

# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## RESUMED SIXTY-FIRST SESSION

Summary records of the 2033rd to 2038th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters, New York, on 18, 25 and 27 October, 15 and 17 November and 9 December 1976

### 2033rd meeting

Monday, 18 October 1976, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.2033

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

##### Regional co-operation (E/5845, E/L.1738 and Corr.1, E/L.1739)

1. Mr. AL-ATTAR (Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia) said that the question of the site of the Commission's permanent headquarters had been under discussion since the establishment of ECWA on the basis of offers made by the Governments of Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq to serve as the host country. At the first special session it had been agreed that Beirut should be the provisional headquarters for a period of five years.<sup>1</sup> At the second special session, the report on which (E/5845) was before the Council, ECWA had recommended to the Council that the permanent headquarters should be established at Baghdad, Iraq.

2. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) introduced a draft resolution (E/L.1739), sponsored jointly by his delegation and that of Democratic Yemen, by which the Council would give effect to that decision.

3. Mr. KITTANI (Observer for Iraq), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the question of a site for the permanent headquarters of ECWA had arisen long before the tragic events in Lebanon and that every effort had been made, when discussing the issue in the Commission, to divorce it from political and external considerations. The report on the second special session of ECWA (E/5845) should be read in conjunction with the report on its third regular session (E/5785<sup>2</sup>), which had been before the Council at its Geneva session in July 1976, and in particular, with paragraphs 21-44 of that report. The Iraqi offer had been considered on its merits and had constituted the

most generous offer received by the United Nations from a Government of the region to act as host country for the regional commission.

4. The Council had decided that a final decision on the question should be taken at the resumed sixty-first session. It would be noted that at the second special session of ECWA, held in August 1976, a further attempt to defer a decision had been frustrated, with only a single vote cast in favour of postponement.

5. Mr. GHORRA (Observer for Lebanon), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that Lebanon had always favoured the establishment of ECWA headquarters at Beirut, although the site had not been specified in Commission resolution 22 (III) which had been drawn to the attention of the Council earlier in 1976 (E/5785, para. 2 (a)). However, his delegation had always felt that unanimous agreement on the question among the ECWA members could and should be reached.

6. During most of the period when the question of the permanent headquarters had been before the Commission—for the previous one and one-half years, at least—Lebanon had suffered very serious upheavals which had paralysed the functioning of government administration and prevented it from effectively protecting its international interests. In the circumstances, his Government had not had an opportunity to compete fairly and on a basis of equality with other members of the Commission for the privilege of acting as host to the ECWA secretariat.

7. On the other hand, Lebanon enjoyed close ties with Iraq and effective economic co-operation with that country; indeed, it looked forward to greater co-operation in future within the framework of ECWA and elsewhere.

8. He therefore appealed to the Council to consider deferring final action on the draft resolution before the Council (E/L.1739), preferably until the 1977 summer

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 10A*, chap. III, resolution 6 (S-I).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12*.



session, in order to enable the members of ECWA to have further consultations with a view to reaching unanimity on the question of the site of the permanent headquarters.

9. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Council could not entertain that appeal unless a member of the Council put it forward as a formal proposal.

10. Mr. KITTANI (Observer for Iraq), speaking at the invitation of the President, pointed out that the Commission had been discussing the matter for two years and that all members had had ample time to make their offers. The decision had been postponed once at the Commission level, at the request of Lebanon, and he saw no purpose in further postponement unless the intention was to bring political or other considerations into the question. His delegation would strongly oppose any such move.

11. Mr. GHORRA (Observer for Lebanon), speaking at the invitation of the President, reiterated the view that, owing to current conditions in Lebanon, his delegation had not had a fair chance to present its views to the Commission. Besides, there was no urgent need for a decision.

12. Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece) said that certain elements of the question caused his delegation some uneasiness and it did not believe that the Council should be rushed into taking a decision on a matter. Since the report on the second special session of ECWA had been issued only recently and contained some rather technical material, it might be a good idea to postpone a decision for a few weeks so as to give delegations time for consultations.

13. Mr. KITTANI (Observer for Iraq), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the matter was

in fact urgent. Unless work on the buildings was started fairly soon they would not be ready by September 1979, when the agreement concerning the temporary siting of the Commission at Beirut expired. The Secretary-General had been asked for his views on the various offers, and the verdict had been that while the proposal of Iraq presented no difficulties, the other two did. Moreover, the Iraqi proposal had no financial implications for the Organization. The report on the second special session of ECWA should be read together with document E/ECWA/38 and Add.1.

14. Mr. SALLAM (Yemen) proposed that the meeting should be suspended.

*The meeting was suspended at 4.55 p.m. and resumed at 5.20 p.m.*

15. The PRESIDENT suggested, in the light of the consultations he had held, that the Council should postpone consideration of the matter and the adoption of a decision on the draft resolution until Monday, 25 October, at the earliest, and Wednesday, 27 October, at the latest.

*It was so decided.*

16. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mr. ROUGE (France), pointed out that although, according to the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (E/L.1738 and Corr. 1), a decision to accept Iraq's offer would not have financial implications for the United Nations, some expense would be involved in moving the Commission to Baghdad. He therefore requested a detailed breakdown of those expenses.

17. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had taken note of the request.

*The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.*

## 2034th meeting

Monday, 25 October 1976, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.2034

### AGENDA ITEM 25

#### Industrial development co-operation (A/31/16)

1. Mr. KHANE (Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that during the previous 18 months UNIDO had made substantial progress in reshaping its structures, policies and programmes. A new phase had begun with the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action,<sup>1</sup> adopted at the Second General Conference of UNIDO in March 1975, and for the first time a specific target for the developing countries' share in total industrial production had been set: 25 per cent by the year 2000. The Plan of Action laid down guidelines and instruments for facilitating the attainment of that target and providing a firm basis for continued growth.

<sup>1</sup> See A/10112, chap. IV.

2. The UNIDO secretariat considered that its activities should be divided into categories. First, it would provide a set of analyses, deductions and data. Mainly through the International Centre for Industrial Studies, the necessary research programmes had been initiated on decision-making, on transfer and adaptation of technology, and on the reasons for past successes in industrialization. Secondly, a new system of consultations was being built up which was expected to lead to new modes of international co-operation in certain industrial sectors. The decisive element in the success of the system would, of course, be the political will and conscious effort involved. The first consultations on the iron and steel and fertilizer sectors were planned for 1977, and comprehensive studies on all aspects of those sectors were nearing completion. The third broad area of work was to provide more effective technical assistance, especially in priority sectors and for the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. A special pro-