



ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT

OF THE

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RESUMED FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION
SUPPLEMENT No. 3A (A/8703/Add.1)

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New York, 1973

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The term "billion" has been used to signify a thousand million.

CONTENTS

Abbreviations	Page iv
 <i>Chapter</i>	
I. Organization of the resumed fifty-third session	1
II. Financial questions	2
A. Reports of the World Bank Group	2
B. Report of the International Monetary Fund	3
III. Report of the Trade and Development Board	5
IV. Question of the establishment of a United Nations revolving fund for natural resources exploration	7
V. Population	9
VI. Question of the establishment of an international university	11
VII. Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment	13
VIII. Regional co-operation	15
A. Question of the establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia	15
B. Admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in the Economic Commission for Europe	15
IX. World Food Programme: modification of the WFP budget cycle	16
X. Constitutional and organizational questions	17
A. Elections	17
B. Calendar of conferences and related matters	17
C. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the organizational meetings of the fifty-fourth session	17
 <i>Annex</i>	
Agenda of the resumed fifty-third session	18

ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization

Chapter I

ORGANIZATION OF THE RESUMED FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

1. The Council held its resumed fifty-third session on 12 to 15 September, 17 and 18 October, 15 to 17 November, and 13 December 1972 at United Nations Headquarters.

2. The agenda adopted by the Council for its resumed fifty-third session is reproduced in the annex to the present report.

3. At its 1838th meeting,¹ the President informed the Council that he had received a letter from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction stating that the Committee had decided to inform the Council that, owing to lack of time, the question of the creation of an intergovernmental sea service had not been considered at its session held in July-August 1972 and that the question would be considered as soon as possible. The Council, therefore, decided to delete from its agenda the item entitled "Question of the creation of an intergovernmental sea service" and to inform the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session that the question would be taken up at a subsequent session after it had been considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction.

4. At its 1840th meeting,² the Council decided, on the suggestion of the Secretary-General under rule 17 of the rules of procedure, to include in its agenda two additional items, entitled "World Food Programme: modification of the WFP budget cycle" and "Calendar of conferences and related matters".

5. This addendum to the report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions³ covers the work of the Council's resumed fifty-third session. The resolutions and decisions adopted at the resumed session are issued in a separate volume as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.⁴ The summary records of the meetings of the Council are also issued as part of the Official Records of the Council. The summary records of the Co-ordination Committee are contained in documents E/AC.24/SR.459-461. The summary records of the Economic Committee are contained in documents E/AC.6/SR.590-593.

¹ E/SR.1838.

² E/SR.1840.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/8703)*.

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 1A (E/5209/Add.1)*.

Chapter II

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

A. Reports of the World Bank Group

6. The Council considered item 6 of the agenda for its resumed fifty-third session (Reports of the World Bank Group) at its 1841st and 1842nd meetings.⁵ It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the summaries of the annual reports for 1972 of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association, and of the International Finance Corporation (E/5216).

7. In introducing the reports, the President of the World Bank Group observed that during the past fiscal year, Bank loans, International Development Association (IDA) credits and International Finance Corporation (IFC) investments had amounted to \$3.1 billion, compared to \$2.6 billion in 1971 and \$1 billion in 1968. During its first five-year programme, covering the period 1969-1973, the Bank Group had intensified its efforts in the most important development sectors, namely, agriculture, education and population. In particular, the Bank Group had launched major new programmes in the population sector and had signed agreements for projects with, among other countries, India and Indonesia. In India, the project was designed to provide the information, experimentation and analysis required. The project in Indonesia represented the most co-ordinated and co-operative population planning effort ever undertaken within the United Nations system, with the active participation of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). As a result of that project, by the turn of the century the size of the population of Indonesia could be 50 million less than it might otherwise be.

8. The President pointed out that the Bank Group's emphasis had shifted geographically as well as sectorally. In Africa, it expected to treble its lending by comparison with the previous five-year period, and it would have more than trebled its lending to the countries designated by the United Nations as the least developed.

9. Recalling his address to the Council in November 1970 on the Bank's working relationships with other agencies in the United Nations family,⁶ the President of the World Bank Group expressed his satisfaction at the progress achieved and cited a number of successful co-operative programmes with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

(FAO). He stated that the Bank was actively participating in the planning stages of the World Population Year, just as it had fully supported the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

10. Regarding the question of the stage of development reached by the approximately 100 developing countries that were members of the World Bank Group, he stated that their current state of development was unacceptable. The *per capita* income growth had been minute, barely attaining 1.7 per cent, although the economic growth, measured in terms of gross national product, had reached 5 per cent during the First United Nations Development Decade. Developed countries were not moving effectively enough to provide assistance to developing countries, and the latter were not taking the necessary steps to help the poorest 40 per cent of their own populations. There was a need to reorient their policies in order to deal with the lot of the most deprived, and to establish growth targets in terms of essential human needs, namely, in nutrition, housing, health, literacy and employment.

11. The President of the World Bank Group suggested a five-step programme to attack more directly massive "mass poverty", consisting of the establishment of targets, within the national development plans of the various countries of the third world, for income growth for the poorest of the population; the creation of rural and urban public works to meet the problems of underemployment and unemployment; institutional measures for the redistribution of economic power, such as land, corporate tax, credit and banking reforms; improvements in public services, including their financial management; and the elimination of distortions in the prices of land, labour and capital and thus of subsidies to the rich and penalties for the poor. The Bank hoped to contribute its share to that collective effort.

12. Most of the representatives who took part in the ensuing discussion praised the President of the World Bank Group for the manner in which the Group's activities had been carried out during the past year. Several representatives of developing countries commended the Group's efforts concerning population and welcomed the Bank's call for an attack on the problem of mass poverty within the third world. Their Governments would consider specific targets for increasing the real income of the poorest segment. Irrespective of ideological and political systems, the poorest members of the Bank should be given due consideration concerning loans and investment.

13. Some representatives from developed countries observed that private foreign investment could contribute effectively to economic and social progress in developing countries. Each country should have the right to decide on the role, scope and merit of such investment within its territories. The Bank should continue to make available facilities for the settlement of investment disputes. The over-all development objectives, as well as the need to move towards broad in-

⁵ E/SR.1841, 1842.

⁶ E/SR.1730.

ternational co-operation, should be fully taken into account.

14. Several representatives expressed concern at the growing debt burden in developing countries and pointed out that greater assistance from IDA would therefore be welcome. Preparations for the fourth replenishment of IDA funds should start as early as possible. Some representatives of developing countries pointed out that the Bank had refused to extend credit to a certain country because of its attitude on nationalization. It was further stated that the Bank should not yield to the influence of member States whose aims were strictly national and incompatible with the stated policies of the Bank. Reference was also made to the question of the representation of China in the World Bank Group and attention was drawn to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), entitled "Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations".

15. The President of the World Bank Group said that the statements of Council members, which had covered a broad range of major issues, would be fully taken into account by the Group in planning its future work. He reiterated the need for more equitable distribution of the benefits of growth in developing countries. All multilateral and bilateral agencies involved in economic development should recognize the problem arising from a growing external debt burden and deal with it urgently, especially in regard to the least developed countries. Concerning certain statements on the lending practices of the Bank, he stated that a soundly managed economy was a prime consideration. That criterion was not met in the case under discussion. Despite the state of the economy, Bank disbursements in that country would reach \$10 million in the current year. He noted that the Bank had in fact recently approved loans to three countries on his own recommendation and against the objections of a great Power on the grounds of nationalization.

16. Referring to the question of the representation of China, the President said that that was a matter for decision by the States members of IBRD. He had brought the relevant General Assembly resolution to their attention and, on 26 October 1971, had informed the Secretary-General of that action, but the issue had not been raised at the recent annual meeting of the Board of Governors.

17. In reply to the President's comments on criticisms of the Bank's lending practices, it was stated that requests for loans in 1971 by the country referred to had been rejected by the Bank's administration although the country's economy had been satisfactory at the time. It was significant that, on the basis of a report by the International Monetary Fund, the Paris Club had agreed to renegotiate the country's foreign debt.

18. At its 1842nd meeting, the Council concluded its consideration of the item by deciding, without objection, to take note with appreciation of the report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association, and of the report of the International Finance Corporation.

B. Report of the International Monetary Fund

19. The Council considered item 8 of the agenda for its resumed fifty-third session (Report of the In-

ternational Monetary Fund) at its 1844th and 1845th meeting.⁷ It had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/5215) transmitting the summary of the 1972 annual report of the International Monetary Fund. The full report⁸ was available to it for information.

20. Introducing the report, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund indicated that the Fund's purchases of currencies and special drawing rights (SDR) amounted to the equivalent of SDR 2 billion in the fiscal year ended 30 April 1972. Purchases by developing countries totalled the equivalent of nearly SDR 500 million. Fund activities during the year included 13 new stand-by arrangements, eight agreements under the compensatory financing facility, and, for the first time, the use of the buffer stock scheme. Regular consultations and technical advisory services had increased.

21. The Managing Director further observed that uncertainty arising from the instability of the exchange rates of the major world currencies in the latter half of 1971 was brought to an end with the realignment of exchange rates accomplished in December 1971. The decision to widen the exchange margins, taken at the same time, provided greater flexibility for monetary activities to influence external payments, especially short-term capital movements. An equally important development in the current year was the improvement in the growth rate of major industrial countries. However, progress towards the abatement of inflation had been less marked so far, and the over-all price increase in 1972 had remained uncomfortably high. It was particularly important for the major industrial nations to reverse that trend, since the reduction of the inflationary bias in the world economy largely depended on their performance. Measures taken by the industrial countries to deal with balance-of-payments pressures had contributed to the sluggishness in foreign aid and thus induced developing countries to resort to shorter-term and expensive credits which entailed a swifter build-up of annual repayments.

22. The growing integration of the world economy made the payments position of each country more sensitive to outside developments and to policies followed by other countries. It therefore underscored the need for a harmonization of national policies, including exchange rate policies, in order to limit the duration and magnitude of payments disequilibria without impeding the continued expansion of world trade.

23. Recalling the Ministerial Meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of 24 on International Monetary Affairs, held at Caracas, 6-7 April 1972, and of the third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held at Santiago, the Managing Director indicated that a Committee of 20 had recently been established by the Board of Governors of the Fund to deal with monetary reform and related issues at a high policy-making level. The report on the reform of the international monetary system,⁹ submitted by the Executive Directors of the Fund to the Governors, would form a useful basis for the work of the new Committee.

⁷ E/SR.1844, 1845.

⁸ International Monetary Fund, *Annual Report of the Executive Directors for the Fiscal Year ended April 30, 1972* (Washington, D.C.).

⁹ International Monetary Fund, *Reform of the International Monetary System* (Washington, D.C., September 1972).

24. At the annual meeting of the Board of Governors there was widespread support for devising rules for exchange rate adjustments that would facilitate the maintenance of generally stable conditions in world trade and payments. There was also general agreement among the Governors that special drawing rights should play an increasing role as international reserve assets. However, there remained differences of opinion about the manner in which that should be brought about. Many countries proposed that the allocation of special drawing rights be linked directly to development aid, and raised the question of whether, in future, the developing countries should not receive a larger share than in the past in the allocation of special drawing rights. The report of the Executive Directors on international monetary reform listed a number of possible approaches. The Managing Director was confident that there existed a willingness among countries to modify national positions in favour of an international consensus and that conditions for reaching concrete decisions on the issues of reform were favourable. An equal sense of purpose and international understanding should persist in the execution of the reforms. The Fund stood ready to assist countries in that task, but Governments must bear the primary responsibility for the successful management of their own economies, taking fully into account the influence of those economies on others and on the international system.

25. Representatives in the Council congratulated the Managing Director on the Fund's achievements during the past year, especially its contribution to the restoration of stability in the international payments system. Many representatives welcomed the establishment of the Committee of 20 which they felt should be able to operate effectively while taking into account the views and interests of developing countries. The deliberations of the Committee of 20 would greatly benefit from the presence of representatives of UNCTAD, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). A representative of a developing country felt that the Committee should pay due regard to the activities of multinational corporations, including financial and banking institutions, and also to the investment policies of industrial countries.

26. With respect to international monetary reform, one representative stressed the need for an egalitarian approach and much flexibility. The reform should also prevent the export of inflation and related economic ills from developed countries to the developing world. Another representative felt that a new monetary order should be more broadly based than the Bretton Woods Agreement, in order to eliminate the shortcomings that had led to the current situation.

27. In connexion with the monetary crisis, the view was expressed that the International Monetary Fund was continuing to serve the interests of the major Western Powers and that the proposed reform was aimed at maintaining the privileged position of one or two countries while downgrading the role of gold. Any measures to restore monetary equilibrium must take account of the interests of all countries, particularly of developing countries, without exception.

28. Several representatives stressed that a link should be established between special drawing rights and additional development assistance. They considered it urgent that the Fund allocate a greater amount of special drawing rights to developing countries. In that connexion, one representative felt that the special drawing rights should be the corner-stone of a reformed and enlarged international monetary system. Another representative raised the question of the co-operation of the Fund with other specialized agencies and with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, especially the latter's Division of Public Finance and Financial Institutions.

29. One representative referred to the question of the representation of China in the International Monetary Fund and drew attention to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), entitled "Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations".

30. The Managing Director assured the Council of the continued co-operation of IMF. As suggested by one representative, the Fund would be willing to participate in any meetings and working sessions of the Council designed to review the international monetary situation. There was broad agreement on the need for allocations of special drawing rights in January 1973, but no proposal eliciting broad support had yet emerged. The Fund would continue its consultations with member countries in order to reach a consensus.

31. With respect to monetary reform, the Managing Director was gratified that the establishment of the Committee of 20 had commanded the overwhelming support of the Council, as it had of UNCTAD. It was to be hoped that the Committee would serve as an effective forum for discussion and negotiation at the governmental level.

32. The Fund had survived recent serious crises because of general co-operation. One of the consequences of the reform now envisaged would be to increase the Fund's role and strengthen its authority.

33. At its 1845th meeting, the Council took note with appreciation of the report of the International Monetary Fund.

Chapter III

REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

34. The Council considered item 7 of the agenda for its resumed fifty-third session (Report of the Trade and Development Board) at its 1843rd meeting.¹⁰ It had before it the report of the Board covering the period from 21 September 1971 to 25 October 1972.¹¹

35. Introducing the report, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development stated that the ultimate verdict on the results of the third session of UNCTAD would depend to a large extent on the action taken to implement its resolutions and to deal with the matters on which no substantive decisions had been taken. One of the questions on which no significant agreement had been reached was related to commodities, particularly the matter of access to markets and pricing policy. The Conference had, however, in resolution 83 (III), provided for the organization, through its permanent machinery, of intensive intergovernmental consultations on agreed commodities or groups of commodities. Another matter on which no agreement had been reached was the problem of indebtedness; in that case also the permanent machinery of UNCTAD would continue to examine the problem.

36. Among the more positive results of the third session of the Conference, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD cited the recent conclusion of an International Cocoa Agreement, and the progress made in traditional areas of UNCTAD activity such as shipping, non-tariff barriers, preferences and trade between countries having different economic and social systems. He also drew attention to comparatively new initiatives such as those in the fields of transfer of technology, restrictive business practices and the decision to draft a charter of the economic rights and duties of States. With regard to the last, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD noted that the membership of the Working Group established to draft the charter did not include many countries which wished to be associated with its activities. Some means of involving them in the Working Group's deliberations should be found.

37. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD drew particular attention to the various resolutions of the Conference dealing with the action programme in favour of the least developed among the developing countries, including the land-locked developing countries, in which the Economic and Social Council was closely involved. He also pointed to the steps which had been taken to enable the developing countries to participate effectively in the multilateral trade negotiations in GATT and in the decision-making process for international monetary reform. He emphasized the interdependence of problems in the trade, monetary and finance spheres and

expressed the hope that IMF, GATT and UNCTAD would work effectively together towards a new pattern of international economic relations which would reflect an equitable international division of labour.

38. Representatives who participated in the discussion commented on a number of aspects of the work of UNCTAD. It was noted that vital trade and development issues were before the Board and that the Board's report provided a comprehensive and useful record of the views of Governments on those issues. Reference was made, *inter alia*, to the need to ensure stable and remunerative prices for commodities in international trade, to widen the application of the generalized system of preferences, to liberalize non-tariff barriers, to achieve the targets for financial resources transfers to developing countries to establish a link between special drawing rights and development financing, to expand trade between countries with different economic and social systems, to create a new international division of labour and to solve basic trade and economic problems with the participation of all States concerned. One representative welcomed UNCTAD's efforts to solve problems of international trade on a basis of equity, mutual advantage, non-discrimination and respect for sovereignty. He also referred to the joint declaration of the socialist States made at the third session of the Conference (TD/154)¹² which set out their policies regarding the expansion of trade and co-operation with developing countries in the next five years, and drew attention in that connexion to resolution 88 (XII) on permanent sovereignty over natural resources adopted by the Board at its twelfth session. Another representative stated that his delegation had been unable to support the two resolutions adopted by the Board, namely, resolution 88 (XII), mentioned above, and resolution 91 (XII), dealing with concepts of aid and flow targets.

39. Satisfaction was expressed with the steps being taken by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to assist developing countries in their preparation for the multilateral trade negotiations to be carried out in GATT, in which non-member developing countries had been invited to take part. One representative felt that the question of the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system was extremely complex and had far-reaching implications for the future of world trade and development. While noting the effectiveness and usefulness of the consultations carried out by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD with the Managing Director of IMF and the Director-General of GATT, he believed that the Board's careful approach to the matter was a sound

¹⁰ E/SR.1843.

¹¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/8715/Rev.1)*. The report was before the Council under cover of a note by the Secretary-General (E/5219).

¹² *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.D.4), annex VIII, G.

one. Another representative felt that the participation of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in the Committee of 20 recently established by IMF would doubtless help that Committee to link international monetary and liquidity problems with trade questions.

40. Some representatives referred to the question of the membership of the Working Group created to draft a charter of the economic rights and duties of

States and hoped that a solution could be found to associate a larger number of countries in the deliberations of the Working Group.

41. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Council decided to transmit the report of the Trade and Development Board to the General Assembly and to draw the attention of the Assembly to the comments on the subject made in the Council at its 1843rd meeting.

Chapter IV

QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION

42. The Economic Committee considered item 2 of the agenda for the Council's resumed fifty-third session (Question of the establishment of a United Nations revolving fund for natural resources exploration) at its 592nd and 593rd meetings.¹³ The Committee had before it the report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (E/AC.6/L.485); the report of the Economic Committee on subitems (a), (b) and (c) of item 9 of the agenda for the Council's fifty-third session (E/5193/Add.1); a draft resolution submitted by Japan (E/AC.6/L.486) and subsequently sponsored also by the Netherlands; and a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Brazil and Egypt (E/AC.6/L.487) which Chile and Peru joined in sponsoring.

43. At the 592nd meeting, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Working Group, in introducing his report (E/AC.6/L.485), said that the consultations he had undertaken in accordance with Council resolution 1711 (LIII) had not been as fruitful as he had hoped but had led to a better understanding of the idea of the fund. It was clear that several delegations favoured the establishment of the fund but that the provisions concerning its operation, especially the administrative and technical aspects, still raised fundamental doubts for several delegations. His report listed a number of amendments to the draft statute contained in the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group (E/C.7/29, annex III), which were acceptable to a majority of the delegations consulted.

44. At the same meeting, the representative of Japan, in introducing the draft resolution contained in document E/AC.6/L.486, noted that the activities contemplated in Council resolution 1711 (LIII) had not advanced as quickly as had been expected and explained that the draft resolution was intended to provide a framework for future work. Paragraph 1 of the draft resolution would recommend that the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session endorse, in principle, the establishment of a United Nations revolving fund as a trust fund, placed in charge of the Secretary-General but administered on his behalf by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the basic concept of which was to provide assistance to participating developing countries in the exploration of natural resources, and the funds for which would consist, *inter alia*, of voluntary contributions by States and of repayments by recipient States from funds generated through the production of natural resources discovered or developed with assistance from the revolving fund. The words "in principle" were used because the fund could not become a reality until the General Assembly approved it at a subsequent session. The draft resolution further provided for the

appointment of an *ad hoc* panel of not more than 10 experts to assist the Secretary-General, in consultation with the organs of the United Nations system concerned, in carrying out an objective study of the economic and financial aspects and the administrative and institutional arrangements necessary for a workable scheme, with a view to preparing a draft statute for the revolving fund, taking into account the reports of the Intergovernmental Working Group (E/C.7/24 and E/C.7/29) and the views of the Governments of Member States. The Secretary-General's report would be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session through a further meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group and the Economic and Social Council.

45. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt, introducing the draft resolution contained in document E/AC.6/L.487, explained that it was the outcome of long discussions among developing countries. The sponsors considered that the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group was not satisfactory and that the work should be continued through a special intergovernmental group of experts so that the many outstanding technical and political aspects could be further studied and clarified to enable the intergovernmental agencies concerned to pass a final judgement on the proposal. The draft resolution would recommend that the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session approve in principle the establishment of a United Nations fund for natural resources exploration in developing countries and would further recommend that the General Assembly set up an intergovernmental *ad hoc* group of not more than 20 technical experts to draw up a statute for the fund. The report would be considered by the Council at its fifty-fifth session and by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

46. At the same meeting, the representative of Kenya proposed the deletion of the words "as a trust fund, placed in charge of the Secretary-General but administered on his behalf by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme" in paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/AC.6/L.486. He also proposed the insertion of the word "revolving" after the words "United Nations" in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution E/AC.6/L.487 and the replacement of the proposed intergovernmental working group of technical experts by a panel of not more than 10 experts.

47. At the 593rd meeting, the representative of Japan indicated that, if it was generally acceptable, he would be prepared to accept the proposals of the representative of Ghana to delete the words "as a trust fund, placed in charge of the Secretary-General but administered on his behalf by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme" in paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/AC.6/L.486, and the

¹³ E/AC.6/SR.592, 593.

portion of paragraph 2 (a) specifying the questions to be covered by the technical study to revise paragraphs 3 and 4 to provide for the appointment of an *ad hoc* panel of not more than 15 experts "with due regard to adequate representation from both developed and developing countries", and to request the Secretary-General to convene a further meeting of the expanded Intergovernmental Working Group to consider the Secretary-General's report and submit it with comments through the Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

48. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile proposed that the words "as a trust fund, placed in charge of the Secretary-General but administered on his behalf by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme" be retained in paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/AC.6/L.486, and that the first part of paragraph 2 be amended to read "*Recommends* that the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session should appoint an intergovernmental group of experts:".

49. In the course of the discussion a number of delegations expressed regret that the work already done on the revolving fund appeared to have been called into question; the four-Power draft resolution gave the impression that no result had been achieved particularly with regard to the draft statute for the fund. Other delegations stressed that the difficulty was not the idea of a fund *per se*, on which the majority of delegations were in agreement, but the draft statute, which had given rise to serious misgivings and doubts. The best course would be to start again and re-examine the whole proposal, including the concept of a revolving fund.

50. At the 593rd meeting, the representative of the United States of America suggested that the important substantive issues at stake required more detailed attention than could be given at the resumed session. In the absence of a consensus it seemed essential that consultation should continue on the various options open to the Committee. He accordingly proposed that, in accordance with rule 50 of the Council's rules of procedure, further consideration of the item should be deferred to the Council's fifty-fifth session. The proposal was adopted by 26 votes to 10, with 9 abstentions.

Action by the Council

51. At its 1845th meeting¹⁴ the Council by 8 votes to 9, with 5 abstentions, rejected the draft decision recommended by the Economic Committee (E/5227)¹⁵ for adoption by the Council, to defer consideration of the item to the fifty-fifth session. The representative of Kenya proposed that the Council take note of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (E/C.7/29) and refer the matter to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session for further consideration. After further discussion the representative of Kenya withdrew his proposal in favour of the proposal of the representative of Brazil that further consideration of the item should be deferred to the Council's fifty-fourth session. The Council adopted that proposal by consensus.

¹⁴ E/SR.1845.

¹⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Fifty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 2.*

Chapter V

POPULATION

52. The Economic Committee considered item 4 of the agenda for the Council's resumed fifty-third session (Report of the Population Commission on its special session) at its 590th and 591st meetings.¹⁶ It had before it the report of the Population Commission on its special session,¹⁷ a note by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the World Population Conference, 1974 (E/5221), and a note by the Secretariat on the financial implications of the World Population Year, 1974 (E/5224).

53. The Secretary-General of the World Population Conference, 1974, in introducing the first two documents, informed the Committee that he had participated in the Second Asian Population Conference held in Tokyo in November 1972, which had given him the opportunity to become fully acquainted with various problems and prospects relevant to the Conference.

54. At its sixteenth session, the Population Commission had reoriented its work programme to permit the preparation of substantive papers for the World Population Conference.¹⁸ After a detailed review of the substantive requirements of the Conference, it had become clear that the substantive preparations might require further reorientation of the work programme and a reduction in the priority of certain projects not directly related to Conference preparations. In spite of that reorientation, additional substantive resources would be required, as indicated in document E/5221. For the executive aspects of the Conference, on the other hand, a small staff had been envisaged in that document. The additional resources required were to be financed by funds from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

55. The Executive Director of UNFPA stated that, pursuant to Council resolution 1672 B (LII), the Fund had initiated the programmes for the preparation of the World Population Year, details of which were given in document E/5224, with particular reference to the financial aspects. He pointed out that the activities of the Year supported by the Fund came under various categories: promoting research and knowledge of the facts about population trends and prospects; increasing public awareness of population problems; stimulating the consideration of alternative national population policies and programmes; and international co-operation and technical assistance for countries requesting it. He welcomed the possibility that the Committee would give general guidelines for the proposed programmes submitted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies with certain modifications based on the Fund's own guidelines.

56. Most representatives considered that the results of the special session of the Population Commission showed that the Commission had efficiently discharged its new role as the preparatory body for the Conference. They welcomed the steps taken by the Commission to strengthen the preparatory machinery of the Conference, in particular, the effort to establish clear relations between the agenda items of the Conference, on the one hand, and the subjects of the symposia and the background papers, on the other. Serious doubt was expressed by some representatives, however, as to the usefulness of holding the proposed special sessions of the Population Commission as well as to the advantage of entrusting to a body of mainly a technical nature the preparations of what seemed to be basically a political conference. They criticized moreover the over-all nature of United Nations activities in the field of population and the general trend of the preparations for the Population Conference which, in their view, should be more balanced and take also into account the many cases in which demographic densities were too low to permit development.

57. Most representatives supported the Population Commission's proposal that the name of the Advisory Committee on Global Population Strategy should be changed to "Advisory Committee of Experts on the World Population Plan of Action" and that the background study on global population strategy should be renamed "Study on population problems, policies and priorities: technical background to the World Population Plan of Action". They also expressed the hope, as had the Commission, that membership of the Advisory Committee would be expanded and noted in particular the absence of experts from China, France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

58. Some representatives expressed a strong hope that the World Population Plan of Action would not take a simplistic view of the population question. It should not, for example, attribute all social and economic ills to population growth and recommend the establishment of family planning programmes as the cure to all those ills. The World Population Plan of Action should take fully into account the ideological, historical and cultural diversities of the world community. It should also recognize the importance of developmental factors in controlling fertility as well as the importance of other demographic variables, such as mortality, internal migration, urbanization and international migration, to social and economic development. A number of members expressed the view that the Plan of Action should assist in the mid-term review of the Second United Nations Development Decade and give direction to United Nations activities in future decades. Commenting on the views expressed by some representatives, the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference said that it was clear to him that neither the Plan of Action nor any other decision of the Conference would impinge on the

¹⁶ E/AC.6/SR.590, 591.

¹⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 12* (E/5212).

¹⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (E/5090), chap. IV.

sovereignty of any Member State or on the human rights of individuals as declared by the International Conference on Human Rights which had been held at Teheran in 1968.

59. Although there was not unanimous agreement on all the items of the provisional agenda for the Conference proposed by the Commission,¹⁹ it was noted that they were a product of compromise, worked out by the Commission. Items 1, 2 and 3 were supported by most representatives. The four symposia, as proposed by the Population Commission,²⁰ were considered by the majority of participants in the discussion as useful substantive contributions which would constitute the technical basis for the deliberations of the Conference.

60. The Committee supported the Population Commission's view that the Conference would be held at the intergovernmental level. It was pointed out, however, that there was nothing to prevent experts from participating as representatives of their Governments.

61. One representative regretted that for many years the study of demographic, economic and social inter-relations had been in the programme of work in the Population Commission but the study had not been completed; its completion would constitute a useful contribution to item 2 of the provisional agenda of the Conference.

62. Some reservations were expressed about the deadline of 31 December 1972 set for the preparation of the draft background papers to be used as a basis for Conference documents, since no objective evaluation could be made without updating many background papers on the basis of national census data which would be released during 1973.

63. Regarding the site of the Conference, hope was expressed that it might be held in a developing country. Some representatives felt, however, that the Conference should be held at one of the headquarters of the United Nations, particularly New York or Geneva, to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary expenditure.

64. The documents concerning financial and administrative implications were received by the Committee late and, therefore, many representatives were able only to make preliminary comments on them. Nevertheless, some delegations considered the total expenditure of more than \$3.5 million as indicated in document E/5221 to be excessive. One representative suggested certain specific economies that might be made and noted that the participation of technical advisers as members of delegations to the Conference fell within the sphere of technical assistance and should thus be financed from the technical assistance budget.

¹⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (E/5212), para. 23.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 15 and 26.

65. The Committee then proceeded to vote on the recommendations contained in chapter VII of the report of the Population Commission on its special session as follows: the Committee adopted, by 30 votes to 6, with 12 abstentions, the recommendation on the periodicity of sessions of the Population Commission.

66. It adopted, by 34 votes to none, with 17 abstentions, the recommendation on the Advisory Committee of Experts on the World Population Plan of Action.

67. It adopted, by 35 votes to none, with 13 abstentions, the proposal by the representative of the Netherlands concerning the participation of specialists in the World Population Conference based on the views of the Population Commission in paragraphs 45 and 46 of its report.

68. The Committee adopted, by 31 votes to none, with 17 abstentions, the recommendation on the periodicity of meetings and the increase in membership of the Advisory Committee of Experts on the World Population Plan of Action.

69. The Committee took note of the report of the Population Commission on its special session.

Action by the Council

70. At its 1845th meeting,²¹ the Council on the recommendation of the Economic Committee (E/5225),²² decided (a) by 14 votes to 4, with 4 abstentions, that the Population Commission should meet at approximately six-month intervals in the period between the conclusion of its special session (August 1972) and the opening of the World Population Conference, 1974; (b) by 15 votes to none, with 8 abstentions, that the name of the Advisory Committee on Global Population Strategy be changed to "Advisory Committee of Experts on the World Population Plan of Action", and that, consequently, the study on global population strategy should be renamed "Study on population problems, policies and priorities: technical background to the World Population Plan of Action"; (c) by 16 votes to none, with 7 abstentions, to reconsider its decision (resolution 1484 (XLVIII)) regarding the participation of specialists in the Conference and to this effect endorsed the views expressed by the Population Commission in paragraphs 45 and 46 of its report²² on the role of specialists in the Conference; (d) by 15 votes to none, with 8 abstentions, that the Advisory Committee of Experts on the World Population Plan of Action should meet at least twice more, and that the number of experts on the Committee should be increased; (e) without vote, to take note of the report of the Population Commission on its special session.²²

²¹ E/SR.1845.

²² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Fifty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 4.*

Chapter VI

QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

71. The Co-ordination Committee considered item 1 of the agenda for the Council's resumed fifty-third session (Question of the establishment of an international university) at its 459th to 461st meetings.²³ The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/8510²⁴ and Add.1/Rev.1) on the question of the establishment of an international university, a further report of the Secretary-General (E/5155) transmitting the report of the Panel of Experts on the Establishment of an International University on its third session, and an addendum (E/5155/Add.1) transmitting the text of the decision adopted on 27 June 1972 by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as a statement submitted by seven non-governmental organizations in consultative status (E/C.2/757). It also received a draft resolution (E/L.1517) submitted by the delegation of Japan.

72. In an introductory statement, the Chef de Cabinet noted that the reports reflected the extensive studies and consultations undertaken by UNESCO and the United Nations Panel of Experts over the past two years. In transmitting the last report of the Panel (E/5155), the Secretary-General expressed his full endorsement of the Panel's views and recommendations and was pleased that the Panel had been able to reach a consensus on a number of questions raised in the Council at its fifty-first session as well as in the General Assembly and the Executive Board of UNESCO. In its recent decision (see E/5155/Add.1), the Executive Board of UNESCO had expressed its agreement with the conclusions that it was both desirable and opportune to establish an international university under United Nations auspices, and that a sufficient basis existed to enable the legislative bodies to reach a decision in 1972. The proposal called for the creation of a decentralized network of institutions for research and training at the post-graduate level—of which the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other United Nations bodies might form a part—for the purpose of promoting and undertaking research and training with regard to such questions as peaceful co-existence, human rights, development and the global implications of science and technology. Those activities would be co-ordinated by a small but high-calibre centre for programming and co-ordination. The status of the proposed international university would be that of an autonomous academic institution under the auspices of the United Nations, in which UNESCO would play a major role.

73. The Panel of Experts had suggested that UNITAR should be an important component of the proposed network, which would form an association with qualified national university centres and institutes, and would supplement research and training at such

institutions in connexion with the study of problems transcending national boundaries. The system would promote functional co-operation and exchange of information and personnel among associated or affiliated institutes and should serve to stimulate innovative methods of research and education, cutting across the traditional divisions between disciplines. A subsidiary function would be to train highly qualified specialists of all countries, particularly the developing countries, and to give them opportunities to break away from their intellectual isolation through periodic scholarly contacts. The Secretary-General agreed with the Panel of Experts that the activities of the university system should essentially be financed through voluntary contributions rather than the United Nations regular budget. Considerable potential interest in contributing towards the expenses of the proposed system appeared to exist among Governments, non-governmental organizations, universities, foundations and individuals. The Secretary-General was confident that various preoccupations concerning implementation could be satisfactorily harmonized within the framework of a founding or preparatory committee, as suggested by the Panel and supported by the Executive Board of UNESCO. It was clear that the Panel, after extensive consultation with the world academic community and with the fullest co-operation of UNESCO, UNITAR and other interested agencies, had agreed on the main characteristics of the United Nations university with sufficient precision to facilitate an informed debate by the Committee. The Secretary-General believed that the proposed institution would be of great value to the international community.

74. The representative of UNESCO stated that the establishment of an international university had become an example of growing co-operation between the secretariats of UNESCO and the United Nations, in consultation with other organizations in the United Nations system. UNESCO's experience in higher education and its established connexions with relevant organizations were reflected in the deliberations of the expanded Panel of Experts. Referring to the results of written consultations with universities, research institutes and other organizations undertaken by the Director-General of UNESCO, he noted that, while only 142 out of some 1,000 institutions and organizations consulted had responded, two thirds of the replies were in favour of the establishment of an international university. Despite the small response, the Director-General believed that greater interest would be aroused in university circles, but not until the project was implemented. He referred also to the decision by the Executive Board of UNESCO, particularly the Board's recommendation that UNESCO should assume responsibility for the project. He added that, in addition to the views of the Executive Board, the General Assembly would have before it the comments and observations to be made at the October 1972 session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

²³ E/AC.24/SR.459-461.

²⁴ Circulated to the Council under the symbol E/5083.

75. Many representatives expressed the view that the reports of the Panel of Experts, particularly the last report, convincingly showed the urgent need for a decentralized and co-ordinated system of research and training institutes to study questions of world-wide concern. They felt that the Panel's last report gave satisfactory answers to the questions raised in the past with regard to the objectives and the organization of the proposed university and the guarantees of academic freedom, as well as the question of possible duplication with existing bodies. They considered it encouraging that a number of Governments had made specific commitments to offer facilities or to make cash contributions. In their view, it would not be possible for the Secretary-General to organize a comprehensive effort for fund-raising until the General Assembly took a decision to establish such an institution. They felt that enough expert studies had been made to justify a decision in principle during the current year on the establishment of the proposed university, while further details could only be worked out progressively after the establishment was agreed upon.

76. Several representatives recognized that considerable refinement of the proposal had been achieved by the Panel of Experts. They welcomed the clarification given on a number of questions. They were, however, concerned about the insufficient financial basis for establishing an international university system at the current time. Some representatives felt that it was still premature to take a decision in the absence of more information on the organization and governing bodies and on the respective responsibilities of the United Nations, UNESCO and other agencies in implementation, as well as on the financial aspect of the proposal.

77. Some representatives stated that they were not convinced that the question of duplication and overlapping with UNESCO, UNITAR and other existing bodies had been solved. They considered also that existing national universities and institutes satisfactorily carried out the functions envisaged for the proposed institution. One representative felt that it was inappropriate for the Committee to make a concrete recommendation in the absence of a statement of financial implications.

78. At the 459th meeting, the representative of Japan introduced a revised text of the draft resolution (E/L.1517/Rev.1), sponsored by India, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Peru and the Philippines. Austria joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution at the 459th meeting and Ghana at the 460th meeting.

79. At the 461st meeting, the representative of Japan introduced a second revised text of the draft resolution (E/L.1517/Rev.2), sponsored by Austria, Ghana, India, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Peru and the Philippines. At the same meeting, Egypt joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution. The representative of Japan, in introducing the revision, stated that, in the light of the remarks by the representative of UNESCO and various delegations, paragraph 2 of the new text recommended the General Assembly to take into account the comments and observations on the establishment of an international university to be made

at the seventeenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO. In addition, the view of several delegations that the university should be financed by voluntary contributions was reflected in the addition of a fourth paragraph.

80. The following oral amendments were introduced:

(a) The representative of New Zealand proposed the deletion of the word "endorses" in paragraph 1;

(b) The representative of France proposed the insertion of the word "only" after the word "available" in paragraph 4;

(c) The representative of the United States of America proposed the addition of the words "excluding intergovernmental organizations" at the end of the same paragraph.

81. At the same meeting, the Committee voted as follows on the revised draft resolution (E/L.1517/Rev.2) and the amendments thereto:

(a) The oral amendment by New Zealand to paragraph 1 was rejected by 18 votes to 10, with 9 abstentions;

(b) The oral amendment by France to paragraph 4 was rejected by 18 votes to 12, with 8 abstentions;

(c) The oral amendment to paragraph 4 by the United States of America was rejected by 18 votes to 12, with 7 abstentions;

(d) On a separate vote at the request of the representative of Canada, paragraph 4 was adopted by 20 votes to 2, with 16 abstentions;

(e) The revised draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 23 votes to 6, with 8 abstentions.

Action by the Council

82. At its 1839th meeting,²⁵ the Council, on the recommendation of the Co-ordination Committee (E/5213),²⁶ adopted, by 13 votes to 6, with 6 abstentions, resolution 1731 (LIII). In that resolution, the Council (1) took note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General²⁷ and endorsed the views and recommendations of the Secretary-General contained therein; (2) recommended that the General Assembly take a decision on the establishment of an international university at its twenty-seventh session, taking into consideration the comments and observations on the subject made in the Economic and Social Council and at the seventeenth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; (3) recommended also that the General Assembly take practical steps for implementation as soon as possible, including the creation of a founding committee composed of a limited number of experts representing major academic, educational and cultural trends in the world and charged with drafting the charter of the university; and (4) emphasized the need for financial support for the international university to be made available through voluntary contributions by governmental and non-governmental sources.

²⁵ E/SR.1839.

²⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Fifty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 1.*

²⁷ A/8510 and Add.1/Rev.1, E/5155 and Add.1.

Chapter VII

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

83. The Council considered item 3 of the agenda for its resumed fifty-third session (Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment) at its 1840th meeting.²⁸ The Council had before it the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14),²⁹ together with the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the Conference (A/8783),³⁰ and statements submitted by the Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association (E/C.2/758) and the International Organization of Consumer's Unions (E/C.2/759), non-governmental organizations in category II; and by the International Council of Women and the International Council on Social Welfare, non-governmental organizations in category I, 20 non-governmental organizations in category II and two non-governmental organizations on the Roster (E/C.2/760).

84. In an introductory statement, the Secretary-General of the Conference expressed the belief that the Conference had fulfilled its objectives of providing the framework for intergovernmental action in the environment field and arousing public support for such action. He referred to the adoption by the Conference of a Declaration on the Human Environment,³¹ containing principles which would serve as guidelines for the action of Governments and the international community; an Action Plan, consisting of 109 recommendations for environmental action at the international level; and a resolution recommending the establishment of machinery within the United Nations for intergovernmental co-operation in the formulation of environmental policies and in the review of their implementation, together with supporting secretariat, funding and co-ordinating arrangements.

85. The Secretary-General of the Conference emphasized that the need for effective co-ordination of environment programmes was a principal theme of the institutional and financial recommendations of the Conference, which had taken full account of the special responsibility for co-ordination exercised by the Council under the Charter.

86. He further stated that the preparatory process and the Conference itself had proved the potential of the United Nations system for effective and concerted action towards common goals and had provided a sound foundation for future work. He stated that the arrangements recommended by the Conference, including the concept of central funding, were designed to strengthen and rationalize existing links among the elements of the United Nations system and to ensure that the

resources available for environmental activities would be utilized in the most effective manner possible. He recalled having stated at the time the Conference adopted its resolution on institutional and financial arrangements, that it was the view of the United Nations Secretariat that the ultimate authority for the approval of the programmes of each agency rested with its governing body, and that any arrangements for international environmental co-operation which might be decided upon would be carried out in the spirit of co-operation, co-ordination and concerted action inherent in the United Nations system.

87. In conclusion, the Secretary-General of the Conference stressed the need for co-ordination within Governments at the national level in their approach to environmental activities as the only sure foundation for co-ordination at the international level.

88. Most of the delegations which participated in the discussion on this item expressed satisfaction with the results of the Conference on the Human Environment and paid tribute to the preparatory work undertaken by the Preparatory Committee, the host country and the Conference secretariat.

89. Some delegations of States which had not participated in the Conference recalled the reasons which had prevented them from attending and stated that they were not ready to express an opinion on the results of the Conference. While reaffirming their continued interest in the environment issue and in the involvement of the United Nations in that field, they reiterated their view that the universal nature of environmental problems required universal participation in their solution.

90. Many representatives referred to the fact that the recommendations of the Conference on the Human Environment would shortly be considered in the Second Committee of the General Assembly, and reserved their substantive comments until that occasion.

91. With regard to the subject of co-ordination of environmental activities, several representatives expressed the opinion that such co-ordination should be carried out in conjunction with the co-ordination of economic and social activities of the United Nations, and that the Council should reaffirm its readiness to carry out its responsibilities for co-ordination in the environmental field, as in others. Other representatives believed that there was no reason to doubt the co-ordination role of the Council in that connexion and pointed out that the role was fully recognized in the institutional recommendations of the Conference. They believed that the Council would have to consider, in the light of the decisions which the General Assembly might take at its twenty-seventh session, how it could best exercise that role.

92. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the principle, which had been accepted by the Conference, that concern for environmental preserva-

²⁸ E/SR.1840.

²⁹ Transmitted to the Council by a note by the Secretary-General (E/5211).

³⁰ Transmitted to the Council by a note by the Secretary-General (E/5217).

³¹ See A/CONF.48/14, pp. 2-7 and 113-119.

tion should not have adverse effects on the development process of the developing countries nor detract from development assistance efforts.

93. The representative of a country which had offered to provide the headquarters for the proposed environment secretariat said that there should be a more even geographical spread of United Nations activities and suggested that the General Assembly, in considering the question of the location of the environment secretariat, should accept the principle that it should be in a developing country.

94. The representative of Mexico reiterated the invitation made by the Mexican Government at the Conference for a second conference on the human environment to be held at Mexico City.

95. At the same meeting, the Council, upon a proposal of the President, took note³² of the report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14)²⁹ and the report of the Secretary-General thereon (A/8783).³⁰

³² One delegation expressed its reservation concerning the decision.

Chapter VIII

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

A. Question of the establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia

96. The Economic Committee considered item 5 of the agenda for the Council's resumed fifty-third session (Regional co-operation) at its 592nd meeting.³³ The Committee had before it a revised text of the draft resolution submitted by Lebanon (E/L.1497/Rev.2) and a note by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (E/L.1497/Rev.2/Add.1).

97. The representative of Lebanon stated that the 12 countries currently served by the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut were the only Member States that were not benefiting from fuller participation in United Nations activities. Their need for the services of an economic commission for Western Asia had become even more urgent within the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade. Nevertheless, without prejudice to his Government's determination to persuade the Council to establish an economic commission for Western Asia, his delegation, in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill, was willing, on the basis of a consensus, to defer discussion of the draft resolution contained in document E/L.1497/Rev.2, with a view to final action on the establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia being taken at the fifty-fifth session of the Council in July 1973. In the spirit of that consensus, his delegation expected the Council to take a final and favourable decision at that time which would enable the proposed economic commission to begin its activities on 1 January 1974.

98. The Committee agreed, by consensus, to adopt the proposal put forward by the representative of Lebanon.

Action by the Council

99. The Council, at its 1845th meeting,³⁴ considered the report of the Economic Committee (E/5226)³⁵ and, after hearing a statement by the representative of Lebanon, endorsed without objection the recommendation of the Committee to defer consideration of the draft resolution submitted by Lebanon (E/L.1497/Rev.2) to its fifty-fifth session.

B. Admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in the Economic Commission for Europe

100. At its 1846th meeting,³⁶ the Council had before it a revised draft resolution sponsored by Hun-

gary, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/L.1530/Rev.1) providing for the admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in the Economic Commission for Europe. The Council also had before it a telegram dated 30 November 1972 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/5229) expressing his Government's agreement with the proposal to admit it to membership in the Economic Commission for Europe and declaring its readiness to fulfil conscientiously the obligations arising from such membership.

101. Introducing the revised joint draft resolution, the representative of Poland said that the proposal before the Council should be seen against the background of the process of *détente* which was taking place, particularly in Europe, a process in which both German States had played a major role. The admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in the Economic Commission for Europe would make the Commission fully representative and would open new prospects for co-operation in many fields in Europe.

102. The Council adopted the revised draft resolution unanimously. Members of the Council and of the sessional committees who participated in the discussion welcomed the decision as an important step towards complete universality of the United Nations and its agencies and a forerunner of strengthened international co-operation in Europe, one that would, in a wider context, afford real benefits to the countries of the third world. The decision would encourage all who adhered to the principles of the Charter and believed in better understanding and co-operation and in the principles of peaceful co-existence and universality.

103. In resolution 1732 (LIII) the Council (1) decided to change paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe by adding the German Democratic Republic to the list of members of the Commission on the condition that the State offered itself as a candidate and agreed to pay an equitable contribution to the budget of the United Nations, the total amount of which would be determined periodically by the General Assembly in accordance with the procedure established by the Assembly in similar cases; and (2) requested the Secretary-General to enter into consultations with the Government of the German Democratic Republic and to take all steps necessary to obtain agreement between that Government and the General Assembly on the amount of the contribution which that Government would be required to make to the budget of the United Nations.

³³ E/AC.6/SR.592.

³⁴ E/SR.1845.

³⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Fifty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 3.*

³⁶ E/SR.1846.

Chapter IX

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME: MODIFICATION OF THE WFP BUDGET CYCLE

104. The Council considered item 11 of the agenda for its resumed fifty-third session (World Food Programme: modification of the WFP budget cycle) at its 1842nd meeting.³⁷ It had before it a letter dated 26 September 1972 from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) addressed to the President of the Council (E/L.1518).

105. In the tenth annual report of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of WFP (E/5129), which the Council had considered at its fifty-third session,³⁸ the Committee had proposed that WFP's budget cycle should be changed from an annual to a biennial one. The Chairman of ACABQ informed the President of the Council in his letter that ACABQ had agreed to the change, and that the text of regulation 24 of the General Regulations of the Programme would need to be amended accordingly.

106. At the same meeting, the Council approved the amendment proposed by the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme that the WFP budget cycle should be biennial and that the first biennial period should be 1974-1975, which would coincide with the FAO cycle.

³⁷ E/SR.1842.

³⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/8703)*, chap. VII, section E.

Chapter X

CONSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS

A. Elections

107. At the 1845th meeting³⁹ at its resumed fifty-third session, the Council elected Sri Lanka to the Statistical Commission for a term of office of four years, effective 1 January 1973, and Mongolia to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development for a term of office of three years, effective 1 January 1973.

108. At the same meeting, it postponed until the organizational meetings of its fifty-fourth session the election of:

(a) One member for a term of office of four years and one member for a term of office of two years, beginning 1 January 1973, from Western European and other States, to the Committee on Natural Resources;

(b) Five members from African States, three members from Asian States and one member from Western European and other States for a term of office of three years beginning 1 January 1973, to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development;

(c) Six members from African States and three members from Asian States for a term of office ending 31 December 1973, to the Committee on Review and Appraisal.

B. Calendar of conferences and related matters

109. The Council considered item 12 of the agenda for its resumed fifty-third session (Calendar of conferences and related matters) at its 1843rd and 1845th meetings.⁴⁰ The Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1523) proposing additions and modifications to the Council's programme of meetings for 1973.⁴¹

110. At the 1843rd meeting, the Council approved without objection the following additions to its programme of meetings for 1973:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	
19-23 February	Accra	Economic Commission for Africa—Conference of Ministers
5-16 March	New York	<i>Ad Hoc</i> Group of Experts on Geographical Names
21-30 March	Quito	Economic Commission for Latin America (fifteenth session)
11-23 April	Tokyo	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (twenty-ninth session)

³⁹ E/SR.1845.

⁴⁰ E/SR.1843, 1845.

⁴¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/8703)*, annex III.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>	
April	Addis Ababa	Economic Commission for Africa—Executive Committee (ninth session)
September	Addis Ababa	Economic Commission for Africa—Technical Committee of Experts
November	Addis Ababa	Economic Commission for Africa—Executive Committee (tenth session)
3-14 December	Geneva	Expert Group on Tax Treaties

111. It also decided, by 14 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions, to add the following meeting to the programme:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	
19-30 March	New York	Population Commission (special session)

112. At the 1845th meeting, the Council:

(a) Approved the proposal to convene the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights on 15 January 1973 at Geneva, instead of in New York;

(b) Approved the proposal that the third session of the Committee on Natural Resources should take place at New Delhi from 5 to 16 February 1973, instead of from 12 to 23 February;

(c) Rejected, by 14 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions, the proposal that the twenty-third session of the Commission for Social Development should be held from 5 to 23 March 1973, instead of from 12 February to 2 March, and that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development should meet from 26 March to 13 April 1973, instead of from 12 to 30 March;

(d) Approved the proposal that the sessions of the Working Group of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and of the Sub-Commission itself, scheduled for Geneva from 13 to 24 August and from 27 August to 14 September 1973, respectively, be postponed by one week;

(e) Approved the proposal to invite the Working Group on Oceanography and Data Exchange of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to meet at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 13 July 1973.

C. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the organizational meetings of the fifty-fourth session

113. At its 1845th meeting, the Council approved the provisional agenda for the organizational meetings of the fifty-fourth session (E/L.1524).

Annex

AGENDA OF THE RESUMED FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

Adopted by the Council at its 1838th meeting, held on 12 September 1972

1. Question of the establishment of an international university.
2. Question of the establishment of a United Nations revolving fund for natural resources exploration.
3. Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.
4. Report of the Population Commission on its special session.
5. Regional co-operation.
6. Reports of the World Bank Group.
7. Report of the Trade and Development Board.
8. Report of the International Monetary Fund.
9. Elections.
10. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the organizational meetings of the fifty-fourth session.
11. World Food Programme: modification of the WFP budget cycle.*
12. Calendar of conferences and related matters.*

* At its 1840th meeting, on 17 October 1972, the Council decided to include this item in its agenda.

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