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COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS  
Sixth session  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

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2. Election of officers
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4. Report on the activities of the Centre on Transnational Corporations
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6. Comprehensive information system:
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12. Issues arising from decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council
13. Draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission
14. Adoption of the report of the Commission

#### ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers

The proceedings of the Commission on Transnational Corporations are governed mutatis mutandis by the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council. Rule 18 thereof provides that the Bureau shall consist of five officers. The Commission may wish to follow the practice adopted at its previous sessions and elect a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the sixth session was approved by the Commission at its fifth session. 1/

4. Report on the activities of the Centre on Transnational Corporations

The Commission will have before it a report on the activities engaged in by the Centre on Transnational Corporations since the fifth session of the Commission.

#### Documentation

Activities of the Centre on Transnational Corporations: report of the Secretary-General (E/C.10/61)

5. Work related to the formulation of a code of conduct: report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct

In paragraph 19 of its report on its fifth session, 2/ the Commission requested the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct to continue its work with a view to presenting a comprehensive draft code of conduct to the Commission at its sixth session.

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 8 (E/1979/38/Rev.1).

2/ Ibid.

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct on its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions (E/C.10/62)

6. Comprehensive information system(a) Establishment of a comprehensive information system

In paragraph 59 of its report on its fifth session, the Commission noted that the Centre would include in its report to the sixth session specific details concerning the contents, structure and functioning of the information system, the total resources used, the allocation of resources within the system and the types of the users of the information.

Documentation

The information system on transnational corporations: progress report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/63)

(b) International standards of accounting and reporting

At its first regular session of 1979 the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1979/44, entitled "Establishment of an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting". The resolution called upon the Working Group to hold two sessions of two weeks each and to report to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its sixth session on further steps to be taken in the field of international standards of accounting and reporting within the scope of the work of the Commission, particularly as regards the comprehensive information system and the code of conduct currently being formulated, with the understanding that duplication of work on requirements of information being pursued in other bodies of the Commission should be avoided; the Group should concentrate on formulating priorities, taking into account the needs of home and host countries, particularly those of developing countries. The Intergovernmental Working Group held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 22 February 1980. Its second session is scheduled for September or October 1980.

Documentation

Interim report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/C.10/64)

7. Technical co-operation

In paragraph 89 of its report on its fifth session, the Commission requested the Centre to pursue on a regular basis its work in the field of technical co-operation and to submit a report on that work, including an evaluation of it by participants, to the sixth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Programme of technical co-operation on matters related to transnational corporations: report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/65)

8. Studies on the effects of the operations and practices of transnational corporations

(a) Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régimes in that area

In resolution 1979/75, of 3 August 1979, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixth session an in-depth analysis of the role of transnational corporations in the industrial, military and nuclear sectors of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Namibia, and to update and expand the list of transnational corporations which recognize and negotiate with non-white and multiracial trade unions, as well as those which do not, contained in the annex to document E/C.10/51.

Documentation

Transnational corporations in the industrial, military and nuclear sectors of South Africa: report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/66)

(b) Other studies

In paragraph 29 of its report on its second session, 3/ the Commission requested the Centre to carry out and promote in-depth studies on a number of subjects related to transnational corporations. In line with this request, the Centre is submitting five studies to the Commission at its sixth session.

Documentation

Transnational banks: operations, strategies and their effects in developing countries: report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/67)

Transnational corporations in international tourism: report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/68)

Transnational reinsurance operations: report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/69)

Transnational corporations in food and beverage processing: report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/70)

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3/ See ibid., Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5132).

Transnational corporation linkages in developing countries: a case of backward linkages via subcontracting: report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/71)

(c) Topics for future research

In paragraph 121 of its report on its fifth session, the Commission stated that in programming its future research, the Centre should take full account, within the resources allocated to this activity, of the views expressed by the Commission regarding priorities among projects and procedures to be followed in the project formulation and execution.

Documentation

Research: ongoing and future work: report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/72)

9. Work related to a definition of transnational corporations

In paragraph 137 of its report on its fifth session, the Commission decided that the work related to a definition of transnational corporations should be continued, particularly in the context of the formulation of a code of conduct. The Commission noted that further discussions on this item should be held by the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct and that it would be taken up at the sixth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct on its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions (E/C.10/62)

10. Work related to the elaboration of an international agreement on illicit payments

In resolution 1978/71, of 4 August 1978, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish a Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments and to convene a Diplomatic Conference no later than June 1980 to conclude an agreement on illicit payments. The Committee, after holding two preparatory sessions, submitted its report (E/1979/104) to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1979. The Economic and Social Council at that session received two draft resolutions which it decided to transmit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, together with the report of the Committee (E/1979/73). At its 40th meeting the General Assembly decided to transmit the matter to the Economic and Social Council for further consideration at its second regular session of 1980 (A/34/3/Add.7).

11. The question of expert advisers

In paragraphs 144 and 145 of its report on its fifth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with States members of the

Commission, to submit to the Commission three months prior to its sixth session the names of at least 48 persons, from among whom the Commission could select 16 expert advisers and, if so decided by the Commission, alternate expert advisers. The list could include candidates from States not members of the Commission. The Commission requested the Executive Director of the Centre on Transnational Corporations, in consultation with the States members of the Commission, to submit to it three months prior to its sixth session a report setting out the options for the modalities of the selection, rotation and participation of the expert advisers, taking into account suggestions put forward by delegations at the fifth session of the Commission.

#### Documentation

The question of expert advisers: note by the Secretariat (E/C.10/73)

#### 12. Issues arising from decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

In paragraph 3 of resolution 33/198, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 1980, the General Assembly invited "the governing bodies of the organs and organizations concerned with the United Nations system to assess, within their respective areas of competence, the progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order, as well as to indicate the obstacles that impede its establishment, ... with a view to submitting comprehensive reports to the Assembly at its special session in 1980".

#### Documentation

Progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order: the role of transnational corporations: report prepared by the Secretariat (E/C.10/74)

#### 13. Draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), of 1 August 1974, the Secretary-General will prepare a draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission, plus a list of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation.

#### 14. Adoption of the report of the Commission

The Commission will adopt its report to the Economic and Social Council.

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