

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

Summary records of the 1892nd to 1899th meetings, held at Headquarters,
New York, from 22 April to 17 May 1974

1892nd meeting

Monday, 22 April 1974, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Aarno KARHILO (Finland)

E/SR.1892

Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared the fifty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Council open.
2. He observed that, following the serious economic crises which had recently affected most countries, and the poorest countries in particular, the world community was experiencing a very important period in the history of economic and social relations between nations. Recent developments in world trade and the need to establish a new international economic order had prompted the convening of the sixth special session of the General Assembly, currently being held. The most striking feature of the debates of the Assembly was that the representatives of all countries, developed or developing, had stressed the concept of global interdependence of States.
3. The Economic and Social Council itself had, during the previous two years, considered the question of collective economic security, which had since gained a new dimension. Recognition of the interdependence between nations had been preceded by a recognition of the interdependence of various facets of the development process. The need to enlarge the concept of development to include social objectives, in addition to economic growth targets, had earlier been stressed in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade¹ and even more clearly in the course of the first biennial overall review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the Strategy.² Similarly, it should be borne in mind that the fact that the Council had separate economic and social committees was, in existing circumstances, motivated by practical rather than substantive considerations. Consequently, such important subjects as the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination or the work programme for the International Women's Year should be ap-

proached not as separate items but as basic elements in the development process.

4. He believed that the enlarged composition of the Economic and Social Council would improve the effectiveness of the Council's work. It was encouraging to note that during the previous two years both developing and developed countries had called for the enhancement of the role of the Council, and that its importance in the creation of a new international economic order had been stressed by many delegations during the general debate at the Sixth special session of the General Assembly. The Council would have to ensure that all follow-up action required on decisions taken by the Assembly at that session was carried out in a coherent and concerted fashion, and he was convinced that it had the means to do so.

5. In any event, the work of the Council was going to increase because of the special session of the Assembly and account would have to be taken of that fact. Accordingly, the quality of the Council's working methods was of great importance. In that connexion, he referred to the informal consultations which had taken place during the organizational session for 1974 (7-10 January), which had enabled the Council to reach agreement quickly on the programme of work for the current year. He also referred to the note by the officers of the Council (E/L.1587) which again emphasized the need to expedite the work of the session by starting meetings promptly, submitting proposals in writing before the item concerned was taken up by a Committee, introducing proposals early in the debate on each item, and limiting the length of statements.

Election of a Vice-President

6. The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. Zewde Gabre-Sellassie would be unable to perform his functions as Vice-President. He accordingly invited the countries of the African group to arrange to propose a new candidate who would be elected for the unex-

¹ General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV).

² General Assembly resolution 3176 (XXVIII).

pired term in accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda (E/5460 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/L.1584, E/L.1586, E/L.1588)

7. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to document E/5460 containing the provisional agenda, to the supplementary list of items in document E/5460/Add.1 and to document E/L.1586.

8. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the provisional agenda (E/5460) contained the list of items approved by the Council at its organizational session, with the exception of the item "Assistance to southern Sudanese returnees and displaced persons", on which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been unable to submit a final report. He drew the Council's attention to document E/5460/Add.1, concerning the supplementary item proposed by Ethiopia, entitled "Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia", and to document E/L.1584 which contained the request for the inclusion of the item in the agenda, submitted by Ethiopia, and also an extract from the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on its seventeenth session.

9. He also drew attention to resolution 16 (II) adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the text of which was reproduced in document E/L.1586, on the establishment of an international institution for human habitat management and environmental design and improvement of human settlements.

10. In conclusion, he drew the Council's attention to the list of documents for the session (E/L.1588) and to the documents summarizing issues requiring action by the Council under agenda items to be considered by the Social Committee (E/AC.7/L.652 and Add.1) and by the Economic Committee (E/AC.6/L.544).

11. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in accordance with earlier informal consultations concerning the request from the Governing Council of UNEP in resolution 16 B (II), the Council should decide to consider the substance of UNEP resolution 16 A (II) at its fifty-seventh session and that, to that end, it should request the Secretary-General to prepare a report drawing upon the advice of the relevant units of the Secretariat.

It was so decided.

12. Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom), referring to item 7 of the provisional agenda, entitled "Housing, building and planning", said that the Social Committee was likely to be overburdened with work and that all parts of the item should be deferred until the fifty-seventh session of the Council.

13. Mr. THOMPSON-FLORES (Brazil) supported the United Kingdom proposal.

14. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would consider that the Council adopted the provisional agenda (E/5460 and Corr.1 and Add.1), with the exception of item 7,³ consideration of which would be deferred until the fifty-seventh session.

It was so decided.

³ The agenda was subsequently circulated as document E/5480.

Organization of work

(E/L.1587, E/INF/138)

15. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to document E/L.1587 and pointed out that the Council would examine at plenary meetings three agenda items on humanitarian questions, and items concerning elections and the calendar of conferences and meetings. An *ad hoc* committee would be set up in accordance with rule 88 of the rules of procedure, to consider item 11, entitled "Rationalization of the work of the Council". He suggested that all members should be represented in the *ad hoc* committee and that its Chairman should be the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Víctor Manuel Barceló Rodríguez. He hoped that the Council would adhere to the target dates specified in the annex to document E/L.1587.

16. If he heard no objection, he would consider that the Council agreed to set up an *ad hoc* committee to consider the rationalization of its work and that it approved the organization of work suggested in document E/L.1587.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 17

Calendar of conferences and meetings

17. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that, as a result of the change in the dates of the current session of the Council, three immediate changes were required in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1974, adopted by the Council at its fifty-fifth session (see A/9003 and Corr.1, annex III).⁴ First, the length of the fifteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be altered; the Committee would meet from 20 to 31 May instead of from 13 to 31 May 1974. It was the Secretary-General's intention to place on the provisional agenda of that Committee only one substantive item, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3199 (XXVIII) concerning formulation, review and approval of programmes and budgets, and the Committee would report on that item to the Council at its fifty-seventh session. The Committee's session would accordingly be one week shorter. Secondly, the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies would meet from 28 to 31 May 1974. Finally, the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Food Conference would be held at Geneva from 4 to 8 June 1974.

18. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would consider that the Council approved the decision that the fifteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be held from 20 to 31 May 1974.

It was so decided.

19. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would consider that the Council agreed that the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies should meet from 28 to 31 May 1974.

⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 and corrigendum.

It was so decided.

20. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would consider that the Council agreed that the second session of the Preparatory Committee

of the World Food Conference should be held at Geneva from 4 to 8 June 1974.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

1893rd meeting

Monday, 6 May 1974, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Aarno KARHILO (Finland).

E/SR.1893

Election of a Vice-President (concluded)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the African group to nominate its candidate for the post of Vice-President for the unexpired term of office of Mr. Zewde Gabre-Selassie (Ethiopia).

2. Mr. FALL (Senegal) announced that the African group proposed as candidate Mr. Siméon Aké (Ivory Coast).

3. Mr. FRAZÃO (Brazil) seconded the nomination of Mr. Aké.

Mr. Aké (Ivory Coast) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda (*concluded*) (E/5480, E/5496)

4. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to a note by the Secretariat (E/5496) and, in particular, to paragraph 2 of that document, which stated that the General Assembly had decided to refer to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session six draft resolutions submitted to the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Sixth Special Session. The officers of the Council had met on the previous Friday and had consulted a number of delegations, and had decided to recommend that the Council, under rule 17 of the rules of procedure, should add a new item entitled "Study of the problems of raw materials and development" to its agenda and allocate it to the Economic Committee for consideration.

5. Mr. ISLAM (Pakistan) said that the six draft resolutions transmitted to the Council were all ex-

remely important and that it would be desirable to take a decision forthwith on some of them. His delegation would have preferred them to be discussed at plenary meetings straight away, but agreed that they should be referred to the Economic Committee, which would, he hoped, consider them as a matter of priority.

6. Mr. FALL (Senegal) said that the draft resolutions were all equally useful and important. He therefore urged the Committee to consider them together, without giving priority to any one in particular. Since some of the draft resolutions had been submitted at the eleventh hour, it might be thought that they would throw the deliberations into confusion, but that was not the case: they had been proposed in good faith and contained very constructive elements.

7. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Senegal. He pointed out that the General Assembly had referred the six draft resolutions in question to the Economic and Social Council because it had not had time to consider them, and not because it felt that they were unimportant. He hoped that the Council could, through the Economic Committee or at plenary meetings, decide on the draft resolutions at the current session.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to add to its agenda¹ an additional item entitled "Study of the problems of raw materials and development" and to allocate it to the Economic Committee.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

¹ The revised agenda was circulated as document E/5480/Rev.1.

1894th meeting

Wednesday, 8 May 1974, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Aarno KARHILO (Finland)

E/SR.1894

AGENDA ITEM 5

Economic assistance to Zambia (E/L.1593)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it a draft resolution (E/L.1593) concerning economic assistance to Zambia. In accordance with the consensus

reached by the Council at its organizational session and with the recommendations of the officers of the Council on the consideration of items in plenary meetings, the Council had waited until specific proposals had been submitted before taking up item 5, and also item 7 concerning assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia.