

which there was only time for a rather perfunctory consideration of documents. He agreed that the meetings should be held immediately before the Council's summer session. However, if there was an absence of dialogue not only at the joint meetings but throughout the year, it would be unrealistic to expect much progress. As to paragraph 42 (d), he did not understand why it had been proposed that representatives of CPC should travel to agency headquarters, rather than having the agency representatives attend CPC meetings. He wondered whether the representative of WHO could explain why such an expensive procedure had been proposed.

36. Mrs. KALM (World Health Organization) said that paragraph 35 of the report indicated the context in which the Director-General of WHO had made his proposal. That proposal had been intended not to replace the traditional procedure, but to provide an additional avenue of communication. She had noted the comments made in the Council, and she assured members that WHO was ready to co-operate in any way it could.

37. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that he doubted whether visits to the agencies could be carried out in a way that would produce results, and he wondered which representatives would be authorized to visit the agencies. Furthermore, other agencies should be consulted with regard to the proposal. He had doubts as to its practicality.

38. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should approve the conclusions in document E/5892, paragraph 42, taking fully into account the comments made during the debate on the item.

39. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) felt that the Council should do more than that and should produce a text to be made available to the members of CPC and ACC conveying its comments on the subject.

40. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) requested the Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination to give the Council some guidance on the decision it should take.

41. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination) said that the comments which had been made at the current meeting provided sufficient guidance with regard to the approach that should be taken to the joint meetings. The next series would consist of three meetings, and the members would therefore be less rushed than at the last series. The meetings would be held on 4 and 5 July, immediately before the Council's summer session, and the agenda would be drafted in close co-operation with the Chairman of CPC.

42. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if the Council merely took note of the conclusions in document E/5892, his delegation would have no difficulty. If, however, it decided to approve them, his delegation would wish to place on record that it did not agree with all the conclusions. In particular, it wished to make a reservation with regard to paragraph 42 (d), which would involve an excessively complicated and costly procedure. Account must be taken of the financial implications of the conclusions.

43. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the conclusions contained in the report of the Chairman of CPC and the Chairman of ACC on the joint meetings of those committees (E/5892), taking fully into account the comments made thereon.

It was so decided (decision 208 (ORG-77)).

44. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 5.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

2041st meeting

Thursday, 13 January 1977, at 11.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2041

AGENDA ITEM 4

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its second special session (E/L.1742)

1. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council), speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Water Conference, introduced the extract from the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its second special session (E/L.1742) and drew the Council's attention to three recommendations of the Committee which were set forth in paragraph 1, subparagraphs (a) to (c), and other arrangements called for in subparagraph (d). After reading

out a correction to the text of subparagraph (d), which consisted in deleting the words "the third progress report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/61) and", he noted that the Committee also wished to bring to the attention of the Council certain matters set forth in paragraph 2 of the report.

2. Mr. ROUGE (France) said that his delegation wished to make some general comments on the preparations for the Water Conference, especially the work of the Committee on Natural Resources as the preparatory committee for the Conference, and to see what lessons could be drawn from the experience gained in preparing the Conference. The

Council had before it a report of a subsidiary body, namely the Committee on Natural Resources, and was in a position to take some action. Without spending too much time or going into details of substance, the Council should study the report and consider the larger issue of the working of the United Nations system as a whole. In that connexion, his delegation would welcome the comments of other members of the Council.

3. His delegation was concerned at the slow progress of preparations for the Conference. With only five weeks remaining before the Conference, the Committee had not been able to agree on the objectives of the Conference, and some important documents had not been distributed in sufficient time for careful consideration. He urged the President of the Council to convey to the Secretary-General of the Water Conference the concern of his and other delegations regarding the short-comings in the preparations. He hoped that the Conference would be able to avoid spending too much time on subjects which had been poorly prepared. The procedure followed in preparing the document containing the consolidated action recommendations (E/C.7/L.52 and Add.1), whereby regional bodies had been asked to study the problem and submit reports to the central Secretariat, was a good practical model. The document would assist the Water Conference in arriving at important and effective decisions.

4. Water problems involved all aspects of the United Nations system and made the role of the Council particularly important in co-ordinating system-wide activities in the water sector. The Council would also have an important role to play after the Conference in allocating various tasks arising from the Conference to the appropriate bodies in the system.

5. Finally, in view of the failure of the preparatory committee to agree on such a basic matter as a statement of the objectives of the Conference, the Council should consider the advantages and disadvantages of holding special world conferences rather than using existing international forums.

6. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation generally approved the work which had been undertaken in preparation for the United Nations Water Conference and supported the recommendations in chapter one of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its second special session (E/L.1742). The situation with regard to documentation seemed to be satisfactory but, in the view of his delegation, the situation with regard to institutional arrangements and the programme of action seemed less satisfactory. The problems which had arisen during the Committee's discussion of the document containing the consolidated action recommendations (E/C.7/L.52 and Add.1) showed that there had not been sufficient preparation and that progress would be delayed, in particular with regard to international co-operation in the water sector. Further efforts would be required to accelerate preparations for the Conference in that area. His delegation generally supported the action recommendations but had reservations with regard to some of the items in Chapter III, dealing with action at the international level. First, with regard to financing arrangements for water development, his delegation felt that any financial arrangements which might emerge from the Conference should be

based on the principle of voluntary participation. While his delegation fully realized the importance of water as a world problem, it felt that caution was required with regard to further expansion of the already large existing institutional machinery. Secondly, with regard to co-ordination of United Nations programmes for the implementation of action proposals, his delegation agreed with the formulation of the recommendation but felt that the focus should be on the problem of co-ordinating the work of existing institutions and not on the establishment of new bodies. His delegation was concerned not merely with financial aspects but also with the need for proper organization of international action. His delegation did not feel that the problem of water should be made the concern of a separate institution as had been the case with the problem of the environment. Nevertheless, although his delegation was somewhat concerned at the proliferation of international conferences, it fully supported the United Nations Water Conference.

7. Mr. VAN BUUREN (Netherlands) said that his delegation supported the Secretariat's desire to link the results of previous conferences with the work of the Water Conference. In that connexion, the important recommendations of the recent Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution, Social Progress and the International Division of Labour¹ should be considered by the Water Conference. He asked the Secretary-General of the Conference to consider preparing a paper, possibly in conjunction with the ILO, on the impact of the basic needs strategy on the policies on water supply to be considered at the Conference.

8. Mr. MARTYNENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that many delegations had noted that the document containing the consolidated action recommendations (E/C.7/L.52 and Add.1) was not complete and had not achieved its aims. He hoped that the Secretariat would continue work on the document and would take into account the views expressed at the regional preparatory meetings and meetings of the Committee on Natural Resources. His delegation had reservations in particular with regard to paragraphs 101, 104 and 105 of the document. In that connexion, it agreed with the representative of Poland that any decision adopted by the Conference concerning the establishment of a new fund should be based on the principle of voluntary participation. The establishment of a new fund should also be considered in the context of the whole problem of restructuring the United Nations system and the possibility of consolidating existing funds. In general, his delegation did not support the establishment of new bodies and would favour the use of existing ones to co-ordinate United Nations activities in the water sector. He felt, furthermore, that the Conference should not take a decision which might prejudice or complicate the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.

9. Although the Committee on Natural Resources had devoted two special sessions to preparing the Conference, it had not completed the preparations, and much would still need to be done by the Conference itself. For that reason,

¹ See E/5857.

delegations should avoid adopting any decisions with regard to matters which had not received proper preparation.

10. Mr. FLEMING (Argentina) associated himself with the previous speakers who had expressed concern about the documentation for the Conference and urged the Secretariat to take all necessary steps to circulate documents on time so that they could be studied thoroughly by delegations before they arrived at the Conference.

11. He expressed gratitude to delegations which, in different intergovernmental forums, had worked together with the Argentine Government in preparing for the Conference. Special gratitude was due to the Conference secretariat and to the Secretary-General of the Conference, who had made every possible effort to assist the Argentine Government with preparations at the national level.

12. With respect to the Council's own deliberations on the report of the Committee on Natural Resources, he stressed that no decisions taken by the Council should impair the right of the Conference to act in a sovereign way.

13. In recent meetings both in and outside the United Nations it had been emphasized that, in the interests of the success of the Conference, the delegations participating should be composed of high-level representatives. In that connexion, he drew attention to the statement made by the head of the Argentine delegation at the second special session of the Committee on Natural Resources (see E/C.7/SR.93).

14. In conclusion, on behalf of the Government and people of Argentina, he assured the Council that a warm welcome was awaiting the participants in the Conference.

15. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that his delegation had every confidence that Argentina would be an excellent host. However, it was somewhat concerned about the slow progress made in the preparatory work. Experience showed that international conferences were likely to succeed only if they were carefully and thoroughly prepared. Having said that, his delegation was able to endorse the recommendations of the Committee on Natural Resources.

16. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said that her delegation fully sympathized with the concern expressed by some delegations; however, it was confident that the Conference secretariat would ensure that the documentation was circulated ahead of time.

17. Mr. FANO (Technical Secretary of the United Nations Water Conference) observed that a number of representatives had expressed concern at the slowness of preparations for the Water Conference and the late date at which important documents had been submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources, acting as preparatory committee for the Conference. As the Secretary-General of the Conference had pointed out to the Committee on Natural Resources, a number of the causes for the delay had been beyond the control of the secretariat of the Conference. For example, the secretariat had not been able to begin work on the consolidated action recommendations (E/C.7/L.52 and Add.1) until the beginning of October, following the last of the four regional preparatory meetings. As the

period of preparation of that document had coincided with the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, it had been inevitable that the language versions had been issued rather late. The fifth regional preparatory meeting for the ECWA region had not taken place until December. The recommendations of that meeting would be incorporated in the final version of the document submitted to the Conference.

18. The purpose of repeating the objectives of the Conference in one of the basic documents was to assist participants who might not be familiar with the background of the Conference. However, it should not be thought that those objectives had only recently been established; they had been discussed by the Committee on Natural Resources at its first special session and had been taken into account by the regional preparatory meetings held in the summer of 1976 during their discussion of substantive issues.

19. The Conference secretariat had endeavoured as far as possible to incorporate word for word in document E/C.7/L.52 and Add.1 the recommendations culled from the regional preparatory meetings. In cases in which the regions differed in their stands on an issue, the different viewpoints had been expressed.

20. The documents referred to in document E/L.1742 (para. 1 (d)) had been prepared during the second half of 1976 as a result of a recommendation of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which had requested the Secretary-General of the Water Conference to expand on its recommendation on community water supply. The Secretary-General of the Water Conference had considered that, in the light of that recommendation, it would be useful to set up a task force on community water supply in co-operation with WHO, the World Bank and UNICEF in order to endeavour to identify the strategies that would be required to implement the recommendation of Habitat. The Secretary-General of the Water Conference had also deemed it advisable to follow up some of the recommendations of other international conferences, including the World Food Conference, and to take account of the work of the International Hydrological Programme, so that there might be supporting documents concerning agriculture and the assessment of needs for community water supply. The meeting of the task force on technical co-operation among developing countries had been held in the light of the Council's own decision in the summer of 1976 (resolution 2023 (LXI)). Assistance had been received from the specialized agencies in the preparation of the documentation for all those meetings, thus making some delay inevitable.

21. In organizing the regional preparatory meetings, the Conference secretariat had worked closely with the regional commissions and the specialized agencies so as to ensure that the meetings would be co-ordinated as closely as possible. He thanked the representative of France for his appreciative comments in that regard.

22. Only two weeks remained before the documentation for the Conference had to be circulated to Governments. Unfortunately, therefore, it was too late to meet the request of the representative of the Netherlands and to prepare a new document on the subject of relations between the Tripartite World Conference and the water

sector. He welcomed the suggestion that the ILO might be asked whether, in the light of its experience, it would be able to prepare a brief paper on the subject.

23. Mr. CHEVRON (International Labour Organisation) said that the International Labour Office was entirely willing to co-operate with the secretariat of the Water Conference in preparing a document that linked that Conference and the relevant recommendations arising out of the Tripartite World Conference.

24. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council, having considered chapter one of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its second special session (E/L.1742), should approve the recommendations made by the Committee in paragraph 1, subparagraphs (a) to (c), and subparagraph (d) as orally revised by the Secretary of the Council.

It was so decided (decision 207 (ORG-77), subpara. (a)).

25. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking with reference to paragraph 1 (c) (iv) of the report, suggested that it would be preferable to express the wish that statements in plenary meetings should not exceed 15 minutes rather than to impose a rigid time-limit on such statements.

26. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) said that he shared the concern of the Soviet representative; he believed that it would be preferable to allow the Conference to decide what it wished rather than to include a time-limit in the rules of procedure.

27. He trusted that participants who wished to speak in the general debate would be able to inscribe their names on the list of speakers on arrival at the Conference, as well as earlier at United Nations Headquarters.

28. He suggested that the report on the consultations held at the pre-Conference meetings, referred to in paragraph 1 (c) (i), should be either oral or written, at the discretion of the Chairman of those meetings.

29. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) explained that a provision in the rules of procedure prescribing a time-limit for statements had been adopted by Habitat and had been applied without any difficulty. The advantage of such a time-limit was that senior government officials with very little time at their disposal could expect to speak at approximately the time for which they were inscribed. In any event, the proposal for a time-limit could be adopted only by the Conference itself, which would make its decision in the light of the recommendations of the pre-Conference meetings. Since the list of speakers was to be opened on 22 February, the Conference secretariat would be able to inform the participants in the pre-Conference meetings of the number of speakers inscribed on the list as at 12 March. The list of speakers, in accordance with traditional practice, would not be closed until the second or third day of the Conference. He agreed with the representative of Somalia that there was no need to specify that the report on the pre-Conference meetings

should be oral, even though reports of that nature were usually oral simply because there was no time to produce a written report. In conclusion, he pointed out that the Council was required to note, rather than to approve, the decisions of the Committee on Natural Resources in paragraph 1 (c), subparagraphs (i) to (iv), on the understanding that those decisions were subject to endorsement at the pre-Conference meetings.

30. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the decisions taken by the Committee on Natural Resources contained in paragraph 1 (c), subparagraphs (i) to (iv), and in paragraph 2, subparagraphs (a) to (c), taking fully into account the comments made thereon.

It was so decided (decision 207 (ORG-77), subpara. (b)).

31. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 4.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council (E/5899)

32. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that document E/5899, containing the proposed revised rules of procedure of the functional commissions, was self-explanatory. It had been set out in such a way as to enable delegations to determine the background to each rule and how it conformed to the relevant rule of the Council's own rules of procedure. Reference to the comments in the third column of the annex would show that the rules were very similar indeed to those of the Council and had merely been adjusted *mutatis mutandis* to the requirements of the functional commissions.

33. The Soviet representative had suggested at the first meeting of the organizational session, prior to the adoption of the agenda, that item 6 might be postponed until the sixty-second session. If the Council agreed to that suggestion and to consider the revised rules within the context of the item on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, which members had informally agreed to include in the agenda of the spring session, he suggested that 15 March should be set as a deadline for the submission of any corrections or amendments to the proposed revised rules. That would enable the Council to have before it in written form any proposals or changes.

34. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) supported that procedure, including the deadline of 15 March.

35. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he, too, supported that procedure on the understanding that delegations would be able to submit additional corrections and amendments during the spring session.

36. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should postpone its consideration of item 6 until the sixty-second

session and should set 15 March 1977 as the deadline for the submission of corrections or formal amendments to the draft revised rules of procedure of the functional commissions proposed in document E/5899, without prejudice to the right of delegations to make further proposals during the discussion of the question.

It was so decided (decision 209 (ORG-77)).

37. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 6.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

2042nd meeting

Thursday, 13 January 1977, at 4.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2042

AGENDA ITEM 7

Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions

1. The PRESIDENT said that the elections would be taken in the order in which they were listed in the annotations to item 7 of the agenda (E/5901).

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (E/L.1741)

2. The PRESIDENT said that he had been informed that two groups of countries wished the elections to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund to be postponed until the sixty-second session. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to the postponement.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

3. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in the absence of candidates, the Council should postpone the election of members of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning until the sixty-second session.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

4. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there was only one candidate for the four vacancies on the Committee on Natural Resources. The Philippines was the candidate of the Asian States for a term of four years beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1980.

5. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would assume that the Council wished to elect the Philippines by acclamation and, in the absence of candi-

dates for the remaining vacant seats, to defer the elections to them until the sixty-second session.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

6. Miss St. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were no candidates for the vacancies on the Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

7. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) said that there seemed to be some confusion since the African Group had endorsed a candidate for the Committee on Science and Technology for Development and had sent the Secretariat a communication to that effect. He therefore proposed that the election of the candidate of the African States should be postponed until the following meeting.

8. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had not received the communication in question.

9. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) agreed that there was indeed a candidate from the African States and supported the proposal made by the representative of the Sudan.

The proposal was adopted.

10. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in the absence of candidates for the remaining vacancies on the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Council should postpone elections to fill those vacancies until the sixty-second session.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices

11. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in the absence of candidates, the Council should postpone the elections of