

2032nd meeting

Thursday, 5 August 1976, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. S. AKÉ (Ivory Coast)

E/SR.2032

AGENDA ITEM 17

Food problems

REPORT OF THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (E/5879)

1. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the two draft resolutions and two draft decisions in paragraph 11 of the report of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee (E/5879), which had been adopted by the Committee without a vote. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Council wished to do likewise.

Draft resolution I: Report of the World Food Council on its second session

Draft resolution I was adopted.

Draft resolution II: Co-operation between the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food and the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies

Draft resolution II was adopted.

Draft decision I: Report on issues relating to world food trade

Draft decision I was adopted.

Draft decision II: Statement of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on institutional arrangements relating to nutrition

Draft decision II was adopted.

2. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) said that his delegation entirely concurred in the decision to defer consideration of the institutional question on the understanding that it would not prevent the agencies concerned from proceeding with their normal programmes on nutrition and proteins.

3. Mr. BRUCE (Canada) agreed with the United States representative. His delegation accepted the decision just taken by the Council but considered that the four major agencies of the United Nations system concerned with nutrition should be encouraged to continue their work. Many delegations had expressed concern about the manpower and financial implications of the decision, but the secretariat had given adequate reassurances on those questions.

4. Mr. KASTOFT (Denmark) endorsed the views of the representatives of the United States of America and Canada.

AGENDA ITEM 18

International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system

REPORT OF THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (E/5878)

5. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution and the four draft decisions in paragraph 23 of the report of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee (E/5878), which had been adopted by the Committee without a vote. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Council wished to do likewise.

Draft resolution: Review of the machinery of the United Nations and of its system for administrative and budgetary control, investigation and co-ordination

The draft resolution was adopted.

Draft decision I: Progress report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on rural development

Draft decision I was adopted.

Draft decision II: Reports of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

Draft decision II was adopted.

Draft decision III: Report of the Secretary-General on immediate needs resulting from economic emergency situations

Draft decision III was adopted.

Draft decision IV: International Year of the Child

Draft decision IV was adopted.

6. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) pointed out that in paragraph (d) of draft decision IV the term "lead agency" had been translated as "*organisme dirigeant*", which implied that UNICEF would be responsible for the entire organization of the International Year of the Child. She suggested that the French term should be changed to convey the idea of a co-ordinating body, as in the English text.

7. The PRESIDENT said that the necessary correction would be made.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Human settlements

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5884)

8. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution and the draft decision in paragraph 11 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/5884), which had been adopted by the Committee without a vote. He presumed that the Council would do likewise.

Draft resolution: Regional support for national efforts to improve human settlements

The draft resolution was adopted.

Draft decision: Recommendations of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning

The draft decision was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Transnational corporations

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5883)

9. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution and the two draft decisions in paragraph 16 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/5883), which had been adopted by the Committee without a vote. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Council would do likewise.

Draft resolution: Corrupt practices, particularly illicit payments, in international commercial transactions

The draft resolution was adopted.

10. Mr. RUZEK (Czechoslovakia) asked that the substance of the reservation of principle made by the delegations of the socialist countries of Eastern Europe after adoption of the draft resolution in the Economic Committee (782nd meeting) should be included in the Council's report.

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its second session

Draft decision I was adopted.

11. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) said that his delegation had followed the question with interest ever since the appeal by Chile at the Council's fifty-first session and the subsequent consideration of the subject by the General Assembly. It had been concerned with the establishment of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the adoption of a programme of work which laid the foundation for solid progress. The President of his country, while regarding the problem as a multifaceted one, had recognized the importance attached by the international community to the issue of illicit payments. His delegation had accordingly submitted a draft resolution on the subject. He would not repeat the reasons why that draft resolution had been withdrawn in favour of the consensus resolution,

but wished to express his appreciation of the co-operation by the secretariat, the officers and the delegations which had made the consensus possible. His delegation in no way wished to detract from the priority to be given to the code of conduct.

12. Mr. ZHUKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that during the discussion in the Economic Committee his delegation had put forward certain views concerning the programme proposed at the second session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and its implementation. It had also reserved its position on the financial implications of the programme at the 772nd meeting of the Committee.

Draft decision II: Measures against corrupt practices of transnational and other corporations, their intermediaries and others involved

Draft decision II was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 9

**Development and international economic co-operation:
Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New
International Economic Order and revision of the Inter-
national Development Strategy for the Second United
Nations Development Decade**

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(E/5886)

13. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution and the draft decision in paragraph 11 of the report of the Special Economic Committee (E/5886), which had been adopted by the Committee without a vote. He presumed that the Council wished to do likewise.

Draft resolution: Development and international economic co-operation

The draft resolution was adopted.

14. Mr. KANAZAWA (Japan) said that his delegation was happy to join in the consensus on the draft resolution. His Government had consistently supported development and pursued a policy of bilateral and multilateral co-operation with the developing countries. Developing countries were not always fully satisfied with the progress made, and it was the task of the United Nations to impress the importance of development on the international community. He appreciated the efforts of the Group of 77 and their co-operative attitude during negotiations; his delegation had done its best to meet the views of the Group of 77 in order to reach a consensus. The draft resolution might have struck a better balance between successes and shortfalls and between the efforts of the developing and the developed countries. His delegation maintained its reservations concerning General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI) and 3281 (XXIX).

15. Mr. MYERSON (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the resolution because it supported what it understood to be the central idea: that despite any differences in assessment of the

situation everyone should make renewed and vigorous efforts to overcome difficulties and move forward both nationally and internationally.

16. His delegation interpreted its participation in the consensus as involving no inconsistency with its strong support for the Secretariat's impartiality and integrity. It had not expressed concern over the Secretariat's reports, although it recognized that others had done so. His delegation considered that substantial progress had been made since September 1975 in fulfilling the commitments assumed at the seventh special session. The draft resolution which had just been adopted covered more than the seventh special session, and his delegation's acceptance of it should not be interpreted as involving any change in its well-known position on the resolutions of the sixth special session. The same comment applied where appropriate to other references in the draft resolution just adopted.

17. Regarding the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, his delegation looked forward to overcoming the difficulties that had emerged, so that the good work done in the analytical phase could contribute to practical and balanced results in the action phase.

18. Mr. RUZEK (Czechoslovakia), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as well as his own, said that the draft resolution just adopted was important because it was based on decisions of principle by the General Assembly including the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a new International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. His Government would continue to work for the achievement of those objectives, which had been endorsed by a meeting of Heads of State of CMEA in July 1976. His delegation had supported the Group of 77's draft resolution as an expression of legitimate concern by the developing countries over their deteriorating economic situation and the slow progress towards new international economic relations based on equality and justice. His country and the other socialist countries fully supported the developing countries' efforts to strengthen their economic independence and eliminate the inequality and exploitation that still existed.

19. The references in the resolution to the Conference on International Economic Co-operation reflected the views of some developing countries on discussions which were outside the scope of the United Nations and in which only a few countries participated.

20. In connexion with the International Development Strategy, he referred to a statement made by the socialist countries at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly concerning evaluation of achievements in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade and the statement made on behalf of those countries by the representative of the German Democratic Republic at the first part of the present session at Abidjan (2006th meeting). Those statements embodied the views of principle of the socialist countries on the prospects for international economic co-operation and the ways of solving the related problems.

21. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the draft resolution adopted in the Economic Committee had been submitted by the Chairman, not the Group of 77.

22. Mr. BRUCE (Canada) said that his delegation welcomed the consensus, which was the result of considerable give and take by all delegations, involving difficult decisions and painful concessions. There had been constructive negotiations and a good spirit throughout. Although it was inevitable that there should be mixed feelings of achievement and disappointment, he had deeply appreciated the efforts of every delegation to achieve a consensus and the encouragement given by the President.

23. The resolution was basically an expression of concern over the slow pace of economic development in developing countries and the slow rate of progress in negotiations. The Council would have been failing in its duty to the General Assembly and the international community if it had not expressed its views on those matters; but the resolution also expressed the hope that the past few years had started progress on the road to important achievements.

24. As stated on several occasions in the Council and the committees, his delegation expected that the Conference on International Economic Co-operation would make a major contribution to progress on international co-operation for the development of developing countries. It welcomed the determination of all delegations to make the Conference a success.

25. Mr. DAVIS (Australia) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus after long and difficult negotiations. His country had supported all the basic documents relating to the new international economic order because it agreed on the imperative need for an improvement in the situation of developing countries. Its acceptance did not mean, however, that Australia supported the suggestion implicit in the second preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 7 that the documents produced by the secretariats in the United Nations system should be made consistent with the spirit and directives of the basic texts on the new international economic order. Those resolutions were not legislative texts and had not been wholly accepted by all Member States of the United Nations. His Government looked to an impartial international civil service to produce documents of a high technical standard and believed that the secretariats had a role to play in stimulating debate on important issues. It welcomed the reaffirmation by many delegations in the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System of the need for contributions from all parts of the United Nations system, offering alternative courses of action for the consideration of intergovernmental bodies. There would inevitably be differences as to which approach to adopt, but the international civil service should not feel inhibited from submitting proposals for fear they might not attract government support.

26. The developed countries had already adopted policy measures in line with the International Development Strategy. Australia was one such country but did not think it reasonable to criticize the failure of developed countries

to implement some of the Strategy's policy objectives when the objectives had not all been endorsed by all the countries concerned. His country's statements of interpretation on the adoption of the International Development Strategy, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the resolutions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly, remained on record. Nevertheless, Australia was deeply committed to the development of the developing countries, in accordance with the objectives of the International Development Strategy.

27. Like the sponsors of the draft resolution, his country regretted the failure of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation at its July meetings to complete its work programmes for the rest of 1976. The Conference was a major venture in international relations and his country hoped that further discussions between the co-chairmen would enable the commissions to reconvene in September as scheduled with a comprehensive programme for international economic co-operation. Australia would continue to participate in the Conference to that end. He believed the Conference had made genuine progress in identifying and analysing problems and in facilitating and encouraging the work of other conferences, including the fourth session of UNCTAD. That had been the main purpose of the discussions to date. In the second phase his country would be working towards a constructive outcome to future discussions based on proposals for action.

28. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of EEC and its member States, said that they believed the efforts to achieve a consensus had been worth-while. However, an authoritative opinion by the Council about complicated issues had been compressed into a few paragraphs, which might give rise to differing interpretations. With regard to operative paragraph 2, in particular, he wished to remind the Council of the statements made on behalf of the Community or its individual member States in connexion with the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions.

29. With regard to operative paragraph 7, EEC member States agreed that the Secretariat must be clearly seen to be objective and impartial. It was on that understanding that they accepted the second preambular paragraph, although there was not, to their knowledge, any precedent for the expression of an opinion of that sort about a document of which the Council had not been formally invited to take note. He would endorse the Canadian representative's comment about the Conference on International Economic Co-operation referred to in operative paragraph 4. Finally, with regard to operative paragraph 8, EEC member States believed, as they had emphasized in their statements on agenda items 3 and 4 (2006th and 2009th meetings), that it was most important to make a start on the substantive work of adapting the International Development Strategy to the 1980s.

30. Mr. AHMAD KHAN (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, welcomed the consensus in which all members of the Council had expressed a shared concern at the state of the world economy and the plight of the developing countries. With regard to the work of the

Secretariat, the second preambular paragraph should be read in conjunction with operative paragraph 7; while the impartiality and ability of the Secretariat as a whole was to be appreciated, the general tone and thrust of the documents produced over the preceding two years had not been in keeping with the resolutions of the General Assembly on the establishment of a new international economic order in that they did not give due weight to the needs and interests of the developing world. A clear directive to the Secretariat to that effect was required, and was in fact given in operative paragraph 7.

31. Passing in review the other operative paragraphs, he said he was glad to note the agreement and shared concern about the failure to achieve the modest targets set by the International Development Strategy. The establishment of the new international economic order called for considerably higher targets; members of the international community had at recent international conferences proposed specific measures which could be implemented immediately. Nevertheless, although the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions represented the unanimous agreement of the international community, the pace of implementation had been very slow in all fields. He was therefore glad to note the expression of deep concern at that slow pace and at the fact that the fourth session of UNCTAD had achieved little, owing to a lack of response on the part of the developed countries. Operative paragraphs 4 and 5 underlined the shared concern of the Council at the lack of real progress towards concrete results so far at the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation and at the current deadlock. The developed countries were urged to respond to the problems of development with concrete solutions. The predicament of the non-oil producing developing countries was very serious and had been repeatedly stressed at international conferences; they were currently employing methods to bolster up their economies which would prove disastrous in the long run unless the foundations for establishing a new international economic order were laid. The slight upturn in the world economy in 1976 should not induce complacency.

32. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica) endorsed the views of the Group of 77, as expressed by the representative of Pakistan. He welcomed the fact that the Council had been able to reach an agreed assessment of the progress made in the North-South dialogue, which would be invaluable for the work of future meetings. There was, however, a long way to go to arrive at the programmes which were needed to make the world a better place for all its inhabitants.

Draft decision

The draft decision was adopted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.40 p.m. and resumed at 5.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Regional co-operation (concluded)* (E/5607 and Corr.1 and E/5607/Add.1-2, E/5727 and Add.1-2, E/5781,

* Resumed from the 2027th meeting.

E/5783-5786, E/5801, E/5832 (chap. III, sect. E), E/5835 and Corr.1 and E/5835/Add.1, E/5858; E/L.1731/Rev.2, E/L.1734)

Draft resolution: Strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation

33. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria), introducing the revised draft resolution submitted by her delegation on behalf of the Group of 77 (E/L.1731/Rev.2), said that the question of decentralizing United Nations activities and strengthening the regional commissions had been under consideration for some time; it had been the subject of a questionnaire circulated a few years previously by the Secretary-General through which Member States had indicated that they were in favour of strengthening the commissions and increasing their role at the regional and interregional level.

34. Operative paragraph 2 of the revised draft resolution should be further revised by the addition, after the words "conditions of each region," of the phrase "or to the outcome of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System and having regard to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, especially chapter III of the annex thereto,". The fact that the needs and levels of development of the various regions differed, as well as the conditions and working methods of their respective commissions, had been reflected throughout the text. The purpose of the reference in operative paragraph 2 to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restructuring was twofold: on the one hand, the work of the United Nations and its bodies should not be brought to a standstill while the Committee was completing its work, but at the same time changes were likely to occur in the methods and terms of reference of the specialized agencies and United Nations organs as a result of its recommendations. The remaining operative paragraphs were concerned with proposals about the work of the regional commissions.

35. The PRESIDENT said that in the absence of any objection, he took it that the Council wished to adopt the revised draft resolution (E/L.1731/Rev.2) as further orally revised by the Nigerian representative.

The revised draft resolution, as further orally revised, was adopted.

36. Mr. BARCELÓ (Mexico) referred to his delegation's statement on agenda item 4 at the Council's 2024th meeting. It was fully persuaded of the desirability of strengthening the regional commissions so that they could support the work being done by the specialized agencies to promote further technical and economic co-operation among developing countries. In particular, Mexico considered that ECLA should be strengthened so that on request it could assist specific regional bodies, such as the Latin American Economic System. He wished however to make it clear that strengthening the regional commissions should in no way be regarded as prejudging the work going on in the Group of 77 to promote every form of co-operation among developing countries or the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restructuring.

37. Mr. DAVIS (Australia) said that his delegation found the revised draft resolution acceptable in most respects. It recognized the trend for regional commissions to act as executing agencies for projects, which was a logical step from their advisory and planning functions. The Commission for his own region (ESCAP) had taken the lead in that direction and its projects were on the whole well administered. In view, however, of the need for an integrated approach, there should be no move to weaken the powers of UNDP as over-all co-ordinator, since increasing care would be required to ensure that no duplication occurred.

38. His delegation had doubts about the feasibility of operative paragraph 3 (b) and (c); it might not always be practical to designate regional commissions as the executing agencies for all future intersectoral subregional, regional and interregional projects, and the transfer to the commissions of existing activities might cause confusion and prove financially wasteful.

39. Mr. Jun-ici NAKAMURA (Japan) said that his country fully recognized the importance of regional co-operation and had actively participated in regional activities. In that spirit, his delegation had joined in the consensus on the revised draft resolution, but it wished to register some misgivings with regard to the suggestion in operative paragraph 4 that the executive secretaries of regional commissions should attend meetings of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which already carried a heavy burden. The executive secretaries were given ample opportunity to state their case during the preparation of the United Nations budget. With regard to operative paragraphs 5 to 7, his delegation endorsed the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and hoped that it would be pursued within the general framework of international co-operation.

40. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) confirmed the importance attached by his country to regional co-operation. His delegation was pleased that the draft resolution which had just been adopted recognized the relevance to regional matters of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restructuring. It had been happy to join in the consensus on that document.

41. Mr. MYERSON (United States of America) said that his delegation wished to associate itself fully with the United Kingdom representative's remarks. It also shared the views expressed by the three previous speakers.

42. Whilst his country greatly appreciated the work of the regional commissions and acknowledged their possible role as executing agencies, it thought it essential to maintain an integral approach by the United Nations system as a whole. It was especially important to uphold the role of UNDP and bear in mind always the need to economize resources. His delegation was pleased to note that the revised draft resolution recognized the position of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restructuring.

43. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider document E/L.1734, which contained a draft resolution and six draft decisions adopted by the Economic Com-

mittee without a vote. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Council wished to do likewise.

Draft resolution: Inclusion of Maldives in the geographical scope of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and admission of Maldives as a member of the Commission

The draft resolution was adopted.

Draft decision I: Annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe

Draft decision I was adopted.

Draft decision II: Annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Draft decision II was adopted.

Draft decision III: Annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America

Draft decision III was adopted.

Draft decision IV: Annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa

Draft decision IV was adopted.

Draft decision V: Annual report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

Draft decision V was adopted.

44. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) referred, with regard to draft decision V, to the statement his delegation had made on behalf of EEC and its member States during the general debate (2022nd meeting).

45. Mr. MYERSON (United States of America) said, with regard to draft decision V, that his delegation's views on certain paragraphs of the draft resolutions in ECWA's report (E/5785), remained unchanged.

Draft decision VI: Report on the meetings of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions

Draft decision VI was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 2

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

Changes in the calendar of meetings for 1976 and 1977
(E/L.1727; Conference Room Paper No. 3 (LXI))

46. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) drew the Council's attention to the calendar of meetings contained in document E/L.1727, which proposed certain calendar changes requiring approval at the present session. For convenience, they were also set out in the form of a draft decision (Conference Room Paper No. 3 (LXI)).

47. The Council's attention was also drawn to the statement (E/AC.6/L.587) of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution on agenda item 13 entitled "Corrupt practices, particularly illicit payments, in international commercial transactions". It applied equally to the draft resolution on agenda item 9, also adopted by the Council (E/5886, para. 11). It was proposed that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Corrupt Practices should hold its first meeting from 11 to 15 October 1976 and should hold two further series of meetings, each lasting two weeks, during the first five months of 1977. The Council was invited to agree to that first meeting, but to decide that the dates for the two meetings in 1977 should be decided at the organizational session in 1977 in the light of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group and of the over-all calendar.

48. Mr. THACHER (United Nations Environment Programme) said that during the first part of the Council's current session, and again in the Economic Committee during the second part, the Executive Director of UNEP had said that top priority should be given to harmonizing objectives throughout the United Nations system and had expressed UNEP's readiness to participate fully in the work of the CPC. Knowing the CPC's wish to consider the 1978-1979 programme budget for environment and for human settlements at its seventeenth session in 1977, he wished to point out that the dates of 9 May to 3 June 1977 proposed for the session would make it very difficult for UNEP to attend, because the fifth session of the UNEP Governing Council was scheduled for 9 to 25 May 1977; the latter time-table was already indicated in the calendar for 1977 approved by the Council the previous year and given in the report of the UNEP Governing Council adopted by the Council at its current session (2030th meeting).

49. He also drew attention to the overlap between the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the United Nations Conference on Desertification. He hoped that the Committee on Conferences would consider those points before they were to be taken up by the General Assembly.

50. Mr. KOCH (Federal Republic of Germany) asked why the special session of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, scheduled to take place on 17 to 28 January 1977, could not have been postponed so as to avoid conflicting with the dates on which the UNDP Governing Council was to meet. Moreover, the purpose of the special session would be to prepare for the United Nations Conference on the subject, and since the Secretary-General for the Conference would not be appointed before 1 January 1977, the dates proposed might in any case leave too little time for him to be given a thorough briefing.

51. In addition, as regards the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the third set of meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group might perhaps be postponed, for example until mid September 1977.

52. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that, pursuant to a decision adopted by the Council in 1972, the

* Resumed from the 2006th meeting.

dates of meetings of all related bodies should conform to the Council's own calendar, and not vice versa.

53. Whilst he noted the remarks made by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, he pointed out that the workload to be dealt with in the calendar of conferences was so great that it was not possible to avoid all overlapping. The secretariat would take careful note of all the points raised, which had in fact been borne in mind in drawing up the calendar now proposed. Perhaps the Council could approve the calendar as it now stood, with the amendments announced, subject to its being adjusted at a later date if at all possible.

54. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to adopt the draft decision contained in Conference Room Paper No. 3 (LXI) in the light of the statement just made by the Secretary of the Council.

Draft decision: Calendar of conferences and meetings

The draft decision was adopted.

Participation of an intergovernmental organization in the work of the Council (E/5856)

55. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the note by the Bureau (E/5856) concerning the application by the Agence de coopération culturelle et technique for observer status. The Bureau recommended that the organization should be designated to participate on an *ad hoc* basis in the Council's deliberations on questions within the scope of its activities, and in the absence of any objection he would take it that the Council so decided.

It was so decided.

Agenda for the resumed sixty-first session of the Council (E/5800)

56. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) drew the Council's attention to two proposed amendments to the agenda for its resumed session (E/5800, annex II).

57. Since the entry into force of the agreement establishing IFAD had been delayed, the negotiations to bring the United Nations into relationship with IFAD as a specialized agency would probably not be completed in time for consideration by the Council at its resumed session. Agenda item 28, therefore, should be deleted, in accordance with rule 15 of the Council's rules of procedure, on the understanding that the subject would appear in the programme of work for 1977.

58. Since the Council had decided to establish an *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on corrupt practices, whose members had to be selected by the Council, it was proposed that an item should be included in the agenda for that purpose.

59. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to delete agenda item 28 and to add an item entitled "Election of the members of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group

on corrupt practices established under Council resolution 2041 (LXI) of 5 August 1976", in accordance with rule 15 of the Council's rules of procedure.

It was so decided.

Summary of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its sixtieth and sixty-first sessions (E/5888)

60. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Council decided to approve the summary of programme budget implications of the resolutions and decisions which it had adopted (E/5888).

It was so decided.

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on expenditure of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (E/5851)

61. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to approve the report of the ACC (E/5851).

It was so decided.

Adjournment of the session

62. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had come to the end of its work, having practically completed consideration of the various items on its programme for the current year, apart from a few to be dealt with at the resumed session. It now had to ask itself whether it had done the job entrusted to it.

63. The year had begun full of hope and promise. A few months earlier, the General Assembly had met in special session to study the basic issue of development and international economic co-operation and to review what Governments and the United Nations system had achieved during the past few decades.

64. A spirit of mutual understanding and concession had made it possible to make headway along the difficult road towards establishing the new international economic order which was to secure peace, well-being, prosperity and justice for all.

65. The dialogue between developed and developing countries had continued in a similar climate during the thirtieth session and, by the end of 1975, there had been reasonable cause to hope that the same climate would prevail during the important conferences to be held in 1976. The fourth session of UNCTAD, Habitat: the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution and Social Progress and the International Division of Labour had been awaited with great interest. The discussions held within the framework of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation held out hope of some progress in the search for solutions to the problems

still facing the international community. New approaches to the problems of development and encouraging prospects for co-operation had emerged, but the results had fallen far short of the targets set.

66. The fourth session of UNCTAD had yielded certain results: a step had been taken to solve the problems of trade in primary commodities, but much would depend on the outcome of the meetings to be convened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in the coming months. Discussions on other issues, notably the transfer of technology to developing countries and the strengthening of economic co-operation among developing countries, had also borne some fruit. A number of issues, however, remained unresolved, including the developing countries' external debt burden, which had in some instances become alarmingly great, particularly for those countries facing enormous problems of poverty and under-development. Unless practical solutions to the debt problem were found quickly, the progress of those countries would be seriously hampered.

67. Habitat: the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements had provided a timely reminder of the many problems facing millions of people in finding decent housing and congenial surroundings. It should be possible to use some of the many ideas put forward by the Conference to provide low-cost housing and supplies of drinking water for the masses and do away with slums. That should significantly ease the pains of poverty.

68. However, since poverty had many facets, the action to eradicate it had to be many-sided. During the last four years, the Economic and Social Council itself had given considerable thought to the problems of mass poverty and unemployment. Stimulated by the analysis and recommendations put forward on the subject by the CDP in 1972, the Council had adopted a number of resolutions which sought to put a variety of new ideas into operation. It was, therefore, particularly gratifying that the Tripartite World Conference on Employment had recently given new vigour and consistency to national and international action designed to meet basic needs and alleviate the acute problems of poverty and unemployment.

69. The Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, despite its useful work in defining and classifying the problems of international co-operation for development, had so far produced no tangible results. Naturally such complex questions could not be solved to everybody's satisfaction overnight, and there was at least a real will and determination to set about them without delay. He hoped, therefore, that the partners in the Conference on International Economic Co-operation would display the imagination and political will needed to help it out of its present deadlock, so that serious negotiations could be undertaken.

70. The Economic and Social Council took a close interest in all such major events, as its deliberations during the current year showed. Those deliberations, in turn, had made a significant contribution.

71. At the Council's sixtieth session, for example, measures had been taken to assist countries suffering from

natural disasters, including Guatemala, Madagascar and Ethiopia. Steps had also been suggested for providing assistance to Mozambique so as to prevent disruption of its development programme as a result of its courageous decision to apply the mandatory sanctions against Southern Rhodesia. Procedures had been outlined for the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which had entered into force on 3 January 1976. Recommendations had been made for promoting the General Assembly's Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to convene a world conference on the subject in Ghana. It had been decided in principle to establish an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

72. The first part of the Council's sixty-first session had been held at Abidjan and the fact that the Council had met in a developing country was in itself a signal to give new impetus to the cause of development. Moreover the Council's first meeting in Africa had focused world attention on Africa's manifold problems and made the international community more aware of Africa's struggle for human dignity and higher living standards. The Declaration of Abidjan (resolution 2009 (LXI)) would be a constant reminder of Member States' common hopes and aspirations, their shared concerns and responsibilities, and their determination to strengthen the bonds of humanity and to bring peace and progress to the world.

73. During the second part of its sixty-first session, the Council had taken steps to continue assistance to Mozambique and Zambia. It had recommended measures to strengthen the technological capacity of developing countries and to speed up the preparatory work for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The Council had also decided to establish an *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group to examine the problem of corrupt practices in transnational corporations, including bribery, and to evolve appropriate measures. Important suggestions had been made for strengthening the regional commissions as instruments of regional and interregional co-operation, including co-operation among developing countries. With respect to the development process as a whole, the Council had expressed its concern at the way the results achieved had fallen short of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and had called for redoubled efforts to implement the Strategy during the remaining years of the decade.

74. Governments were at present engaged in the process of reorganizing the United Nations system in order to adapt it to changed circumstances and present requirements. Indeed, there had been a consensus at the seventh special session of the General Assembly that the new international economic order involved the adoption of entirely new ideas and new approaches to international development co-operation and hence called for much more flexible and effective machinery for negotiation and action. The Council had followed with great attention the deliberations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, and there had been

an acknowledgement that changes of attitude were needed in Governments and in the secretariats of the United Nations system with respect to emerging issues of international concern. All concerned had recognized that the process of reorganization also required a large measure of political will on the part of Governments.

75. Without wishing to minimize the achievements of the sixty-first session, he hardly felt that the Council had succeeded in pushing forward the frontiers of development by outlining a consistent set of new measures designed to capture the imagination and mobilize latent energies; nor in its co-ordinating function had it taken a step forward to ensure the coherence of the United Nations system. In fact, during the current session there had been certain developments that might undermine that coherence. The Council, despite its role under the United Nations Charter, had remained silent, without even a hint that Governments needed to maintain consistency and speak with one voice in the various forums of the United Nations system.

76. What, then, was the role of the Economic and Social Council? At the opening of the session at Abidjan, the Secretary-General had said (2006th meeting) that the Council too often appeared to be a body seeking the direction it should give to its work. The Council ought to tackle its own problems and settle them promptly. It ought to assert itself as an ever-watchful body and be ready to deal with the serious economic and social questions troubling mankind; it ought not to abdicate the responsibility entrusted to it. It ought to be able to play a more dynamic and effective role in the reorganization of international economic relations.

77. To do that, members should behave responsibly, transcending divisions and national selfishness and avoiding rivalry and demagoguery so as to confront with faith and determination the development problems which should be the Council's chief concern. The Council must formulate recommendations acceptable and satisfactory to all, arrived at by true consensus and hence credible and workable. The Council must work to interest international public opinion in the efforts and sacrifices to be made, and in the need for international co-operation as a factor for peace and progress. Thus the Council's authority would be strengthened and it could play its proper role in the establishment of the new international economic order.

78. The supreme task before the international community today was to wage unrelenting war on poverty and under-development and to ensure for the people of the third world constantly greater opportunities for a better life. That was a formidable task. The road ahead was long and difficult, with the ever-present risk of complacency. But efforts must be redoubled, for in the final analysis, the Council would be judged by deeds, not by words.

79. In conclusion, he thanked the Vice-Presidents, the chairmen of regional groups and working and contact groups, who in a spirit of co-operation and understanding had helped to overcome many difficulties and to arrive at a consensus on most of the important items on the Council's agenda. Finally he paid tribute to the Secretariat, in

particular to the secretariat of the Council, which had been of special help to him in his work.

80. Mr. VINCI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the western European States, expressed his appreciation of the way in which the President had guided the Council's work. He was particularly grateful to the Government and people of Ivory Coast for having welcomed the Council to Abidjan, where the first part of the session had been held. The Council's first meeting in Africa had conferred a special character upon the session. The speech of President Houphouët-Boigny to the Council at its opening meeting had been particularly inspiring.

81. If the Council was successful in exercising its role as central co-ordinating body of the United Nations system, that would largely be due to the impetus given to it by the President at the current session.

82. Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia), speaking on behalf of the socialist countries of eastern Europe, congratulated the President on his conduct of the session. A highlight had been the holding of its first part at Abidjan, an event of historic importance, and in that connexion he expressed his appreciation to the Government and people of Ivory Coast for their hospitality.

83. He paid tribute to the Chairmen of the Committees and to the Secretariat.

84. The Council had conducted its work constructively in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and co-operation, a good omen for its future work in promoting international peace, security and co-operation. Nonetheless, much remained to be done in establishing the new international economic order. The socialist countries were playing their part by supporting the just demands of the developing countries and in pursuing efforts for equitable economic relations between all countries.

85. Mr. SHALABY (Egypt), on behalf of the Group of 77, paid tribute to the President, under whose guidance the session had come to a successful conclusion.

86. The spirit of co-operation which had characterized the session augured well for a comprehensive international approach to the many problems of economic and social development in the world.

87. He thanked the Government of Ivory Coast for its hospitality to the Council during the first part of the session. The Group of 77 would follow with interest the results of the session and the implementation of the decisions taken with respect to the developing countries in particular. The Group of 77 looked forward to faster progress in implementing the new international economic order, in connexion with which the President's statement had offered much useful guidance.

88. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council adjourned.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.