

1951st meeting

Wednesday, 7 May 1975, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Iqbal AKHUND (Pakistan).

E/SR.1951

AGENDA ITEM 3

Programme budget for 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for 1976-1979 (concluded) (E/5612, E/5613 and Corr.1-4, E/5614, E/5632, E/5660, E/5661 and Corr.2)

1. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt) welcomed the Council's unanimous decision to adopt draft resolution E/L.1658. Nevertheless, his delegation wished to recall resolution 7 (XXVI) adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (see E/5639, para. 453), which underlined the need to assign adequate priority to narcotics control programmes within the United Nations system. It was the understanding of his delegation that the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution E/L.1658 covered that point and that, in implementing that resolution, high priority would be given to narcotics control programmes.

2. Mr. BACHE (United States of America) said that his delegation was pleased to have joined in the consensus on draft resolutions E/L.1658 and E/L.1659. It would nevertheless have wished to see slightly different language in the draft resolutions.

3. In the fifth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/L.1658, reference was made to the deliberations and recommendations of the Council's subsidiary programme reviewing bodies. In that context, his delegation wished to recall resolution 7 (XXVI) adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which requested the Secretary-General to give particular attention to the resources requested for the competent United Nations bodies in view of the growing threat posed by the spread of drug abuse in various parts of the world. His delegation understood that the sense of that resolution was subsumed in the reference to the subsidiary bodies of the Council in draft resolution E/L.1658.

4. Mr. NEUHOF (Federal Republic of Germany) felt that paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/L.1659 could have been better worded; specifically, it could have brought out more clearly the relationship between the work programme of the Population Division and the resources needed. His delegation had nevertheless decided to join in the consensus in a spirit of compromise.

5. Mr. PETRONE (Italy) said that he agreed with the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the wording of paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/L.1659. His delegation reserved its opinion on the proposals to be made to the General Assembly concerning the strengthening of resources for the Population Division.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Statistical questions

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (concluded)* (E/5659)

6. The PRESIDENT noted that paragraph 10 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/5659) con-

* Resumed from the 1948th meeting.

tained two draft resolutions and one draft decision which the Economic Committee recommended to the Council for adoption.

7. As stated in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report, the Committee had adopted draft resolution I, entitled "1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme", and draft resolution II, entitled "Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Rev.2", without a vote.

8. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council also wished to adopt the two draft resolutions without a vote.

Draft resolutions I and II were adopted [resolutions 1947 (LVIII) and 1948 (LII)].

9. The PRESIDENT said he believed that it was no longer necessary for the Council to adopt subparagraph (b) of the draft decision in paragraph 10 of document E/5659, since at the 1950th meeting it had adopted a resolution covering all recommendations relating to the programme of work made by its subsidiary bodies.

10. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt subparagraph (a) of the draft decision without a vote.

Subparagraph (a) of the draft decision was adopted [decision 97 (LVIII)].

AGENDA ITEM 13

Elections (concluded)** (E/L.1626, 1631, 1632)

11. The PRESIDENT announced that he had been requested to suspend the meeting for a few minutes to enable the various groups to agree on the lists of candidates they wished to present. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to the request.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (concluded)*** (E/L.1626)

12. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to proceed to the election of one member from the Latin American States for a term of office of three years beginning on 1 January 1976. He recalled that at the 1949th meeting, as a result of the secret ballot for the election of two members from the Latin American States, Cuba had been elected and Chile and Uruguay had obtained 23 and 14 votes respectively.

13. In accordance with the provisions of the second paragraph of rule 69 of the rules of procedure, an additional ballot restricted to the two candidates that had received the greatest number of votes without being elected—namely, Chile and Uruguay—must be held.

** Resumed from the 1949th meeting.

*** Resumed from the 1949th meeting.

14. The Permanent Mission of Uruguay had informed him that Uruguay did not wish to be a candidate for the seat. Nevertheless, in accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure, the Council must proceed to a restricted ballot. Votes cast for any country other than Chile or Uruguay would be invalid.

15. Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil) stated that the Permanent Representative of Uruguay, having reaffirmed the position of his Government at the 1950th meeting, had asked him to inform the Council that Uruguay had decided to stand for one of the two seats to be filled only if no other State came forward. As two other countries had presented themselves as candidates and one of them had already been elected, the Uruguayan Government wished to make it clear once again that it was definitely not a candidate.

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one of the two candidates, in accordance with the second paragraph of rule 69 of the rules of procedure.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. K. Kolev (Bulgaria) and Mr. S. Nembe (Gabon) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect the second representative of the Latin American States.

Number of ballot papers:	52
Invalid ballots:	7
Number of valid ballots:	45
Required majority:	23

Number of votes obtained:	
Uruguay	24
Chile	21

Having obtained the required majority, Uruguay was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights.

17. Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil) expressed his profound regret at the decision the Council had just taken; it was contrary to the wishes of the countries of Latin America and it put the Government of Uruguay, which maintained friendly relations with most of the countries represented in the Council, in a very awkward situation. He said that he had never before witnessed such a procedure.

18. The system of regional groups and of equitable geographic representation had been established not solely for the benefit and protection of the Latin American States, but for the benefit and protection of all the States Members of the United Nations. The flagrant violation of the procedure adopted by common accord by the States Members of the United Nations would undoubtedly have repercussions that could only be detrimental for the Latin American States and other groups of States.

19. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) said he would like to know how a Government which had indicated that it did not wish to be a candidate in an election could have been elected.

20. The PRESIDENT said he would point out, since reference had been made to the procedure followed, that he had simply complied with the rules of procedure of the Council. As to the question how a country which was not a candidate could have been elected, that was perhaps one of those mysteries that occurred in any human undertaking. The fact remained that Uruguay had received 24 votes and must consequently be declared elected in accordance with the rules of procedure. Uruguay, as a sovereign State, would be free to take whatever subsequent action it thought fit.

21. Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil) emphasized that his comment on procedure had not been directed at the President, who was performing his functions entirely satisfactorily. However, he could not help pointing out that rules were sometimes stupid.

22. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) said that he had studied the rules of procedure very carefully but had not been able to see how, under those rules, it could be determined whether a State was a candidate or not. He requested some clarification on that point, if only to protect the interests of his Government in the future if it should decide not to stand as a candidate in some election. He would therefore like the Legal Counsel to enlighten him on the point.

23. Mr. SZASZ (Office of Legal Affairs) said that the existing rules of procedure did not contain any special provision indicating how it could be determined whether a State was or was not a candidate. Consequently, it seemed that a State which received the required number of votes could be elected whether or not it had announced its candidacy.

24. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) said that the explanation given by the representative of the Office of Legal Affairs was quite unacceptable. Consequently, he regarded the decision taken by the Council as a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of States and an infringement of their right to arrange their foreign policy as they wished.

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (E/L.1631)

25. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to proceed to the election of 16 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for a term of office of three years beginning on 1 January 1976.

26. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out the following list of candidates: for the three seats allotted to the African States: Mali, Sierra Leone and Tunisia; for the three seats allotted to the Asian States and Yugoslavia: Fiji, India, Iran, Thailand and Yemen; for the three seats allotted to the Latin American States: Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala and Mexico; for the six seats allotted to the Western European and other States: Austria, Denmark, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; for the seat allotted to the Socialist States of Eastern Europe: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Austria, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Mali, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme by acclamation.

27. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot the representatives of the Asian States and Yugoslavia and of the Latin American States.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Miss P. Garcia (Ecuador) and Mr. C. van Tooren (Netherlands) acted as tellers.

<i>A vote was taken by secret ballot.</i>	
Number of ballot papers:	53
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Required majority:	27

Number of votes obtained:

Mexico	44
Iran	42
Colombia	38
India	38
Yemen	36
Cuba	30
Barbados	21
Thailand	20
Guatemala	19
Fiji	15

Having obtained the required majority, Colombia, Cuba, India, Iran, Mexico and Yemen were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.

UNITED NATIONS/FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
(E/L.1632)

28. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to proceed to the election of four members of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme for a term of office of three years beginning on 1 January 1976.

29. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out the following list of candidates: for the seat allotted to the African States: Ethiopia, Gabon and Zaire; for the two seats allotted to the Asian States: Japan and Pakistan; for the seat allotted to the Western European and other States: Denmark.

30. The PRESIDENT said the African Group had requested that the election of the member from among the African States should be deferred until a later date. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to that request.

It was so decided.

Denmark, Japan and Pakistan were elected members of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme by acclamation.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS

31. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect three members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for a term of office effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978.

32. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there was no candidate for the seat allotted to the African and Asian States and only one candidate, Chile, for the two seats allotted to the Latin American States.

33. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council declared Chile elected by acclamation and decided to defer until a later date the election of the other member to be chosen from among the Latin American States and that of the member to be chosen from among the African and Asian States.

It was so decided.

Chile was elected a member of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations by acclamation.

34. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if the vote had been taken by secret ballot, he would not have voted for the country which had been elected by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the
fifty-ninth session (E/L.1657)

35. The PRESIDENT called upon the Council to consider the provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session (E/L.1657).

36. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Council had been drawn up on the basis of the programme of work approved by the Council for 1975 in its decision 64 (ORG-75). An additional item entitled "Transport questions" should be added, in accordance with the decision taken by the Council at its 1948th meeting to postpone that item until its fifty-ninth session.

37. Turning to the documentation which would be before the Council at its next session, he said that the documents on tourism would be considered under item 9 and not under item 16; the Council would also take up the documents which had been brought to its attention under item 10 of the current session, and which it had decided to transmit to the Committee on Review and Appraisal before considering them at its fifty-ninth session.

38. The report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development would not be considered at the fifty-ninth session, in view of the Working Group's decision to postpone its consideration until a later date.

39. The report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) on information systems and the common register (CORE), referred to on page 3 of document E/L.1657, was not a report on activities and would therefore be considered under item 16 on international co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system. Furthermore, the report of the FAO/WHO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group was not included among the reports to be considered by the Council. The Director of the Protein-Calorie Advisory Group (PAG) had in fact informed the secretariat of the Council that, in view of the amount of up-to-date data included in the documents for the World Food Conference, it had not been considered necessary for the time being to draw up an additional report. Moreover, the PAG Steering Committee, which had met in Guatemala on 29 and 30 November 1974, had suggested a more complex structure for the PAG report to the Council. In that connexion, it should be noted that the Council had authorized PAG, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1728 A (LIII), to submit a report to the Council triennially "or at greater intervals if this appears more appropriate".

40. The attention of the Council was drawn to annexes I and II of document E/L.1657. Annex I explained the reasons for the suggestion that the item on regional structures should be deleted from the provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Council. Annex II referred to the considerations which had led the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme (WFP) to ask the Secretariat to ensure that the matter of the pledging target of WFP was included in the agenda of the Council's resumed session to be held in the autumn in New York. In other words, it requested the Council not to conclude its consideration of the item on WFP at its summer session and to take it up again in the autumn.

41. Lastly, since, by its decision 41 (LVII), the Council had decided that the functions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination which were not related with the programme budget or the medium-term plan should be assumed during 1975 by the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee (PPCC), the provisional agenda of the Joint Meetings of PPCC and ACC had been included in document E/L.1657. In that connexion, the Council was requested to approve the topic for discussion at the Joint Meeting suggested in paragraph 2 on page 3.

42. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) found the provisional draft agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Council satisfactory, taking into account the amendments to which the Secretary of the Council had drawn attention.

43. With regard to the provisional agenda for the Joint Meetings of PPCC and ACC, it might perhaps have been wiser for the Council to request the two bodies to confine their work to the institutional aspects, so that the Council might have proposals on the subject before it at the beginning of its summer session.

44. Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom), with regard to item 5 on the International Women's Year, asked why the report of the World Conference was on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the Council, given that the General Assembly would be devoting two items to that subject at its thirtieth session.

45. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) recalled that the World Conference of the International Women's Year had been convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and that it was therefore for the Council to decide what should be done with the report of the Conference.

46. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) proposed that the Council should specify the topic for discussion suggested by ACC, placing particular emphasis on the institutional aspects.

47. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) proposed the simpler solution of adding the phrase "including the institutional aspects" at the end of paragraph 2 on page 3 of document E/L.1657.

48. Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that, in his delegation's view, ACC and PPCC should perhaps be left to decide for themselves the aspects to which they would give major consideration in their work. He therefore endorsed the proposal made by the representative of the United States.

49. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) said that he would have preferred the work of the Joint Meetings to have been limited to the institutional aspects, but he could nevertheless accept the proposal made by the representative of the United States.

50. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session, as set forth in document E/L.1657, with an additional item entitled "Transport questions", and the provisional agenda for the Joint Meetings of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, included in the same document, taking into account the oral amendment proposed by the representative of the United States (para. 47 above).

It was so decided.

Review of the calendar of meetings (concluded)*

EXPERT GROUP ON TAX TREATIES BETWEEN
DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(E/L.1656, 1661)

51. The PRESIDENT called upon the Council to consider the question of the review of the calendar of meetings for 1975, for which it had before it documents E/L.1656 and E/L.1661.

52. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences had addressed a letter to the President of the Council, informing him that the Committee had unanimously decided to recommend that the Expert Group on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries should hold its session at Headquarters from 8 to 19 December 1975, and asking him to commend that recommendation to the Council (E/L.1661).

53. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided that the Expert Group on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries would hold its sixth session at Headquarters, from 8 to 19 December 1975.

It was so decided [decision 71 (LVIII), para. 2].

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

* Resumed from the 1941st meeting.

1952nd meeting

Thursday, 8 May 1975, at 3.50 p.m.

President: Mr. Iqbal AKHUND (Pakistan).

E/SR.1952

Participation in the World Conference of the International Women's Year (concluded)* (E/L.1662)

1. Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands) drew the attention of the members of the Council to the letter dated 6 May 1975 from the representative of the

Netherlands to the President of the Council, in which the Secretary-General was requested to invite, with the concurrence of the Council, the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and of Surinam to participate in the World Conference of the International Women's Year, to be held in June 1975 in Mexico City, as observers.

2. Surinam was to become independent before the end of the year and would no doubt apply for mem-

* Resumed from the 1945th meeting.