



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

*Thirty-fifth Session*

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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*President: Mr. Alfonso PATIÑO (Colombia).*

*Present:*

Representatives of the following States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following Member States: Algeria, Canada, Chile, Federation of Malaya, Hungary, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Republic.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Hajek (Czechoslovakia), Second Vice-President, took the Chair.*

AGENDA ITEM 9

Transport development. (E/3721, E/L.987/Rev.1 and Corr.1, E/L.989) (continued)

1. Mr. MATSCH (Austria) introduced the draft resolution of his delegation (E/L.989) and explained that there was no suggestion that the Council should discuss the substance of the Convention on Road Traffic or the Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, but simply that it might consider how those two instruments might be revised. He proposed that consideration of the draft resolution should be postponed in order to give delegations time to consult each other.

*It was so decided.*

2. Mr. UNWIN (United Kingdom) said that, although his delegation supported the draft resolution submitted by Italy and Senegal (E/L.987/Rev.1 and Corr.1) as a whole, as well as the comments of other delegations, particularly that of Jordan, it had some objections to the presentation or drafting of certain passages.

3. The last two paragraphs of the preamble should be redrafted in order to emphasize the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the Economic and Social Council, which the text as it stood seemed to relegate

to secondary importance. The fourth preambular paragraph would thus read:

"Considering the responsibility of the Economic and Social Council and of the Secretary-General in promoting and co-ordinating activities in the field of transport development".

The first part of the fourth preambular paragraph, which in the present text read as follows:

"Noting further the work done by the regional economic commissions and their special responsibility in this domain,"

would become a new paragraph at the end of the preamble. The words "and the responsibilities of the United Nations in these fields" at the end of the fifth preambular paragraph should be deleted, thereby implying that the problem ought to be dealt with first at the national or regional level, with the United Nations intervening only at the last stage of the process for the purpose of centralizing information and providing advice. Some countries and some organizations might indeed prove to be very useful sources of information: in the case of the standardization of techniques on railways, for instance, recourse might be had to continental European countries, and, with regard to river navigation problems, to the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses to which annex C of the report referred (E/3721).

4. Mr. RENAUD (France) said that his delegation would support the draft resolution, which covered certain aspects of particular interest to it, namely, the need for intensive vocational training and the importance of the economic and financial aspects of transport development.

5. It should be emphasized that the part to be played by the regional economic commissions should be confined to study and advice, and that the commissions should leave full responsibility to the bodies required to collect and co-ordinate information. His delegation was prepared to support the amendment proposed by the representative of Jordan, who had clearly demonstrated that the function of deciding and co-ordinating belonged to the central bodies such as the Secretariat and the Economic and Social Council and that the regional economic commissions should remain consultative organs on the understanding that the countries themselves would be responsible for taking the final decisions and applying the appropriate measures when they had obtained the necessary information.

6. His delegation could not accept the Soviet Union's amendment, which was out of place in that field, where co-ordination at the centre would appear to be of primary importance. On the other hand, it would support the Jordanian amendment whereby a reference would be included to Member States in connexion with the consultations recommended in operative paragraph 3, and also the amendments which the United Kingdom representative had just suggested.

7. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that his delegation was prepared to support the Jordanian amendment to operative paragraph 3, which would thereby become more consistent with the policy of decentralization of United Nations activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions.

8. There seemed to be no need to mention General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) in the first preambular paragraph, as the USSR representative had suggested, because that resolution referred merely to procedure and method, aspects which were sufficiently well covered in the text to make any such reference unnecessary. With regard to the amendment to operative paragraph 2, he pointed out that the French text would meet the wishes of the Soviet delegation; it mentioned the desirability of giving transport development "un rang de priorité" rather than "priority". Hence it was a matter not of giving it undue priority, an impression which the English and Russian texts might perhaps have given the USSR representative, but rather of stressing the importance which should be attached to the relevant programmes undertaken.

9. There was perhaps no need to put the word "through", in operative paragraph 3, as proposed by the Soviet Union delegation. The present text did not in fact imply any down-grading of the regional economic commissions.

10. With regard to the objection raised by the representative of El Salvador that the Council's activities might be limited to the duration of the United Nations Development Decade, he pointed out that the sponsors had mentioned the objectives of the Decade in operative paragraph 4 merely to emphasize that the regional economic commissions and the Secretariat should take them into account when dealing with the problem of transport. His delegation was prepared to accept the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom representative.

11. Mr. TELL (Jordan) pointed out that the Soviet Union amendment to operative paragraph 3 ran counter to his own amendment. It would be better not to mention resolution 1823 (XVII); it was true that the participation of the specialized agencies in the field of transport was destined to increase but, if assistance was not to lose its international character and become "provincial", some distinction must be drawn between research and advisory activities on the one hand, and executive action on the other.

12. The regional economic commissions should act as co-ordinators; the preparation of measures was a matter for the competent bodies, and decisions should be left to the discretion of the Governments concerned.

13. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution as amended.

14. Mr. ORNATSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that all delegations had accepted and supported the idea of strengthening the regional economic commissions and that it was accordingly paradoxical that some of them should wish to omit mention of resolution 1823 (XVII), which referred to that subject.

15. Furthermore, as the text of operative paragraph 2 lent itself to different interpretations, why should there be any objection to including the necessary clarification?

16. With regard to paragraph 3, it would be better to add the phrase "and through" after the words "in consultation with" and before the phrase "the regional economic commissions".

17. The fourth preambular paragraph should be left as it was; the new text was in fact illogical, because it put the co-ordination of activities before the activities themselves.

18. He pointed out that his intention was to draw the Council's attention once again to those comments, and said that his delegation would support the draft resolution.

19. Mr. MALINOWSKI (Secretary of the Council) read out the amendments which had been approved.

20. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution of Italy and Senegal (E/L.987/Rev.1 and Corr.1), as amended.

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.*

## AGENDA ITEM 17

### Integrated programme and budget policy (E/3702, E/3741)

21. Mr. UNWIN (United Kingdom) said that he attached the greatest importance to the item under consideration, which would influence the work of the Secretariat and the Council, as well as the programme of conferences for 1964. It was the Council's responsibility to organize United Nations economic and social activities as a whole, and since demands in that connexion far exceeded available resources, it was necessary to ensure that funds were used as rationally and effectively as possible. The point had been reached where the Secretariat was being asked to do more work than it could, and it had therefore become a matter of urgency to rationalize all the activities involved. The total number of meetings held both at Geneva and at Headquarters had risen alarmingly in recent years. The bulk of the increase was in the economic field and was probably due partly to the enlarged membership of the United Nations and to the proclamation of the United Nations Development Decade. It was essential to keep to a pace which did not exceed the Secretariat's capacity, to arrange no more meetings than representatives could attend and to produce no more documents than Governments could study.

22. The proposals which the Secretary-General made in his report (E/3702) were not only reasonable but also indispensable for maintaining the Organization's present level of efficiency. The idea of classifying United Nations projects and activities according to their intended contribution to the accomplishment of the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade was excellent, and the Secretary-General should be congratulated on it; but it should always be used as a guide and not as a programme. His delegation agreed that the tentative outline presented in the report should be submitted to the Special Committee on Co-ordination, which might perhaps consider it along with its own report (E/AC.51/L.2/Rev.1). As regards priorities, it appeared that all projects, both "continuing" and "ad hoc", were submitted to the Secretariat as though they should be given top priority. The necessary remedy was to take the steps of elimination, postponement or con-

solidation referred to in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report (E/3702), which, unpleasant though they might be, were necessary so long as requirements exceeded resources.

23. It might be helpful to give more careful consideration than hitherto to the possibility of dividing each project into successive phases, each of which would not necessarily receive the same priority. By establishing priorities in terms of phases of execution, it would be possible to forge ahead with a larger number of projects while at the same time conforming to a strict order of priority.

24. His delegation fully endorsed the observations concerning the Council's subsidiary organs, set forth in paragraphs 7 and 13 of the report. Paragraph 9, which suggested the re-establishment of the principle that functional commissions should meet only once every two years, also deserved careful consideration.

25. Paragraphs 14 and 15 of the report were also of primary importance. But still more could be done to ensure that the Council was informed, early in its deliberations, of the financial implications of each proposal it considered. The best procedure might be for representatives who intended to present a draft resolution to ascertain from the Secretariat, even before the formal submission of the proposal, the financial implications and whether the project in question could be divided into separate phases. Each proposal should also be accompanied by an estimate of the maximum expenditure for each phase. The Council could then automatically reconsider the advisability of continuing any project for which costs were found at any stage to have exceeded the estimated maximum.

26. His delegation hoped that the Council would consider the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its summer session, as suggested in paragraphs 18 to 20 of the report (E/3702). It would also be helpful if the Advisory Committee would in turn consider at its next session the financial implications of the decisions taken by the Council during the current session.

27. The Council might also wish to consider the possibility of setting aside several days at the end of its summer session in order to determine priorities for the different actions it had proposed, having regard to the financial implications of its whole programme.

28. The Secretary-General's report (E/3702) offered the Council an opportunity of fashioning the administrative machinery necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade. His delegation was prepared to accept all the proposals set forth in the report and hoped that other delegations, as well as the Secretariat, would state their views on the proposals he had just put forward.

29. Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina) observed that the co-ordination and rationalization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations had been the subject of many decisions, among them Council resolutions 909 (XXXIV) and 920 (XXXIV) and General Assembly resolution 1797 (XVII). It was in accordance with the last-named resolution, which his delegation had co-sponsored, that the Secretary-General was submitting his report (E/3702) to the Council. That report set forth simple and clear-cut proposals. His delegation endorsed the tentative outline presented in

the annex to the report and agreed that it should be submitted to the Special Committee on Co-ordination.

30. The Secretary-General's proposals as regards priorities were unquestionably useful, but, like the United Kingdom representative, he was not convinced that all the projects approved in recent years had really deserved top priority. The Council should exercise strict discipline in the matter; whenever it approved new programmes, it should consider the possibility of eliminating, curtailing or postponing other projects of lesser importance.

31. As regards the financial implications of the Council's decisions, there again, despite many efforts, the outcome had never been satisfactory, to judge from the observations made each year by the Fifth Committee. In paragraph 16 of his report, the Secretary-General put forward a very interesting proposal which, although it could not solve the problem, would nevertheless, if adopted, bring about a substantial improvement. In considering the financial implications of its decisions, the Council should not merely examine separately the implications of each project—which were rarely sizable when considered in isolation—but should bear in mind the total amount of expenditure entailed by its decision, which had exceeded \$500,000 in the previous financial year. His delegation therefore hoped that the Secretary-General's proposal in paragraph 16 of his report would be adopted and applied at the Council's next session.

32. The programme of conferences for 1964 was impressive, particularly when the reconstruction work that would be taking place in the Headquarters buildings was considered. That was a special situation which brought out more clearly the general need to bring the number of meetings into line with the possibilities of the Office of Conference Services. His delegation had always held that the Council's functional commissions should, as a general rule, meet only once every two years. That arrangement would not only offer advantages from the standpoint of the budget and the Secretariat's work-load, but would also enable the functional commissions to go further into each of their agenda items. Paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's report (E/3741) set forth proposals which should be applied in 1964 and which would provide experience for subsequent years. His delegation also endorsed the very logical and realistic suggestions presented in paragraph 12 of the same report. It was therefore prepared to support any draft resolution that was in keeping with the Secretary-General's proposals.

33. Mr. YOKOTA (Japan) wished to offer some comments on the Secretary-General's report (E/3702), which in general met with his approval. Although the tentative outline for a classification, which was annexed to the report, was not actually a list of priority items, it did constitute a very useful basis that would enable the Secretariat to draw up a programme of work for consideration by the Council at its summer session. With regard to the regular review of priorities, the Secretary-General had been right in stressing that it could hardly be envisaged at the Council level unless prior action of the same nature had taken place in every subsidiary organ. Those organs should therefore be made aware of the need to concentrate their endeavours on the most urgent questions and to keep in mind the financial implication of their decisions. The increase in the number of meetings and conferences, which was a matter of concern for all delega-

tions and detracted from the quality of the work of the Secretariat, absolutely had to be stopped, the more so since the construction work to be done at Headquarters would have the effect of restricting the amount of space available in New York in 1964. His delegation therefore looked forward to the earliest possible implementation of the principle that the functional commissions should meet only once every two years, with the exception, as proposed by the Secretary-General, of the Commission on International Commodity Trade and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The same principle should apply to the standing committees of the Council, with the exception of the Committee for Industrial Development and the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning.

34. With regard to the conference programme for 1964, his delegation approved of the proposals made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 12 of his report (E/3741) and agreed that the three organs referred to in sub-paragraph (c) of that paragraph might forgo their sessions in 1964.

35. His delegation likewise supported the Secretary-General's proposal that the Council should ask the regional economic commissions to reduce the frequency of meetings of their subsidiary bodies.

36. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that he doubted whether the Council was in a position to take decisions at that stage on the measures of a permanent nature proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (E/3702). Nevertheless, the Council itself was responsible for introducing greater efficiency into its programme of work and meetings, as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had already pointed out.

37. With regard to meetings of the Council's subsidiary organs, there would be little point in reverting to the two-year rule proposed by the Secretary-General unless that rule was generally and systematically applied and did not lead to the establishment of new interim bodies. It would be impossible, however, to apply that rule without making certain exceptions, and his delegation would, at the Council's summer session, indicate the organs in respect of which it considered such exceptions should be made. The Council itself might perhaps consider the possibility of cutting down its spring session from three to two weeks, at least in certain years. The Council might also exercise restraint in setting up working groups or sub-committees that placed a heavy workload on the Secretariat and on the delegations themselves. It should be the rule that the performance of any new task would ordinarily be entrusted to a body already in existence.

38. With regard to priorities, his delegation had no objection to the suggestions made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 4 of his report (E/3702). However, the proposed list would be of use only if the Council kept it permanently up to date or, in other words, if it took care to modify the priorities in the light of its decisions.

39. The question of financial implications should be considered in conjunction with the question of priorities. The Council should espouse the principle of a balanced budget and, in considering the programmes submitted to it, should avoid any that entailed new expenditures. That was not to say that an absolute and arbitrary limitation of expenditure was desirable, but it should be possible to make systematic provision

for the substitution, as it were, of certain expenses for others, with the new activities superseding the old ones, and to put a stop to the excessive increase in budgetary expenditure. His delegation felt, in particular, that all minor expenditure should be systematically regarded as coming within the budget limits without there being any need to request further appropriations. He was in agreement with the statement made by the United Kingdom representative regarding the procedure for considering financial implications, and believed that it would be logical to ask the sponsors of draft resolutions to look into the financial implications of their proposals before submitting them.

40. He turned next to the question of measures to be taken with a view to adapting the programme of conferences for 1964, taking into consideration the numerous obligations of the Secretariat and the delegations. First of all, there was the question of eliminating the spring session of the Council and of possibly extending its summer session, a question which would probably be taken up again in July. If the Council was to consider the results of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its 1964 summer session, it was extremely likely that that session would exceed the customary five weeks. If that was not to be the case, his delegation would prefer to reserve its position until the following session.

41. With regard to the functional commissions, his delegation agreed with the Secretariat that the principle of biennial meetings might be applied to the Statistical Commission and the Social Commission as early as 1964, but it would be better to wait until July before discussing similar arrangements with respect to the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. As for the Commission on International Commodity Trade, there might perhaps be no need for it to meet in 1964 in view of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

42. The regional economic commissions, whose work programmes had grown larger and whose subsidiary bodies had become more numerous, should be asked to make the same efforts as the functional commissions.

43. As to the committees of the Council—for example, the Technical Assistance Committee, the Committee for Industrial Development and the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning—some of which met at the same time as the Council and others at other times, it was hard to see how the number of their meetings could be cut down. The work programmes of the first two committees made yearly meetings mandatory. As for the Committee on Housing, it was as yet unaware of the scope of its task or of how its work would be organized. Furthermore, the Secretariat itself considered that those committees should continue to meet annually.

44. It might also be useful to make arrangements for 1964 with respect to the rather numerous working groups which existed at the present time. The preparations for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Conference itself would in themselves take some time and keep the participating delegations very busy. In July, by which time it would have received the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the Council could with advantage consider to what extent a greater degree of efficiency could be introduced in so far as the working

groups and groups of experts were concerned. His delegation was ready to participate to the best of its ability in such a review.

45. Mr. SOLODOVNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation attached great importance to the question of a unified programme on budgetary policy, on which the success of United Nations activities in the economic and social field depended. There was need for a new, bolder and more rational policy which would enable the resources of the Organization to be used more effectively in the performance of the many tasks incumbent on it. The Economic and Social Council had not yet become an effective centre for harmonizing international co-operation, and its agenda was overloaded with items, some of which were not of major significance.

46. The Secretary-General's report (E/3702) very rightly drew attention to the need to establish priorities for the work of the Council and its subsidiary organs. It was extremely important that recommendations based on a searching analysis and on an evaluation of all the programmes involved should be drawn up with a view to avoiding any overlapping in the work of the United Nations.

47. The recommendations of the Council must provide for a concentration of resources in fields in which international action was most sorely needed and where such action was most likely to prove successful. At the same time, the Council should refrain from undertaking projects of lesser importance or doubtful value. Attention should also be given to the possibility of reducing the number of topics for study, as well as the number of conferences and meetings of certain United Nations organs, with a view to enhancing their significance and effectiveness.

48. The Secretary-General had been wise to draw attention, in paragraph 5 of his report, to the need for a regular review of the priority of the programmes of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the light of the needs and the available resources. Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 also contained very pertinent proposals, and his delegation recognized the importance which should be attached to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

49. With regard to the proposal in paragraph 8 of the report that the World Economic Survey, 1962 should be limited to a concise survey of the current economic situation, his delegation could agree provided that action did not constitute a precedent. Furthermore, it was essential that the Survey should contain a special chapter on planning problems, in the preparation of which the conclusions of the group of experts on the subject would have to be taken into account. In connexion with the practice which had developed of discussing the World Economic Survey at the Council sessions, his delegation felt obliged to propose that the draft of the Survey as prepared by the Secretariat should be considered by the Council and should be given final form in the light of the Council's comments before being published and widely circulated as a Council document. That procedure should be adopted for all major surveys by the Council and the functional commissions, as the Council would otherwise tend to give automatic approval to reports and would be forgoing its role as the principal United Nations organ in the economic and social field. The public throughout the world regarded United Nations

documents as expressing the collective views of Members and not as being the work of some member of the Secretariat.

50. The Soviet delegation accepted the proposal in paragraph 8, sub-paragraphs (iv) and (vi), that the submission of reports on the United Nations Development Decade and on patents should be postponed to the thirty-eighth session of the Council. As to the regional economic commissions, it was essential, as indicated in the Secretary-General's reports, that they should devote considerable attention in their reports to their participation in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

51. Although the proposals in paragraph 9 of the report were certainly interesting and very useful, they called for a prudent approach and an examination of their consequences. In any event, no hasty decision should be taken. His delegation agreed, for example, that the Commission on International Commodity Trade and the Committee for Industrial Development should meet every year, but it saw no need for annual meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. On the other hand, a body of such importance as the Social Commission should be convened every year. It would be preferable, however, to defer the question until the summer session.

52. His delegation considered that several important subjects had been omitted from the tentative outline for a functional classification of United Nations projects and activities in the economic and social fields, and in the field of human rights, which appeared in the annex to the Secretary-General's report (E/3702). For instance, the question of the establishment of an international trade organization and the question of long-term trade agreements should be added under the heading "Trade expansion". Furthermore, section II.B, on industrial development, contained no heading relating to development of the State sector and of the various branches of industry. It would also be necessary to complete section II.C, which omitted such important questions as permanent sovereignty over natural resources and the development of the petroleum industry, both of those topics having been the subject of General Assembly resolutions. Similarly, section IV.C appeared too unilateral; it would be better to speak of the "problem" than of the "promotion" of foreign investment, as it was necessary to know how international private investment was carried out and what profits were exported from the under-developed countries, in order to obtain a true picture.

53. For some unexplained reason, a very important question, the economic and social consequences of disarmament, had not been mentioned in spite of resolution 1837 (XVII) adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.

54. He believed that it would be wise for a final decision by the Council on the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report (E/3702) to be postponed to the summer session. The recommendations in his other report (E/3741) were useful, in principle, but delegations and the competent bodies in the various countries would need some time to study them.

55. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that the Secretary-General's report (E/3702) deserved careful consideration by the Council. Unlike the Soviet

representative, he regarded the classification in the annex to the report as extremely useful. It was simply a functional framework, and not a listing of priorities. The establishment of priorities within that framework was a continuing task which had to be performed by the Council and its subsidiary organs. It was to be hoped, in particular, that the Special Committee on Co-ordination would take full advantage of the outline and make further progress in its consideration of priorities in connexion with the United Nations Development Decade, dividing the priority items into the categories proposed in paragraph 4 of the report. That procedure would provide the Council with the information it needed in order to decide on the various projects.

56. The proposal contained in paragraph 5 was also very useful, as it would be conducive to a sense of financial responsibility which might not always have been very apparent. It would also be desirable to establish priorities as to methods. Some methods were particularly well suited to work undertaken by the United Nations on a multilateral basis. The Council already had certain proven methods which demonstrated its ability not only to prepare projects, but also to carry them out.

57. The success of the recommendations contained in paragraph 7 of the report, concerning the postponement or abandonment of studies, reports or meetings, would depend on the co-operation of the Council's subsidiary organs. The real difficulty lay in the proliferation of projects and programmes which were the responsibility not of the Secretary-General, but of inter-governmental bodies and, in particular, of the subsidiary organs. However, the Secretary-General could assist in preventing such proliferation at the level of the subsidiary organs by indicating to them which projects he considered could be combined or postponed. If the subsidiary organs disregarded the Secretary-General's views, the Secretary-General could leave the decision to the Council. The matter was of such importance that his delegation, in co-operation with at least two other delegations, planned to submit a draft resolution appealing to the subsidiary organs to accept that essential discipline.

58. On the question of re-adopting the principle of biennial sessions, he felt that it would be sufficient for the Council to ask the various commissions to revise the calendar of meetings of their subsidiary bodies, in order to achieve a reduction in the frequency of meetings. His delegation had felt for some years that the functional commissions would have much to gain by meeting only once every two years. However, like many other delegations, he believed that the question required further thought.

59. In the case of the year 1964, in particular, the situation would be such that there was no possibility, at the present session, of giving any directives to the Secretary-General. Many questions remained undecided, such as the date and exact duration of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which, together with the Preparatory Committee, was apt to extend over the first five months of 1964.

60. The continual proliferation of working groups, expert groups, *ad hoc* groups and others, that is, of subsidiary organs and bodies of the Council, the functional commissions and the regional economic commissions, gave rise to thousands of meetings a year and represented a situation which could only end in catastrophe. The Secretariat could not provide the necessary services, and Governments could not participate in the meetings as they should. In that connexion too, the Council should, at its present session, consider making a strong appeal to its subsidiary organs to undertake once again a very careful review of their calendars of conferences and meetings. Some committees met up to eighty times a year, in other words, more frequently than the Council itself.

61. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the procedures for dealing with financial implications as recommended by the Secretary-General would also be followed in the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, which were the recipients of the bulk of new projects having the heaviest financial implications.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.