


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Resumed Forty-ninth Session
OFFICIAL RECORDS

*Friday, 13 November 1970,
at 3.15 p.m.*

NEW YORK

President: Mr. J. B. P. MARAMIS (Indonesia).

AGENDA ITEM 2
Reports of the World Bank Group¹ (concluded) (E/4927)

1. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) congratulated the President of IBRD on his brilliant statement in which he had shown the same qualities of lucidity and vigour he had already demonstrated during his activities as head of the Bank. In view of the ever-widening scope of United Nations activities, the Council's central co-ordinating role became increasingly important. Mr. McNamara had drawn attention to the seriousness of urbanization problems. Many programmes were being carried out at the national level but it was gratifying that the Bank was trying to develop a global outlook. In view of the importance of agriculture, all measures taken in that sector were welcome. So far, certain aspects of the "green revolution" had been examined by different bodies, but the problems of organization and management had not always received the necessary attention and the social consequences of development deserved more careful study. There, too, the Bank had an important role to play. It was not correct to state, as some might be tempted to do, that only the industrialized countries were directly concerned with the problems of the human environment. The cost-benefit studies to be undertaken by the Bank would be of interest to all countries; however, special studies should view the question from the particular standpoint of the developing countries. The solutions adopted by governments to the problems of international investment insurance might perhaps be said to reflect only domestic preoccupations. Those problems were of special concern to the United States Government, which considered that the action taken by the Bank in that field was highly appropriate, because of its independent viewpoint. The project envisaged by the Bank would make it easier for the developing countries to obtain the financial resources they needed. The extension of the Economic Development Institute was another timely measure.

2. The United States Government had always felt that the co-ordination of international development activities should be strengthened and he welcomed the policy the Bank intended to follow in that respect, especially in its relationship with the other specialized agencies. In view of the Council's role in that field, the statement by the President of the Bank constituted a valuable source of information. The economic missions sent to the various countries had a very important role to play. Of course, their activities must be harmonized with those of the assistance

¹ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development—International Development Association, *Annual Report, 1970* (Washington, D.C.); International Finance Corporation, *Annual Report, 1970* (Washington, D.C.).

bodies. In that respect, the new role of the UNDP Resident Representatives should be defined.

3. President Nixon had stressed the need to co-ordinate multilateral and bilateral assistance. As yet, there appeared to be no integrating mechanism for that purpose although the problems were becoming more and more urgent. The existing information machinery should also be strengthened, care being taken to avoid duplication. The President of IBRD had warned against the danger of allowing the means to become the end. That danger still lurked within United Nations bodies but the United States delegation was convinced that the necessary measures would be taken to avoid it.

4. Mr. SEN (India) thanked the President of IBRD for drawing attention to the serious challenges which mankind faced. The Indian delegation welcomed the new orientation which the World Bank Group had given to its activities. It was gratifying to note that lendings had more than doubled since 1968. Since the profits had also risen, it was only appropriate that part of them had been used to supplement the resources of IDA. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. McNamara and the response of the developed countries, it was possible to look forward to a doubling of the resources of IDA, which opened up enormous possibilities for action.

5. However, the developed countries must increase their efforts, as the Pearson Commission recommended.² They must accept unreservedly not only the targets but also the target dates. On that subject he drew attention to the urgent appeal made by the President of IBRD at the last meeting of the Board of Governors. Equally important was the improvement of the conditions of aid. In that respect, it was disquieting to note that the Bank Group seemed to be giving way to a rigid orthodoxy. His delegation hoped that the Group would re-examine its policy in the light of the recommendations of the Pearson Commission. Since trade and aid had to go together, it was only through expanded trade opportunities that the less developed countries could hope to stand on their own feet. As the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund had said, retrogressive tendencies should be arrested and the removal of trade barriers should be continued. The Indian delegation was disappointed that the Bank Group had not considered the possibility of playing a more active role in the refinancing of export credits. Both the Council and UNCTAD, together with the Pearson Commission, had made recommendations on that question and he hoped that the necessary action would be taken.

6. In view of the importance of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development

² Commission on International Development, *Partners in Development* (New York, Praeger Publishers, Inc., 1969).

Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)), it was essential to co-ordinate the activities of international development organizations. Some of them had already set up evaluation machinery for making country studies but it should be stressed that many developing countries had already developed their own review procedures. A plethora of reviews at the national level could only lead to a tremendous waste of scarce manpower. Review and appraisal must be carried out in a global context, involving the performance of both developed and developing countries in a spirit of genuine partnership.

7. Finally, the Indian delegation welcomed the measures taken by the Bank for closer co-operation with the various members of the United Nations family and it hoped that its greater efficiency and effectiveness would accelerate the achievement of the goals of the International Development Strategy.

8. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) congratulated the President of IBRD on his interesting statement and was glad to recognize the importance of the Bank Group's mission in the promotion of economic and social development. Now that the General Assembly had proclaimed the Second Development Decade and adopted the International Development Strategy, the time had come to take stock of the role played by the United Nations system in that field. As in 1969, there had been another notable expansion in the Group's lending activities. The Bank was clearly well set to achieve the target fixed for the period 1969-1973. It should also be noted that the Bank was expanding its activities in new sectors, particularly that of population, for which it had made its first commitment. It was to be hoped that such activities would not duplicate those of other United Nations bodies. His delegation welcomed the extension of the Bank Group's operations in the field of technical assistance and its co-operation with UNDP. Its net income had reached the record figure of \$213 million, which had enabled it to transfer \$100 million to IDA. One of the noteworthy developments of the year had been the successful negotiation of a replenishment of IDA resources. The United Kingdom's share amounted to just over \$100 million a year.

9. The Bank was trying to improve its services in the field of co-ordination, appraisal and analysis. Economic missions were being sent to the different countries and their reports should prove admirable tools for assisting Governments and international agencies in promoting economic and social progress. It would be particularly interesting to learn to what extent such an ambitious programme was being achieved. His delegation was glad to learn that UNDP had co-operated in that type of activity, a welcome development in view of the need for close liaison between all United Nations organizations.

10. Mr. BRECKENRIDGE (Ceylon) welcomed the dynamism shown by IBRD. The Bank's increased efforts in the field of agriculture were to be commended. The problem was not only to produce a greater quantity of food-stuffs, but to ensure that such accelerated efforts stimulated industrial development, which in turn was the basis of all economic development. The formation of a consultative group to identify the priority needs for international programmes was also welcome. The pro-

cedures of that group should not take the form of a mere exchange of information, but should also make it possible to identify problems. Attention should be directed, in particular, to the over-production of certain products. The problem of the environment should be approached scientifically, but his delegation was uncertain what recourse to cost-benefit analysis implied. It hoped that projects would not be abandoned as a result of analyses which attached undue importance to the environment. The cost of protecting the environment should, in any event, be taken into account in project costing. In the matter of the organization of the international development community and the assessment of the results achieved, the Bank had an extremely important role to play. It was gratifying that the President of IBRD should have declared that an increase in gross national product was not sufficient and that social development and distributive justice had to be taken into account.

11. Mr. CHTOUROU (Tunisia) thanked the President of IBRD and congratulated him on the dynamic impetus which he had imparted to the work of the World Bank Group. During the previous financial year the Bank and IDA had expanded rapidly: their commitments had risen to \$2,186 million, an increase of more than 50 per cent of the average for the years 1964-1968 and of 22 per cent over the preceding financial year. The addition of the investments made by the International Finance Corporation brought the figure to \$2,300 million. However, progress had not been only quantitative, but also sectoral. In particular, education, to which his Government attached great importance, had been the object of sustained interest, and loans to agriculture had been almost three times the average for 1964-1968.

12. Likewise, investment in industry and public works had increased, sometimes considerably, as in the case of the electric power sector, in which the volume of operations had exceeded by 45 per cent the level for 1968-1969.

13. Those developments had not prevented the Bank from expanding its action in the field of tourism through its tourist projects department, established in 1969. Tunisia, as well as Morocco, had benefited from the financial participation of the Bank Group in a financial and tourist company.

14. His delegation welcomed the fact that the Bank had granted its first loan for population planning to Jamaica, and that further projects were under consideration as a result of preliminary missions to other countries. Such activities showed that the Bank Group regarded development as an over-all process in which economic and social factors were closely related and in which the quality of individual life was at least as important as the quantity of material goods at his disposal. Convincing proof of that fact was afforded by the importance it attached to the problem of urban development in developing countries. Tunisia attached great importance to harmonious urban development, and to rural development, which was merely another aspect of the same situation, and was pleased to note that its concerns were mirrored at the international level. Integrated development was a continuous struggle and should be directed both to economic structures and to social structures and modes of thought. It was a striking fact that the problem of urban growth in the developing

countries provided a perfect illustration of the close interaction between the various structures during the process of bringing a society to a higher stage of development.

15. Development, at the international level, was characterized by another interaction, that between developed countries and those which were not yet developed; the keynote of that interaction was an increasing awareness of international solidarity—in itself, an achievement of capital importance which should be maintained and consolidated through the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Strategy gave further proof of that solidarity. The Bank Group had a particularly important role in ensuring the success of the Second Development Decade and in encouraging the economic take-off of the developing countries. That role would primarily be to introduce new concepts into the terms which aid was granted to developing countries, and the Pearson Commission's report gave valuable guidance in that respect. It should also affect the technical assistance provided by the Bank Group to the developing countries for the purpose of establishing banking and other structures through which they could make increasingly effective use of external financial resources. Finally, that role should be apparent in the appraisal of the progress made during the Decade. The data available to the Bank Group would certainly assist the General Assembly, in its function as the central organ for appraisal, and the Economic and Social Council, as the co-ordinating organ for the economic and social activities of the United Nations.

16. Mr. MARSH (Jamaica) thanked the President of IBRD for his statement and welcomed the evidence that the Bank was paying equal attention to the social and the economic aspects of development. His delegation had been impressed to note that \$100 million of the Bank's interest income had been transferred to IDA. In view of the importance of the third replenishment of IDA's funds his delegation wondered whether that sum could not have been applied to the new problems of the environment. His delegation urged once again that the requirements of countries which received no IDA loans should be taken into consideration.

17. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) thanked the President of IBRD for his statement and welcomed the direction which the World Bank Group's activities were taking. The Bank's report was marked by realism and a sense of urgency. During the previous two years, the financing operations of the Bank had increased by 130 per cent. There were grounds for hoping that the Bank would succeed in doubling its loans, credits and investments during the period of the five-year plan, 1969-1973. It should be noted, however, that the Bank's lending rates had risen, which was a matter of concern to the developing countries. In that connexion he drew attention to the suggestion made by his delegation in the United Nations and at the annual meetings of the Board of Governors of the Bank to the effect that the Bank's lending rate might more appropriately be based on long-term expectations for the behaviour of interest rates in major financial centres, rather than on their short-term fluctuations. Another very important problem was that of debt servicing. If the burden of debt service continued to increase it might become a serious impediment to the development efforts of the majority of

developing countries. Moreover, it was apparent that the net flow of official assistance from all member countries of the Development Assistance Committee had increased by an average of 4 per cent per year since 1964, a rate lower than the growth rate, at current prices, of the combined gross national product of those countries over the same period. While the flow of official capital had amounted to 0.49 per cent of gross national product in 1964, in 1969 it had been only 0.39 per cent. It should be observed that if the rate of 0.49 per cent had been maintained throughout the period almost \$3,900 million would have been added to the volume of official aid between 1964 and 1970. In addition, grants and grant-like contributions had steadily declined, until in 1968 they had represented only about 50 per cent of all bilateral contributions. The flow of grants had declined still further in 1969. At the same time, the volume of contributions to multilateral agencies had increased sharply but total official contributions, including grants, had fallen from 80 per cent in 1964-1966 to 75 per cent in 1968. Although external financing on concessionary terms from official sources, both bilateral and multilateral, had increased in absolute terms, its growth had been slower than the economic expansion of the major capital-exporting countries.

18. In spite of those disturbing tendencies, the Bank had strengthened and rationalized its activities. It had placed more emphasis on agriculture, education and population, had developed a method of financing through intermediary organizations, and had given more attention to integrated social and economic development.

19. Furthermore, the financial base of the World Bank Group had been broadened and eighteen countries had agreed on a third replenishment of IDA's funds. The Bank's more effective co-operation with other agencies, particularly the regional development banks, was gratifying, and it was to be hoped that the difficulties encountered in that regard would be surmounted. There was reason to hope that the programme of country economic missions would produce objective data and analyses on each developing country and that it could be combined with the country programming approach in multilateral development work. All available data in each country should be utilized in order to reflect trends in both the developed and the developing countries. Such a review could provide a comprehensive, balanced and rational picture of the priorities and problems considered.

20. With regard to supplementary financing, it was to be hoped that the Bank would successfully discharge the task entrusted to it by the Trade and Development Board in resolution 60 (IX) of 12 September 1969. The report of the Pearson Commission had helped to improve international understanding of the development process. The international community had formally committed itself to bringing about a more just economic order. It should be noted that the President of the World Bank had submitted recommendations to his Board of Governors on the implementation of a number of the Pearson Commission's recommendations. It was to be hoped that the President of the Bank, with the imagination and pragmatism which were characteristic of him, would be able to take steps to achieve the targets of the Second Development Decade.

21. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) thanked the President of the World Bank for his remarkable achievements. The substantial increase in loans and investments during the previous financial year was noteworthy. In addition, the Bank had intensified its operations in the educational and agricultural sectors. Agriculture was particularly important for the Sudan, since it supplied over 50 per cent of its gross national product. The Pearson Commission's report had been extremely influential, notably through its emphasis on the fact that few countries derived sufficient income from their exports and that capital transfers were still inadequate. The Bank could play a substantial part in rationalizing international development efforts. The developing countries, however, should not neglect their own efforts. His country had recently carried out reforms and had nationalized several banks and foreign companies with a view to strengthening its public sector and to rationalizing its economic planning; the former free economic system had led only to stagnation. In order to accelerate its economic development, his country had strengthened its contacts with the international financial and technical institutions supplying aid in different spheres of development.

22. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) said that he would not venture to analyse Mr. McNamara's statement-cum-programme; he would merely thank him for the encouraging picture which he had painted of the potential of the World Bank Group where development problems were concerned. Of the recent meeting of the Board of Governors at Copenhagen little remained to be said. However, the level of decision-making at which member countries became involved had still not been clearly defined. It was difficult to see where the function of the Economic and Social Council, as such, lay. His delegation had misgivings on two counts: on the lack of time to analyse the statement of the President of the World Bank, and on the notable differences in emphasis in Mr. McNamara's three most recent statements—his opening and closing addresses at the meeting of the Board of Governors at Copenhagen and the statement which he had read to the Economic and Social Council. In his opening address to the Board of Governors Mr. McNamara had emphasized, as had the Pearson Commission, that development efforts were being spread over a large number of activities, which led to overlapping, waste and the fragmentation of resources; that was a matter for which the Economic and Social Council should admit responsibility, since its principal function was precisely to prevent such a state of affairs. However, in the statement which he had just made to the Economic and Social Council, Mr. McNamara had spoken of a new activity being undertaken by the World Bank Group with a view to producing a more coherent international development endeavour, namely, the organization of aid co-ordination groups providing for regional consultations between each major developing country and the various development assistance agencies interested in helping it.

23. Both the Economic and Social Council and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs lacked the resources which the Bank had at its disposal for that kind of exercise. It might be asked whether the Bank was preparing to take over and to supply the deficiencies of the Economic and Social Council, by acting as the catalyst for

the efforts of a very large number of agencies. It would be helpful if Mr. McNamara could give an indication of how he conceived the Bank's role. The Pearson Commission had recommended that the President of the World Bank should convene an international conference to consider the problems involved in organizing the international development community as a whole. However, responsibility for such tasks, within the United Nations system, automatically devolved upon the Economic and Social Council. Accordingly, a conflict of jurisdictions might well emerge.

24. Mr. McNAMARA (President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) said that he fully shared the view of the representative of Upper Volta, as was clear from his own statement at the 1730th meeting that the primary responsibility for co-ordinating the activities of the specialized agencies devolved upon the Economic and Social Council.

25. During the coming weeks and months all the comments which had been made in the course of the debate would be carefully studied by the IBRD authorities. There were two points made by speakers on which he wished to comment. One was the growing burden on the economies of developing countries in the form of external debt servicing. As was stated in the Bank's report, the total external public debt of the developing countries outstanding at the end of 1968 had amounted to approximately \$53,400 million; for several years it had been increasing regularly at an average compound rate of almost 15 per cent per annum. Consequently, over the previous ten years the rate of increase of debt servicing payments by the developing countries had been almost double the growth rate of their export earnings. The situation would clearly continue to demand the sustained attention of the international financial community. The Bank was in the process of making a comprehensive study of the question, and he hoped that the results would be available at the beginning of the following year and that they would contribute towards a better understanding of the situation.

26. Secondly, he had been struck by the number of speakers who had referred to the need to establish an international investment insurance system. The idea had also been supported at the meeting of the Board of Governors at Copenhagen, and it was the firm intention of the Bank to take prompt action in the matter. He hoped that agreement on the establishment of such a system could be reached in the next twelve months.

27. In conclusion, he again emphasized the importance which he and his staff attached to the observations made in the Council and he stated that they would continue to work to the best of their ability for the developing countries, in close co-operation with the Council and with the other specialized agencies.

28. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt a resolution similar to that which had been adopted at the resumed forty-seventh session, worded as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

Takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

and the International Development Association and of the report of the International Finance Corporation.”

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Reconsideration of the composition of the membership of the Committee on Natural Resources (*concluded*)* (E/L.1363, E/L.1364)

29. Mr. FERNANDINI (Peru) expressed the hope that draft resolution E/L.1364 would be introduced by one of its sponsors and that the President would then suspend the meeting for ten minutes to enable the sponsors of the two documents before the Council to have consultations with a view to producing a compromise text.

30. Mr. NDUNG’U (Kenya), introducing draft resolution E/L.1364 on behalf of its sponsors, recalled that he had already explained to the Council at its 1729th meeting why his delegation had prepared a text which it felt would facilitate a compromise between the different points of view expressed during the debate. He merely wished to state that if it were true, as some delegations had maintained, that the Council could always reconsider a decision adopted earlier with a view to amending it, the interval between the two operations should be long enough so that the Council did not appear to be reversing its decision. In the present case, hardly four months had elapsed since the adoption of resolution 1535 (XLIX).

31. Moreover, by increasing the membership of the Committee on Natural Resources from twenty-seven to thirty-eight, the Council might be setting a dangerous precedent and creating the impression that the number of members of a body could be changed at any time on the basis of the number of applications for membership. It was for the regional groups to agree on the countries to be allotted the limited number of seats.

32. In conclusion, the draft resolution—contrary to the assertions of certain delegations—was a true compromise, since operative paragraph 2 specifically provided for a review of the composition of the Committee on Natural Resources after an appropriate experimental period. The sponsors were not denying that such a review might eventually be desirable; they simply felt that it should not be undertaken at the present time.

33. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) supported the Peruvian delegation’s request for a suspension of the meeting.

34. Mr. VIAUD (France) agreed that it was in the interest of all members to explore all possibilities for an agreement and that in any case a unanimous decision was preferable to a majority decision. Experience showed, however, that a compromise could not be reached in ten minutes. His delegation therefore wondered whether the Peruvian delegation could not make known its proposal now, even if that meant reverting to the question later. Nevertheless, he felt

that the Council could obtain the desired result without suspending the meeting.

35. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said he would like to know immediately whether the council would elect members of the Committee on Natural Resources at its present meeting. Whatever decision was eventually taken regarding the Committee’s membership, it would be preferable to postpone the election for a short period of time as a courtesy to States which were not members of the Economic and Social Council.

36. The PRESIDENT recalled that the question of the election of members of the Committee on Natural Resources was on the agenda for the 1731st meeting.

37. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) supported the view expressed by the representative of Greece, since consultations within regional groups were indispensable before the election, whatever decision was ultimately taken regarding the Committee’s membership.

The meeting was suspended at 5.20 p.m. and resumed at 5.50 p.m.

38. Mr. FERNANDINI (Peru) announced that the consultations just held had been fruitless, since the opposing views had been too far apart. The draft decision (E/L.1363) should therefore be put to the vote.

39. Mr. NDUNG’U (Kenya) said that, in a spirit of compromise, the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1364 had proposed to amend operative paragraph 2, replacing the phrase “after an appropriate experimental period” by “at the resumed fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council”. Although that amendment represented a substantial concession, the sponsors of draft decision E/L.1363 had not accepted it.

40. The PRESIDENT asked the representative of Kenya whether the Council now had before it an amended draft resolution or whether the original text was still valid.

41. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1364, said that since the proposed amendment had not received a favourable response, it must be considered withdrawn.

42. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that, in a spirit of compromise, the sponsors of draft decision E/L.1363 had also amended their text, incorporating the second preambular paragraph of draft resolution E/L.1364 in its first sentence. That sentence therefore now read: “At its . . . meeting on . . . November 1970, the Economic and Social Council, considering the increased interest of Member States in the membership of the Committee on Natural Resources, decided to amend its resolution 1535 (XLIX) on the development of natural resources as follows”.

43. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that, if the Greek delegation had no objection, his own delegation would prefer the Council to vote on the text containing the amendment of the representative of Kenya, since that amendment had the advantage of indicating precisely when the composition of the Committee on Natural Resources would be reviewed.

* Resumed from the 1729th meeting.

44. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) said that his delegation preferred the original text of draft resolution E/L.1364 and took note of the amendment proposed by the representative of Italy; however, he would like to know how equitable geographical distribution would be maintained in the Committee on Natural Resources if it was in fact to have thirty-eight members.

45. Mr. SAM (Ghana) expressed doubt as to the admissibility of draft decision E/L.1363 and did not believe that a resolution could be amended once it had been adopted. It appeared that the correct procedure would be to adopt a new resolution replacing resolution 1535 (XLIX). The President should take a decision on the matter.

46. Mr. BRECKENRIDGE (Ceylon) said that his delegation was opposed to an increase in the membership of the Committee on Natural Resources and would abstain in the vote on draft decision E/L.1363. Draft resolution E/L.1364 was more in keeping with its views; however, it would like operative paragraph 2 to be further amended. The following words should be inserted at the end of the sentence which had already been amended, "with a view to accommodating the increased interest of Member States in the membership of the Committee".

47. Mr. FERNANDINI (Peru), replying to the United States representative, said that the geographical distribution of a committee of thirty-eight members would be as follows: ten members from Western Europe, ten from Africa, seven from Asia, seven from Latin America and four from Eastern Europe. If the socialist States were to have the five seats to which they considered themselves entitled, the membership of the Committee would have had to be fixed at thirty-nine. Unfortunately, that had not been possible.

48. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) expressed the hope that the representative of Ceylon would not press for the inclusion of his amendment, since it clearly had not been the intention of the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1364 to reduce the membership of the Committee when its composition was reviewed.

49. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) informed the representative of Ghana that at its resumed forty-first session, the Council—which had decided in resolution 1187 (XLI) of 17 November 1966 to elect the sixteen members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for a period of three years on a rotational basis—had subsequently decided in resolution 1190 (XLI) of 19 December of the same year that the term of office of the sixteen members would be three years ending on 31 December 1969. That precedent would seem to suggest that the procedure followed by the sponsors of draft decision E/L.1363 was valid.

50. Mr. VIAUD (France) considered the Ghanaian delegation's observation most pertinent. The Council had no indication as to the true nature of the text in document E/L.1363. His own delegation proposed that it should be withdrawn and replaced by a resolution in good and due form which would naturally bear the symbol E/L.1365.

51. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) asked the sponsors of the draft resolution (E/L.1364) if it was really necessary to reaffirm

a recently adopted resolution. The only new element was that the Council took note of the increased interest by Member States in the membership of the Committee on Natural Resources. He urged the sponsors of the draft resolution to consider amending resolution 1535 (XLIX) without waiting for the fifty-first session.

52. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) noted that the French delegation had tried to make a distinction between decisions and resolutions. According to the rules of procedure the word that should be used was "proposals". In any case, the Council was quite competent to adopt a proposal to amend a resolution.

53. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) said he would prefer Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) not to be amended. However, he would consider a re-examination of the membership of the Committee once it had begun to function. The position of the United States delegation on the question had already been clearly stated at the 1729th meeting.

54. Mr. SAM (Ghana) asked whether, in the case cited by the Secretary of the Council, the decision of that organ had been adopted before the General Assembly had taken a decision, or subsequently.

55. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) said that in the case referred to the Council had revised a decision taken a month earlier. In its resolution 1190 (XLI) it had decided that the term of office of the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be for three years, whereas in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1187 (XLI) it had decided that the members of the Committee should be elected on a rotational basis. There were also other cases of amendments made by the Council: in its resolution 997 (XXXVI) it had decided to increase to eighteen the membership of the Advisory Committee on the application of Science and Technology to Development, whereas in its resolution 980 (XXXVI) the number of members had been laid down as fifteen. If necessary, the Secretariat could give other examples of that procedure.

56. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the draft decision (E/L.1363).

The draft decision was adopted by 18 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions.

57. The PRESIDENT said that, after the adoption of the draft decision, it was not necessary to vote on the draft resolution E/L.1364).

58. Mr. OLDS (United States of America), explaining his vote, said that some representatives might think that the permanent members of the Security Council had an unfair advantage. He wished to point out that the position of the United States was based on reasons that had been given on several occasions. In view of the way the situation had developed, his Government had instructed him that it would reconsider whether it would stand for membership of the Committee.

59. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had abstained from voting

because the decision to establish a Committee with thirty-eight members did not provide the appropriate basis for equitable geographical distribution.

60. Mr. SAM (Ghana) said that his delegation had voted against the proposal because it considered that the Committee would have worked more effectively if the membership had remained at twenty-seven. He also agreed with the USSR that a membership of thirty-eight did not allow of equitable geographical distribution.

61. Mr. NDUNG'U (Kenya) said that his delegation had voted against the draft decision, since he had not been able to consult the other countries of the African regions. His delegation would reserve the right to speak when the time came to elect the members of the Committee.

62. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) said that his delegation had voted against the proposal, and hoped that the decision would be followed up by the introduction of a draft resolution in the Fifth Committee providing that appropriate funds be made available to the developing countries to enable them to send experts to the new Committee.

63. Mr. GUELEV (Bulgaria) said that during the preliminary consultations among the eastern European group of countries it had been emphasized that, if the membership of the Committee were enlarged, the socialist countries would insist on securing equitable representation, and in that case the figure of thirty-nine had been envisaged. The rejection of that figure explained the Bulgarian delegation's abstention.

64. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that the statements just made clearly showed that merely increasing the membership of the Committee could not solve the problem. His delegation was disturbed by the comments of the United States representative. It seemed that a new problem had been created. He regretted that the Council had followed the line of least resistance, which in the present case led to an impasse.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Elections

(a) *Composition of the Committee on Natural Resources* (E/L.1357 and Corr.1)

65. Mr. VIAUD (France) urged the Council not to proceed with the election until after an appropriate interval: delegations should have the time to inform their Governments, there should be consultations within the regional groups, and in fact all the Member States of the General Assembly should be informed of the increase in the membership of the Committee on Natural Resources. That would undoubtedly lead to a number of new applications, and his delegation was anxious that the decision just adopted should be given the necessary publicity. In the circumstances it did not seem possible to proceed with the elections for at least two weeks.

66. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that he saw no reason why the French delegation's request should not be accepted, but

the elections should take place before the end of November: the Committee should begin to function in February 1971, and the Governments represented on it would need an interval of at least three months to recruit the necessary experts.

67. Mr. NDUNG'U (Kenya) supported the French representative's proposal, and said he would like to know the exact date of the Committee's first session.

68. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) said in reply that, after consultation with the Office of Conference Services, it was proposed that the Committee's first session should be held from 23 February to 5 March 1971.

69. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would postpone by at least two weeks the date for the election of members of the Committee on Natural Resources.

It was so decided.

70. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) asked the Secretariat for details of what financial arrangements might be made to aid the developing countries to finance the cost of sending experts to the Committee's sessions.

71. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) drew the attention of the representative of Upper Volta to the note of the Secretary-General (E/AC.6/L.412) on the financial implications of resolution 1535 (XLIX), where it was made clear that the United Nations would not pay for travel and subsistence costs for experts attending the meetings of the Committee.

(b) *Appointment of a member of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development* (E/4930)

72. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should appoint Lord Blackett to fill the vacancy created by the death of Sir Norman Wright.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the organizational meetings of the fiftieth session (E/L.1358)

73. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) proposed that the item should be postponed until the meeting at which the Council would elect members of the Committee on Natural Resources.

74. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) supported that proposal.

75. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would assume that the Council agreed to that proposal.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.