crucially important topic for the transitional countries of the region. He suggested that the Commission might include the topic in its long-term programme of work, thereby enabling it to develop its relations with the financial institutions and the private sector at the regional level.

27. **Mr. Fedortchenko** (Russian Federation) said that regional cooperation was an important tool for integrating countries into the international trading

system and enabling them to adjust to the changing conditions of a globalized world. The regional commissions were unique, in that they were truly international in character and played a key role in fulfilling the social and economic goals of the Charter of the United Nations at the regional level. They should be enabled to perform a more significant role in coordinating regional cooperation, both with other international organizations and with the United Nations system. ECE was an effective mechanism for developing pan-European cooperation. It was also a significant intergovernmental forum for dealing with political and economic issues, as demonstrated by its discussions on the economic regeneration of the Balkans. He welcomed the Commission's efforts to strike a balance between analytical and operational activities and to provide technical assistance to countries in transition. In those areas, coordination with other international organizations and with United Nations programmes and funds was extremely important. The Commission had taken positive steps in that direction by working with UNDP, and he hoped for further cooperation in future between the Commission and OSCE.

28. The Commission had made a positive contribution to global measures such as the Beijing review process and the 1999 regional hearings in advance of the Millennium Assembly, and his country was also keenly interested in the forthcoming ministerial conference on ageing, to be held under the Commission's auspices in Berlin in September 2002. Social problems, which were indissolubly linked with the problems of economic growth, should be given due attention in the work of the Commission. The Russian Federation also valued other aspects of the Commission's work, such as strengthening the capacity of countries in transition to comply with international conventions on the environment and analysing their macroeconomic, structural and institutional problems; helping the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to coordinate the infrastructure of their transport corridors; integrating the energy systems of ECE countries; and promoting the development of trade, industry and commerce by stimulating investment, simplifying trading procedures and developing electronic commerce.

29. The Russian Federation favoured a more active role for its Primorsky and Far Eastern regions in regional economic and environmental cooperation

within the framework of ESCAP. It also supported the Commission's work on improving Eurasian transport links, creating the conditions for developing the natural resources of the region and applying space technology to social and economic development. The cooperation of the Commission's member countries in those areas opened promising prospects to the Asian and Pacific region.

30. **Ms. Lum** (United States of America) said that the efficiency and effectiveness of the regional commissions must be maximized so that they could successfully initiate and coordinate activities. Her Government's reform agenda for the commissions called for identifying core competencies, comparative advantages and the appropriate division of labour; eliminating duplication; and terminating unnecessary bureaucratic functions.

31. In relation to comparative advantages, there were noteworthy examples of various commissions fulfilling needs that had not been met by other organizations. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) had the least academic and most practical work programme, which could serve as a model for the other commissions, and had made a number of important accomplishments. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was involved in the Summit of the Americas process in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). ECLAC flagship statistical publications had proved particularly useful; in general, however, the regional commissions should review their publications and discontinue those that were not in demand.

32. To its credit, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had moved away from publications and towards group training activities, new information dissemination methods and the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries. Only ECLAC and ESCAP had formal channels through which member States could recommend how those commissions' effectiveness and relevance could be enhanced. The other regional commissions should give serious thought to establishing such mechanisms.

33. **Mr. Franco** (Colombia) expressed his Government's appreciation to ECLAC for its valuable work in the region, its independence and its important input to discussions of development issues. It was

contributing greatly to hemispheric integration and the implementation of agreements reached through the Summit of the Americas process, and its cooperation with OAS and IDB was an example for the entire United Nations system. It also played an important part in regional efforts to mitigate the impact of natural disasters and analyse their socio-economic consequences, which was of particular significance for the countries of the Rio Group.

34. His delegation wished to place particular emphasis on the role of ECLAC in development financing. Preparations were under way for the regional consultation to be held in Bogota, Colombia, in November 2000 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/196, in preparation for the high-level intergovernmental event on financing for development, to be held in 2001. In that context, the thematic support provided by ECLAC was invaluable. Its guidance would also play a major part in relation to the “digital divide” and future efforts to reduce disparities at the national level in all the countries of the region.

35. **Mr. Ierulescu** (Observer for Romania) said that, while endorsing the statement made by France on behalf of the European Union, his delegation wished to highlight certain aspects of particular interest to Romania. The position of the regional commissions offered a real opportunity for improving links between their activities and those of other regional and subregional bodies. His delegation commended the professional expertise and technical assistance provided by ECE. Romania was active in various subregional projects and activities, was fully involved in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and was committed to strengthening relationships among international, regional and subregional structures. Security, prosperity and sustainable development in the region depended mainly on enhanced cooperation and permanent dialogue. His delegation welcomed, in particular, the collaboration between ECE and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.

36. His delegation greatly appreciated the commitment of the United Nations system to enhancing cooperation among regional and subregional institutions and intensifying dialogue with civil society and the business community. That positive approach would facilitate faster economic reforms in the countries in transition and the establishment of reliable market economies and active civil societies.

37. Developing good social governance and active participation by the United Nations system at the regional level for the purpose of economic and social development represented the main challenges for the United Nations in the field of regional cooperation. Strengthening subregional and regional integration, and linking that integration with developments at the global level through cooperative undertakings among United Nations agencies and bodies, would build lasting peace and sustainable development. Romania would strongly support that positive approach and looked forward to pragmatic solutions to improve the regional dimension of the United Nations system.

38. **Mr. Mazhukhou** (Belarus) said that the role of international cooperation was expanding to include the broader promotion of mutually beneficial intraregional and interregional economic integration and the rapprochement of the social and economic interests of different groups of countries in global development.

39. The documents submitted to the Council confirmed the importance of open regionalism in conditions of growing globalization and interdependence. All five regional commissions were continuing to enhance partnerships with each other, as well as with other international intergovernmental partners, both within and outside the United Nations system. All the regional commissions should participate actively in implementing decisions taken at United Nations global conferences and other multilateral forums, particularly on issues of economic integration and cooperation for development; they should also participate in large-scale intraregional and interregional projects.

40. The results of the exchange of views at the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, particularly on the more topical development issues, confirmed the need for more concerted intergovernmental action and global cooperation, and also for the contribution of non-governmental organizations.

41. Belarus greatly appreciated the multifaceted contribution and high potential of ECE for further broadening of mutually beneficial cooperation on the European continent and with other regions. In 1999, a special ECE programme had been launched to assist in the successful integration of member States, particularly countries with transition economies, into the European and world economies. A seminar held in

the spring of 2000 had been devoted to the assessment of 10 years of transition. New approaches to the transition process had also been considered at the fifty-fifth session of ECE.

42. Belarus wished to expand its participation in the programmed activities and projects of ECE in a number of priority areas, such as mitigating the consequences of climate change and establishment of reliable energy systems; development of border crossing and transport infrastructure and information and communication systems; financing of trade and investment activity; and strengthening the capacity of the relevant national institutions, including non-governmental organizations. Belarus fully supported the recommendation of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) that biennialization would not be in the best interests of ECE.

43. Secondly, Belarus supported the conclusion of ECE at its fifty-fifth session that priority should be given to assistance requests from the most vulnerable transition economies, particularly the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Balkan countries. New projects relating to the CIS countries, including Belarus, should reflect that principle.

44. Thirdly, in supporting subregional and interregional activities, ECE had to abide by its mandate and the principles of open regionalism, thereby promoting interregional cooperation and the development of mutually beneficial cooperation of countries of the ECE region with the countries of other regions in the context of growing interdependence and with a view to deriving greater benefits for all countries from the processes of globalization, liberalization and regionalization.

45. The Secretary-General's report (E/2000/10 and Add.1-3) should be used as an official document of the Millennium Assembly, as a number of assessments, conclusions, and recommendations contained in paragraphs 230 to 250 of Section V of that report could be of interest in relation to a number of agenda items.

46. **Mr. Kitazawa** (Japan), referring to the activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), said that it was his delegation's understanding that a report on the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the

Commission (ACPR) had been adopted at a recent session of the Commission. The report contained 15 plans of action that were vital for strengthening the functions of ESCAP and increasing the transparency of its activities, and his Government would play an active part in their implementation.

47. **Mr. Mutaboba** (Rwanda) said that his delegation hoped that the dialogue on regional cooperation would bring about a new partnership among the regions on the basis of mutual respect and equal opportunities in a globalizing world characterized by unequal access to modern technology. It was through such cooperation that each State would be able to express its economic and social policies and share its experiences with its partners. Furthermore, it should lead to a better understanding of where assistance was needed and how it should be provided, and bring about improved management of resources in the interests of needy population groups.

*Recommendations from the regional commissions requiring action by the Council (E/2000/10/Add.3)*

48. **The President** invited the Council to turn to the recommendations from the regional commissions requiring action by the Council, contained in chapter I of document E/2000/10/Add.3.

*Recommendations from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)*

49. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution I, entitled "Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission: inclusion of Georgia in the geographical scope of the Commission and its admission as a member of the Commission", draft resolution II, entitled "Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009", and draft resolution III, entitled "Regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific".

50. *Draft resolutions I, II and III were adopted.*

*Recommendations from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*

51. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution I, entitled "Establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin



America and the Caribbean”, and draft resolution II, entitled “Place and date of the next session”.

52. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

*Documents considered by the Council in connection with regional cooperation*

53. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to take note of the documents considered by the Council in connection with the item on regional cooperation, namely documents E/2000/10 and Add.1-3 and E/2000/11-15, and to endorse the recommendations contained in paragraph 252 of document E/2000/10.

54. *It was so decided.*

**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters** (*continued*)

55. **The President** invited the Council to take action on an oral decision which had been requested by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and which read as follows: “The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold a resumed 2000 session for half a day on Thursday 27 July 2000, to consider a reply received from the non-governmental organization whose consultative status was recommended for suspension.”

56. *The oral decision was adopted.*

**Expression of sympathy in connection with the crash of an aircraft in France**

57. **The President**, on behalf of all the members of the Council, expressed sympathy to the Governments of France and Germany in connection with the crash of a Concorde aircraft near Paris earlier in the day.

*The meeting rose at 5 p.m.*