



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

OFFICIAL RECORDS

1621st meeting

Friday, 25 July 1969

at 3 p.m.

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

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President: Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

AGENDA ITEM 7

Regional co-operation:

- (a) Reports of the regional economic commissions and of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (E/4639 and Add.1, E/4640, E/4641, E/4651 and Add.1, E/4659, E/4726; E/L.1264/Rev.1, E/L.1265, E/L.1266)
- (b) Report on the meetings of the executive secretaries (E/4709; E/L.1264/Rev.1, E/1265, E/1266) (resumed from the 1618th meeting)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolutions submitted by the four regional economic commissions which appeared in part IV of their respective reports (E/4639, E/4640, E/4641 and E/4651), the joint draft resolution on the role of the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut in the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/L.1264/Rev.1) and the draft resolution on UNESOB submitted by Kuwait (E/L.1266).

2. Mr GRUNEWALD (France) said that, since agreement had not yet been reached on a generally acceptable text for the joint draft resolution and some delegations wished to submit amendments to the text, it would be wiser to defer a vote until full agreement had been reached.

3. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed. It would be useful to continue the informal consultations as a number of points still needed clarification. The fullest possible agreement should be reached on matters of principle before the joint draft resolution was taken up by the Council and put to the vote. That would facilitate the Council's decision and would give the African countries more time to explain their objectives.

4. Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, while the sponsors of the joint draft resolution wished it to be adopted unanimously, they would prefer the Council to consider all the draft resolutions on regional co-operation together, since they were interrelated.

5. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed.

6. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) said that, although some time would be lost if consideration of all the draft resolutions on the item was deferred, it would be inadvisable for the Council to take note of the draft resolutions submitted by the regional economic commissions without knowing what working would be used in joint draft resolution E/L.1264/Rev.1, which was closely linked with one of them. He did not know what objections had been raised to that draft resolution and suggested that delegations wishing to propose amendments should be asked to submit them in writing within a certain time. Meanwhile, further consideration of the item should be deferred to allow the informal consultations to continue.

7. The PRESIDENT suggested that further consideration of the item should be deferred until the morning of Thursday, 31 July, and that any amendments to joint draft resolution E/L.1264/Rev.1 should be submitted by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 29 July.

8. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) supported the suggestion. His delegation would be in a better position to discuss the draft resolution if it knew what points were at issue in the informal negotiations. Under rule 34 of its rules of procedure, the Council could not approve a proposal involving expenditure from United Nations funds until the Secretary-General had prepared a separate estimate of the costs involved. The Council could take a decision on the draft resolutions submitted by the regional economic commissions because their financial implications were presented in document E/4726. Although joint draft resolution E/L.1264/Rev.1 seemed to cover the same ground as the relevant resolutions in ECA's report (E/4651), it nevertheless contained certain phrases which implied that additional staff and resources might be needed. That would involve additional expenditure and the Council could not therefore take a decision until it had been informed of the financial implications by the Secretary-General. Moreover, two of the draft resolution's operative paragraphs recommending action which could involve additional expenditure referred to UNESOB as well as the regional economic commissions. However, UNESOB did not function as a regional economic commission and could not be treated as an intergovernmental body for financial purposes.

9. Mr. NICOL (Sierra Leone), supported by Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta), suggested that delegations which objected to the present text of draft resolution E/L.1264/Rev.1 should indicate what amendments they intended to propose, so that members could consider them before resuming the discussion.

10. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation had already explained its position during the informal consultations, but was ready to clarify it further.

11. Mr. STUGU (Norway) supported the President's suggestion.

12. Mr. ABE (Japan) also supported the President's suggestion, adding that, although the Council's approval of the reports and work programmes of the regional economic commissions implied endorsement of the expenditure involved, it did not imply approval of the necessary appropriations. That could only be done during the debate on the budget at the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, when all delegations would be free to express their views on each item of expenditure.

13. Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania) emphasized that the statement of financial implications in document E/4726 applied also to joint draft resolution E/L.1264/Rev.1, which proposed only what was already set forth in the reports of the regional economic commissions.

The draft resolution had no additional financial implications.

The procedure suggested by the President was adopted.

The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4.55 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (E/4609, E/4663, E/4706, E/L.1269):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General (*continued*)

14. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the draft resolution introduced by Kuwait at the 1620th meeting on the subject of volunteers (E/L.1269) was not available in French or Russian, consideration of the item should be postponed.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.