

## 2004th meeting

Thursday, 13 May 1976, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.2004

### AGENDA ITEM 5

**Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (*continued*)\***  
(E/5453/Rev.1 and Add.1, E/5476 and Add.1-3, Add.3/Corr.1 and Add.4-13, E/5524 and Add.1-4, Add.4/Corr.1 and Add.5, E/5633, E/5753, annex; E/5792, E/L.1725, E/NGO/43, E/NGO/45 and Add.1)

1. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that it was no part of the Council's task to pre-empt the conclusions of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System or of the General Assembly; but the Council had an essential role to play in the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors and of rationalizing its own activities. There were three milestones in that rationalization process: Council resolution 1768 (LIV), in which the Council had set itself a programme for the rationalization of its work, General Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX), in which the Assembly had requested the Council to reorganize its work and report to it and, lastly, General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), in which the Assembly had established the *Ad Hoc* Committee on restructuring and had urged the Council to continue the process of rationalization and reform which it had undertaken. At every stage the Assembly and the Council had acted not only to meet the concern for administrative efficiency, but also to link the Council's activities to major instruments which had been adopted, such as the International Development Strategy (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)) and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI)). That all-important link between substance and administrative reform was thus found at all stages of the rationalization process. At every stage, too, it was recognized that the Council provided the only constitutional basis on which to build the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

2. It was therefore particularly disappointing that the Council had been unable, or unwilling, to come to grips with its task; that inertia was in glaring contrast to the very high calibre of the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for consideration under the agenda item under discussion. However, that interdependence of questions of substance and procedures, which he had emphasized and which was essential to the documents, should have impressed upon the Council the need to carry forward its work on administrative issues as the concomitant of its preoccupation with major issues of substance.

3. The Council had organized its work on rationalization under the following three headings: relationships with the specialized agencies, revision of the Council's subordinate machinery and revision of the Council's methods of work. At first sight that might seem a some-

what prosaic way to analyse the Council's functions, but in fact, if the role of the Council in those three areas was examined, it was easy to understand what had happened in the past 30 years. The founding fathers of the United Nations had undoubtedly thought that they had provided in the Charter for complete coverage of economic and social issues as those had then been perceived: the Council was the nub of the system; as a result of its agreements with the specialized agencies, its power to create subsidiary machinery and its obligation to look at what was going on in the world in order to take the necessary measures, the Council should have been able to meet all requirements. However, that was not what had happened; fragmentation had resulted. The reasons for that fragmentation were in some cases good, in others inevitable, in others bad. The United Nations system had sought to respond to a wide range of new challenges while recognizing the interdependence of all the problems and activities with which it was concerned; however, it had proved impossible to carry out all those new activities with the machinery which had been established in 1946; lastly, the Council probably had not measured up to its task.

4. He suggested four spheres of action for the Council. First, it should be noted that there had been a tendency in restructuring efforts to concentrate on economic questions; social and economic questions were interdependent, however, and by virtue of the functions entrusted to it by the United Nations Charter, it was for the Council to ensure that that interdependence was taken into consideration. Secondly, the Council would have the opportunity at its sixty-first session, which would be of unusual importance, to demonstrate the contribution it could make in the crucial areas on its agenda. Thirdly, the Council would receive at its resumed sixty-first session the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on restructuring and, at the same session, was supposed to take fully into account the recommendations of that Committee which fell within the scope of the rationalization of its own work. It was likely that one of those recommendations would deal with the usefulness of subject-oriented sessions: the Council should therefore ensure that the resumed session would be subject-oriented, in other words, that it would deal with its own structure.

5. Lastly, the Council must take a decision at its current session: it should decide to take note with appreciation of the documentation before it; to consider at its resumed sixty-first session a draft progress report as called for in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX); to invite the Secretariat to prepare that draft report in the light of the views expressed at the current session and to consider it in conjunction with the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on restructuring; to make recommendations to the General Assembly about the future work of the Council and to make provision for a resumed session of a length adequate to deal with all those tasks.

\* Resumed from the 1999th meeting.

6. Mr. ROSSI (Italy) said that in view of the crucial importance of the restructuring exercise, which was an integral part of the programme of work established at the seventh special session of the General Assembly, it was encouraging to note that the positions of various groups of States appeared to have many points in common.

7. However, as the Secretary-General had emphasized in his note to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on restructuring,<sup>1</sup> it must be expected "that the difficult problems of integrating social factors and objectives in the new international economic order would appear high on the agenda in the years to come". While the integrated approach to development and the interdependence of social and economic questions had been confirmed by the General Assembly and the Council, in practice the work of the Commission for Social Development and, to a large extent, the Committee for Development Planning, had not been taken into due consideration by the United Nations organs dealing with the establishment of the new international economic order. Furthermore, it was apparently difficult for the work of the Commission for Social Development to command attention even from bodies concerned with social problems; for example, at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, the Third Committee had not even examined the *1974 Report on the World Social Situation*. The *Ad Hoc* Committee should give the matter attentive consideration.

8. One of the tasks assumed by the *Ad Hoc* Committee was the restructuring of the social sector. He wondered how the Committee proposed to carry out that task, since most of the representatives on the Committee were economic experts and delegations which had no experts on social questions in New York and were unlikely to be able to send any to attend the meetings of the Committee. His delegation therefore proposed that the Council or the *Ad Hoc* Committee should ask the Commission for Social Development to prepare at its next session suggestions for the restructuring of the social sector. A comprehensive debate on the subject should take place at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly in the Second or Third Committee in order to assist the Commission. Lastly, a session of the *Ad Hoc* Committee devoted to the restructuring of the social sector could be convened at a date close to the sixty-second session of the Council, thereby facilitating participation by experts on social questions.

9. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that his delegation had often emphasized the essential role which the Council should play with regard to policy formulation and co-ordination as well as the setting of priorities in the economic and social sectors. In order to enable the Council to realize its full potential, his delegation agreed with a number of the recommendations in the report of the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System.<sup>2</sup> Thus, it was in favour of the recommendation, in paragraph 46 of the report, that the Council organize its programme on a biennial basis, with its calendar subdivided into frequent, subject-oriented sets of short sessions spread throughout the calendar year. His delegation in principle was also in favour of the recommendation in paragraph 54 that the Council should assume direct responsibility for the work currently performed by its existing subsidiary bodies. However, it was necessary to preserve the use-

fulness of expert committees, which were non-political in nature, such as the Commission for Social Development. It was also necessary to examine separately the situation of each subsidiary body. One solution might be to experiment with subject-oriented sets of short sessions in order to demonstrate the usefulness, or lack thereof, of each of those bodies.

10. His delegation was ready to accept the recommendation in paragraph 46(c) of the report that the calendar should include, every year, a one-week ministerial session devoted to an over-all policy review, on the understanding that the participants would be high-level representatives, even if not necessarily of ministerial rank. His delegation was prepared to support the idea of holding a two-week session, after the ministerial session, to review the medium-term plans, as suggested in paragraph 46(d)—although it was concerned about a possible duplication of work performed by CPC—but it was somewhat reluctant to accept the suggestion of holding a two-week session to review the programme budget because the proposal might conflict with the powers given to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. At any rate, it would have to be made clear that the Council would deal only with the "programme" part of the programme budget.

11. On the other hand, the idea of holding another two-week session to review operational activities seemed desirable since it would provide an opportunity to co-ordinate such activities within the system. However, it would be premature to consolidate inter-governmental structures into a single United Nations Development Authority.

12. Lastly, his delegation supported the proposal to establish small negotiating groups, but felt that it would be necessary to avoid a rigid institutionalizing of such groups.

13. Mr. DUMAS (France) said that, under Chapter IX of the United Nations Charter, the Council had broad powers which it had perhaps not always fully utilized and that its political authority should be equal to its responsibilities. The Council should extract from the numerous reports submitted to it those elements which had an impact on the operation of the entire system and consider them together. It should have no hesitation about passing on its conclusions to its subsidiary organs, including the regional commissions, and also to the various specialized agencies, thus mobilizing energies around key ideas which would have to be defined. The resumed session held in the autumn could provide the opportunity for drawing up an annual programme of work focusing on the main themes likely to mobilize support from the entire international community.

14. The Council's responsibilities in the social field, and particularly in the field of human rights, should not be overlooked. With the entry into force of the two international Covenants relating to human rights, the activities of the United Nations in that field had reached a turning point. The implementation of the Covenants posed certain problems regarding co-ordination with the work of the Commission on Human Rights, and the Council had yet to deal with the various matters relating to the functioning of the Committee provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI)). Serving as a driving force behind the elaboration of economic and social policies

<sup>1</sup> A/AC.179/6.

<sup>2</sup> E/AC.62/9 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.7).

within the United Nations system, the Council should be able to oversee their implementation.

15. Its co-ordinating role was only one aspect of its functions, but it was none the less essential and must operate within an over-all action-oriented frame of reference, accepted by all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system and capable of serving as a basis for the active co-ordination of medium-term policies. The International Development Strategy had performed that role but in many respects recent developments in international economic relations had rendered some of its provisions obsolete. Its adaptation to current realities, or the outlining of a third United Nations development decade, would give the Council an over-all programme of international economic co-operation which it might take as a basis for co-ordinating the many organs which constituted the United Nations system. In the absence of such a basic document, his delegation would find it hard to estimate the actual effects of changes in administrative structures, since questions of substance were so inseparable from institutional questions.

16. Those ideas were, in the view of the French delegation, a necessary preliminary to action, and should eventually be reflected in the plans and programmes of work of various bodies. That should nevertheless be complemented, at the implementation stage, by the establishment of a mechanism for supervision and evaluation, a task of such dimensions that a somewhat pragmatic approach was necessary. His delegation did not believe it was sensible, for practical reasons, to expect the Council to follow in detail the implementation of all plans carried out within the United Nations. On the other hand, it might perform that task by applying a sampling method; it could review and evaluate the efforts made in a given, clearly defined sector, in the course of short sessions convened for that specific purpose.

17. The sectoral or regional subsidiary organs responsible for preparing recommendations for the Council had, on the whole, performed their duties satisfactorily. Rather than doing away with them, the Council should explore ways and means of making them more effective instruments for its assistance.

18. Any attempt to reform the sectoral organs should take due account of their essentially technical purpose. In order to avoid a repetition of identical discussions in two different forums, it would be necessary to give further consideration to the best means of establishing a division of responsibilities between the subsidiary organs and the Council itself.

19. The functional commissions had currently a vertical, one-way relationship with the Council. The Council usually did no more than simply endorse the recommendations. In order to remedy that state of affairs, the Council would have to intervene to a greater extent in the work of the subsidiary organs to give them an over-all impetus. It could draw their attention to what was being done by the specialized agencies in the sphere of competence of each organ. Thus, their work would be less compartmentalized.

20. Consideration could also be given to defining areas of decision-making for the Council and its organs. For example, the Council would take responsibility for examining the implications for the programme of the recommendations of subsidiary organs, and reserve the right to take such institutional decisions as

might prove necessary. His delegation did not, in fact, believe that it was a good idea to leave the task of establishing new bodies to technical experts, since that task could be properly accomplished only by the Council, in view of its central position in and over-all view of the United Nations system.

21. The regional commissions, organized along somewhat diverse structural lines which in some cases had reached a high degree of complexity, had not yet exercised important functional responsibilities; nevertheless, the Council could consider how to make them much more active, so as to bring the United Nations system closer to Member States. They should, first of all, serve as the main negotiating contacts in the countries within their area of competence. In order to harmonize all the organs existing at the regional level, the regional commissions should be given a greater role which would enable them to co-ordinate United Nations activities within the regions and foster a team spirit. In their work, they should place greater emphasis on sub-regional co-operation between countries having marked cultural, economic and geographical affinities. In addition, their competence should be expanded, as in the case of ESCAP, in matters relating to social development problems. Lastly, the Council should be able to intervene more directly in their work by communicating to them the results of the deliberations of its own subsidiary organs or of other sectoral bodies in the United Nations system.

22. In conclusion, in the view of the French delegation, the most important factor seemed to be the need to promote a spirit of collaboration, based upon a reciprocal and continuing exchange of information, between organs at the centre of the United Nations system and those working on the fringes.

23. Mr. VON RUCKTESCHELL (Federal Republic of Germany) pointed out that, although proposals for restructuring were all closely interrelated, it might be possible to implement some of them more quickly if the Council could reach a consensus.

24. In the view of the nine member States of EEC, the Council had so far rarely succeeded in fulfilling its role as defined in the United Nations Charter, and his delegation hoped that solutions would be quickly and effectively implemented to enable the Council better to deal with its tasks in the economic and social sectors. All groups and nearly all participants in the *Ad Hoc* Committee had subscribed to the need to strengthen the role of the Council and had made proposals in that connexion, including a proposal to prepare recommendations for the agenda of the General Assembly and the Council and to emphasize the areas on which those organs should concentrate. That kind of informal division of labour could be initiated at the sixty-first session of the Council and would already help to strengthen the Council. Similarly, a division of labour between the Council and its subsidiary bodies could be envisaged before the more difficult question of the dissolution or merger of subsidiary bodies was considered. It might be advisable to ask the subsidiary bodies, for their part, to indicate the subjects which required special attention and a more detailed political discussion.

25. Other useful proposals had been put forward, and his delegation was in favour, for example, of the idea of short, subject-oriented sessions. The Council should take steps at the current session or, at least, should

ask the *Ad Hoc* Committee to concentrate its efforts, as a matter of priority, on the strengthening of the Council.

26. The strengthened role of CPC in examining and revising United Nations programmes seemed satisfactory to his delegation; its current mandate could be maintained until it had fully found its own new role.

27. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) said that the Economic and Social Council should be revitalized so that it could play the role bestowed upon it in the United Nations Charter, that role being a central one in formulating and implementing global policies, defining general approaches and determining priorities for the Council as a whole. To that end, his delegation felt, it was vital to involve institutions and bodies within the system more closely with the determination of over-all objectives.

28. Within the decision-making process there must be ample room for seeking a real consensus on controversial matters of major importance, and Belgium favoured the consultation and conciliation machinery recommended by the experts, the objective of which was to seek agreement on specific measures related to development and international economic co-operation. It also supported the idea that States which were not members of the Council should participate in work of interest to them, with all the rights of a member except the right to vote, and that the role of the President and the secretariat should be strengthened.

29. It seemed that the recommendation made by the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System in paragraph 54 of its report, concerning the abolition of most of the Council's standing commissions and committees, might prove valid for those subsidiary bodies of the Council which dealt with problems of general interest; however, it would be useful to study the advisability of retaining subsidiary bodies on a case-by-case basis, and Belgium supported even at the current stage the Experts' proposal to retain the regional commissions, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee for Development Planning and CPC.

30. With reference to the Council's programme and calendar of meetings, Belgium favoured: a programme based on the biennial principle; subject-oriented sets of short sessions; the idea of a quasi-permanent Council which would evaluate the conclusions reached by subsidiary bodies without repeating the debates; a review every two years of the biennial programme budgets and medium-term plans of the entire United Nations system; an annual review of programme implementation within the system, especially in the field of technical assistance with the aim of establishing general guiding principles for operational activities; and the holding of a session devoted to programming and planning.

31. His delegation was prepared to accept the draft resolution aimed at clarifying the terms of reference of CPC.

32. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan), explaining the factors which had led to the developing countries' stance in connexion with restructuring, recalled that on the initiative of those countries, the General Assembly, at its twenty-ninth session, had decided to establish a group of experts to examine the structure of the United Nations; according to those countries, restructuring

was necessary because the economic and social sectors of the United Nations had remained essentially unchanged for 30 years and because the available machinery had to be capable of implementing programmes adopted by the General Assembly. At its seventh special session, the General Assembly had decided that the question of restructuring should be examined in greater detail and had established the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. The Group of 77 had submitted to that Committee concrete proposals which could serve as the basis for a restructuring of the United Nations system. In connexion with the Economic and Social Council, the Group had drafted, *inter alia*, a proposal to reduce the number of subsidiary bodies, since the delegations of developing countries were not large enough to participate in the work of all those bodies. Related to that question was the way in which the Council carried out its terms of reference. If it reduced the number of its subsidiary bodies, the Council would be able to deal directly with many problems and devote its sessions to clearly defined topics. If it did not, the Council would have to retain the existing system, under which the subsidiary bodies examined problems in detail and the Council took a more general approach.

33. The Group of 77 had submitted a proposal to restructure the United Nations Secretariat so as to enable it to provide the Council with support; it might be possible, for example, to establish a comprehensive interdisciplinary department which would help the Council formulate its policies.

34. He suggested that, since the *Ad Hoc* Committee was the only forum in which all questions related to restructuring should be debated, States should await the results of the *Ad Hoc* Committee's work, as they had previously expressed the intention of doing, before deciding on the question of restructuring; they should not be diverted from the vital task in hand, for otherwise even greater confusion would result. In view of the fact that the work connected with restructuring might take longer than planned, it was probable that any decision in that respect would have to be postponed until the resumed sixty-first session or the sixty-second session. Pakistan therefore proposed (Working Paper No. 1) that the Council should decide, at the current stage, to postpone the review of the agreements with the specialized agencies and the review of the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies until the resumed sixty-first session or the sixty-second session and that it should request the Secretariat to submit draft revised rules of procedure in order to harmonize the rules of procedure of subsidiary bodies with its own new rules of procedure. The Council should also decide that its subsidiary bodies would select a limited number of substantive questions for which summary records would be provided.

35. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that her delegation supported without reservation the informal draft decision on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and in particular subparagraph (b) of the draft. Her delegation felt that, before taking decisions which were of such great importance for its future work, the Council ought to take time to think and take fully into account the work currently in progress in the *Ad Hoc* Committee.

36. She hoped that the draft decision would be adopted unanimously, and she took the opportunity



to reaffirm her delegation's support for the *Ad Hoc* Committee, on which so many hopes were founded. The aim of restructuring the economic and social sectors was to enable the United Nations system to make a larger contribution to development, not only in the economic sphere but also in the utilization of human resources, so that the great majority of the world's population, for whom development was still only a word, could see their hopes fulfilled and so that each human being could live with dignity.

37. Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece), introducing draft resolution E/L.1725 on behalf of his own delegation and that of Pakistan, said that the aim of the draft resolution was to recall that the Council was aware of the fact that the economic and social sectors were currently being examined by the *Ad Hoc* Committee and that the proposed terms of reference for CPC should be reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee. In operative paragraph 2, the words "as appropriate" had been included in order to reflect views which had been expressed during consultations and meant in particular that, when reviewing CPC's terms of reference, the Council should take into consideration not only developments within the context of the restructuring operation but also the report of CPC itself.

38. The text stating the terms of reference of CPC had been drawn up largely on the basis of extracts taken *in extenso* from relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions.

39. Before concluding, he indicated several minor changes to be made in the text of the draft resolution. In operative paragraph 1, the word "following" should be deleted and the words "annexed hereto" should be added at the end of the sentence. In paragraph 2, the word "further" should be deleted. Between paragraph 2 and the text stating the terms of reference, the word "Annex" should be inserted at the centre of the page and the title "Terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination" should be inserted below it. He also wondered whether the French translation of the words "off-budget years" should not be reconsidered, since it seemed to be inaccurate.

*Mr. Smíd (Czechoslovakia) took the Chair.*

40. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) thanked the Greek and Pakistani delegations for introducing a text on a problem which had long been occupying the attention of the Council. The text deserved to be studied in depth and, however great its merit, no hasty decision should be taken on it.

41. He wished to draw the attention of the sponsors of the draft to part of the text which would have to be redrafted in order to avoid depriving the General Assembly of some of its prerogatives. The French text of the paragraph concerning the composition of the Committee stated that the members of the Committee would be "*désignés*" by the Economic and Social Council and would then be elected by the General Assembly. The French word "*désignés*" could be taken to mean "designated"; however, if members were designated by the Council, they no longer needed to be elected by the General Assembly.

42. It was regrettable that, in the matter of restructuring, emphasis was placed on the Council's failures while its numerous achievements during recent years

were overlooked. The reason why the Council had not played a larger role in the establishment of a new international economic order and in the energy field was that the Governments of its member States had not shown the necessary political will and had no doubt preferred to let the Council keep to its routine work. It might be asked, for example, why those responsible at the highest levels for economic and social questions did not participate in the Council's sessions in order to state their views. The participation of the executive heads of the specialized agencies had proved fruitful thus far, and efforts should be made to associate them even more closely with the Council's work in future.

43. So long as Governments did not show the necessary political will to transform the Economic and Social Council into the central organ of the United Nations system, it was futile to expect a radical reorganization of the system.

44. Mr. BENHOCINE (Algeria) said that the reason why his delegation had not spoken during the debate was not that it lacked interest in restructuring but rather that it felt that, at the current stage in the discussions, the question should be considered by the *Ad Hoc* Committee, which the General Assembly had established for that purpose and in which the Group of 77 had already formulated a number of proposals, some of which concerned the Economic and Social Council.

*Mr. Aké (Ivory Coast) resumed the Chair.*

45. Mrs. DERRE (France) thanked the Greek and Pakistani delegations for having introduced a draft resolution (E/L.1725) on such an important subject. She took the view, however, that the text needed to be reworded, since it contained a number of ambiguities that should be removed. For example, it was too vague to say that "The Committee shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly" without specifying the fields that would fall within its competence and without determining for which questions it would have to report to the Economic and Social Council and for which to the General Assembly. Furthermore, it was stated in the draft resolution (annex, para. 1 (a) (i)) that "In reviewing the medium-term plan, the Committee shall examine, in the light of its budgetary implications, the totality of the Secretary-General's work programme", but what was meant by the words "in the light of its budgetary implications"? Did that mean that the Committee would perform the function of the Fifth Committee?

46. For all the reasons indicated, she felt that it would be wiser to let CPC continue with the work that it was currently doing but to request it at the same time to take account of the main lines of the terms of reference set forth in the draft resolution, and to await another session of the Council before taking a decision on that question in the light of further experience.

47. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) fully endorsed the views expressed by the representative of France and emphasized that the sponsors of the draft resolution were aware of the ambiguities to which she referred. That was why it was stated in the draft resolution that the terms of reference would be reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.

48. The terms of reference of CPC that were proposed in the draft resolution contained no new provisions. They simply repeated word for word the relevant existing provisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council. The document was not perfect and would need to be improved as the work on restructuring proceeded. At the current stage, however, it had seemed useful to prepare it so that delegations might have a reference document for use during their discussions, and the sponsors hoped that the Council would adopt it.

49. Mr. HART (Australia) agreed with the views expressed by the representative of Pakistan and supported the draft resolution as currently worded. It was important not to lose sight of the fact that restructuring was a dynamic and not a static process, and the adoption of the draft resolution should be regarded merely as a preliminary stage in that process. The resolution would give a clear idea of the Committee's terms of reference even if certain aspects needed to be further clarified, as they could be in time.

50. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico) welcomed the submission of such a draft resolution at the current stage of the debate and said that he was ready to support it unreservedly for immediate adoption.

51. Mr. VON RUCKTESCHELL (Federal Republic of Germany) thanked the representative of Greece for the explanations he had given when introducing the draft resolution and was pleased to note that some delegations had taken the initiative of formulating such a text, which gave an over-all view of the measures already taken by the legislative organs with regard to the Committee's terms of reference. His delegation was prepared to join in the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus, but he wondered whether its adoption was necessary, since it was stated in the text that the Committee's terms of reference would be reviewed. Was it really necessary to take a decision, knowing at the outset that it would be modified?

52. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said that her delegation wished to support the draft resolution and asked the Pakistani delegation whether it would not be appropriate to amend it at the current stage so as to take account of the criticism expressed with regard to some of its provisions. A few minor amendments would suffice to facilitate the adoption of the draft resolution and thus enable the Council to proceed with its work.

53. Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece) suggested that, in order to take account of the comments by the representative of Tunisia, the word "*désignés*" in the French text of the last part of the annex should be replaced with the word "*proposés*".

54. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) thanked the representative of Nigeria for her suggestion. He emphasized, however, that it probably would not be possible to adopt the draft resolution by consensus if it contained new or controversial elements.

55. Mrs. DERRE (France) said that her delegation did not oppose the draft resolution; it merely wished to polish the text a little.

56. The Council appeared to have forgotten that CPC had originally had very broad terms of reference; it was regrettable that the Council did not have before it the text of those terms of reference, which contained some excellent elements. Perhaps CPC could be asked for its opinion on the review of its terms of reference. Furthermore, it might be a good idea to state in the draft resolution on what date it was planned to review CPC's terms of reference. In any case, it should be pointed out that that body was already working very well, even without well-defined terms of reference.

57. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said that the geographical distribution provided for at the end of the annex appeared to be debatable; in addition, the draft resolution contained a new element, since it specified that the Committee would consist of 21 members. His delegation would therefore abstain in the voting.

58. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) took the view that the first sentence of paragraph 2 of the annex was much too vague, since it stated that CPC would assist the Council in the co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system. Some of those activities lay outside the Council's competence. The text should therefore be made more precise by the addition at the end of the sentence of the words "in so far as they relate to the work of the Council".

59. Similarly, it would appear that the first sentence of the section of the annex entitled "Functions" was not very clear.

60. Miss GARCIA DONOSO (Ecuador) supported the draft resolution, which she felt was of undoubted practical value in that it gathered together a number of elements previously scattered in various documents.

61. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan), replying to the representative of France, pointed out that it would be difficult to set a date on which CPC's terms of reference should be reviewed. The most that could be done was to provide that the Council would review those terms of reference as soon as it had before it the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on restructuring, since it must take account of that body's recommendations.

62. Replying to the representative of Nigeria, he recalled that the text of the draft resolution merely grouped together existing texts. His delegation, for its part, was not necessarily perfectly satisfied with the text and recognized the grounds for the Nigerian amendment, but felt that the current stage was not the appropriate time for adding new elements to CPC's terms of reference. That could be done when the terms of reference were reviewed.

63. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said she did not quite understand why her amendment was unacceptable, since it added nothing new and did not change the substance of the matter.

64. The PRESIDENT suggested that the sponsors of the draft resolution and other interested delegations should hold a consultation with a view to preparing a final text.

*The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.*