

1705th meeting

Wednesday, 26 November 1975, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Olof RYDBECK (Sweden).

A/C.2/SR.1705

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters II, III (sections A to E, G, H and J to L), IV, VI (sections A to D and F)] (continued) (A/10003, A/10003/Add.1 (parts I to III))

CONSIDERATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION STRICKEN BY DROUGHT AND MEASURES TO BE TAKEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT REGION (*continued*) (A/10346, A/C.2/L.1478)

1. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1478 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the first two preambular paragraphs recalled the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the benefit of the Sudano-Sahelian countries stricken by drought. The third preambular paragraph noted with satisfaction the role played by FAO and the United Nations Sahelian Office (UNSO) in assisting the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to implement its medium-term and long-term programme. The fourth preambular paragraph took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/10346).

2. In operative paragraph 2, the sponsors expressed their gratitude for the assistance given by Member States, private organizations and individuals. They wished to thank in particular those countries which had made or were about to make a firm commitment to participate in the implementation of the medium-term and long-term programmes adopted by CILSS. The countries in question were Sweden, Belgium, Canada, France, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, Switzerland, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, which it was hoped would continue to provide as much assistance as they could. The Sudano-Sahelian countries also wished to express their sincere thanks to such developing countries as Iran, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, which, despite their own problems, had unhesitatingly given moral and material support to the peoples affected by the drought. The purpose of paragraph 3 was to remind the international community that there were still tremendous needs to be met in the Sudano-Sahelian countries. Despite the optimism engendered by the recent rains, the situation was still serious because the effects of the drought had by no means been overcome. Paragraph 4 requested UNSO to continue its close co-operation with CILSS, and paragraph 5 requested the Secretary-General to continue his action aimed at obtaining the financial assistance necessary for the implementation of the Permanent Inter-State Committee's programme.

3. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

4. Upon the proposal of Mr. Diallo (Upper Volta) and Mr. Mousky (United States of America), the CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to defer consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1478 until the following meeting.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 55

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: report of the Trade and Development Board (*continued*)* (A/10003/Add.1 (part II), A/10015 (parts I to IV), TD/B/573, A/C.2/L.1469/Rev.1)

5. Mr. GONZALEZ DE COSSIO (Mexico), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1469/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors, noted that the first three preambular paragraphs recalled the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Trade and Development Board. The fourth preambular paragraph referred to resolution 3362 (S-VII) on development and international economic co-operation, in which Member States had agreed to reach decisions at the fourth session of UNCTAD, in particular on the improvement of market structures in the field of raw materials and commodities of export interest to developing countries. The fifth preambular paragraph affirmed the importance of the fourth session of UNCTAD in the implementation of concrete proposals, particularly on the questions emerging from the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly. In the sixth preambular paragraph, the sponsors again expressed their appreciation to the Government of Kenya for agreeing to serve as host to the fourth session of UNCTAD at Nairobi.

6. In operative paragraph 1, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixth special session, on the second part of its fourteenth session, and on its fifteenth regular session (A/10015 (parts I to IV)). In paragraph 2, the Assembly endorsed the consensus on the provisional agenda for the fourth session of UNCTAD, given in annex II to document A/10015 (part IV). In paragraph 3, it was decided that the languages of the fourth session of the Conference should be those used in the General Assembly and its Main Committees. Paragraph 4 urged all Member States to take appropriate steps with a view to ensuring complete success for the fourth session, and paragraph 5 urged them to ensure that negotiations prior to the session were action-oriented, so that the decisions taken by the Conference could be promptly and effectively implemented.

7. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

* Resumed from the 1699th meeting.

8. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretariat was currently finalizing the statement of administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution introduced by the representative of Mexico. In connexion with operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, he wished to draw attention to the fact that there might be some difficulty in providing Arabic interpretation services for the fourth session of UNCTAD, since three other major conferences—the Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Habitat Conference and a conference on humanitarian questions—would be held at about the same time. Those conferences would require the services of a very large number of Arabic interpreters, and it was to be feared that the numbers available would not be sufficient, although the Secretariat did not yet have a final report on the subject.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, bearing in mind the information given by the Secretary of the Committee, he would take it, if there were no objection, that the Committee wished to defer consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1469/Rev.1 until a later meeting, since in any event the statement of administrative and financial implications was not yet available.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 123

Development and international economic co-operation: implementation of the decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventh special session (continued)*
(A/10203, A/10211, A/C.2/296, A/C.2/299, A/C.2/L.1459, A/C.2/L.1468, A/C.2/L.1470, A/C.2/L.1472, A/C.2/L.1473, A/C.2/L.1476)

SPECIAL FUND FOR THE LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/10203, A/C.2/L.1459)

10. Mr. TARZI (Afghanistan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1459 on behalf of the sponsors, who now included Botswana and Chad, read out a number of changes which the sponsors had agreed to make in the text. In the seventh preambular paragraph, the word “no” should be replaced with the words “not enough”. A new preambular paragraph should be inserted after the eighth paragraph, reading as follows: “*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on special measures related to the particular needs of the land-locked developing countries (A/10203) with a view to the establishment of a special fund”. The wording of the next paragraph would then be changed to read: “*Recalling* its decision at its seventh special session regarding the immediate establishment of a special fund in favour of the land-locked developing countries”, and an eleventh preambular paragraph would be added, reading: “*Reaffirming further* the need to assist land-locked developing countries in accelerating and intensifying the development of their transport infrastructure”.

11. A new operative paragraph should be inserted before the single paragraph, reading as follows: “*Decides* to establish immediately a special fund for the land-locked developing countries to compensate for their additional transport and transit costs”.

12. The revised version of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1459 would be circulated shortly.

13. Reviewing the decisions and resolutions adopted in the past by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs for the benefit of land-locked developing countries, he noted that in 1957 the General Assembly, in resolution 1028 (XI), had invited Member States to accord land-locked countries, in the matter of transit trade, adequate facilities in terms of international law and practice. In 1964 the special problems of land-locked countries had been considered for the first time by UNCTAD, which had adopted eight principles relating to transit trade of land-locked countries and a proposal that had led to the convening in 1965 of a conference of Plenipotentiaries, which had adopted the Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked States.¹ The General Assembly, in resolution 2086 (XX), had requested Member States to sign and ratify that Convention as soon as possible. Later, in 1968, the second session of UNCTAD had adopted unanimously resolution 11 (II) requesting the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to establish a group of experts to carry out a comprehensive examination of the special problems involved in the promotion of the trade and economic development of land-locked countries. Next had come resolution 50 (VIII) of the Trade and Development Board and General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXIV). In 1970, the group of experts which UNCTAD had decided should be established had submitted a report to the Trade and Development Board² analysing the special difficulties of land-locked developing countries and proposing a number of ways of reducing their additional transport and transit costs. To date, no significant action had been taken to implement the recommendations of the group of experts.

14. More recently, the General Assembly had adopted resolutions 2971 (XXVII) and 3169 (XXVIII) on the subject, and in its resolution 3202 (S-VI), had called upon the industrialized countries to subsidize the additional transit and transport costs of the land-locked countries. Lastly, in resolution 3311 (XXIX), the Secretary-General had been requested to prepare the study now before the Committee (A/10203), which indicated the benefits that the land-locked countries might derive from the establishment of a special fund.

15. He would like to recall the more important special problems of land-locked countries. They included high transport costs; communication difficulties; remoteness from markets; the existence of national frontiers between the inland State and the sea, which limited access to the sea by creating institutional requirements that increased costs and reduced transport performance; under-developed transport facilities, which restricted the kinds of cargo that could be handled and increased costs, thus adversely affecting export trade; complicated transit formalities; the pricing of transit services; and difficulties in co-ordinating the dispatch of goods with the departure of vessels from distant ports.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 597, No. 8641.

² *Official Records of the Trade and Development Board, Tenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 13, document TD/B/308.

* Resumed from the 1703rd meeting.

16. It was therefore the fervent hope of his delegation that awareness of the serious difficulties experienced by the land-locked countries as a result of their geographical situation would be translated into immediate action on the part of the entire international community, in the form of a special fund. He hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1459 would be adopted by consensus.

17. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the administrative and financial implications of the original version of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1459, said that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was prepared to undertake the task of formulating proposals on the organizational arrangements of the special fund in favour of the land-locked developing countries in order to compensate for the additional transport and transit costs of those countries, and to prepare draft statutes. The task, which would be carried out in close collaboration with the UNCTAD secretariat, would have no financial implications because it would be accommodated under the relevant medium-term objectives of the programmes for development planning, projections and policies; natural resources; energy and transport; and public administration and finance.

18. In preparing the above-mentioned proposals, the Department would take due account of the related role of

the special fund under General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI), section X, paragraph 3 (*l*).

AGENDA ITEM 62

United Nations University (*continued*)* (A/10003, chap. III, sect. J; A/C.2/L.1466):

- (a) Report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/10031);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/10237)

19. Mr. VARGAS (Venezuela) said that the informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/L.1466 were not yet completed, and proposed that consideration of the draft resolution should therefore be deferred until a later meeting.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the proposal of the representative of Venezuela.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

* Resumed from the 1702nd meeting.

1706th meeting

Thursday, 27 November 1975, at 10.40 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Olof RYDBECK (Sweden).

A/C.2/SR.1706

AGENDA ITEM 60

Food problems (*concluded*)* (A/10003, chap. VI, sect. C):

- (a) Report of the World Food Council (A/10019);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/10333, A/C.2/L.1479)

1. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt), speaking as Vice-Chairman, introduced the draft resolution contained in paragraph 23 of the report of the Meeting of Interested Countries on the Establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, transmitted by the Secretary-General (A/10333). After informal consultations it had been agreed that a decision must be taken at the current session, so that the Fund could be established and start operations as early as possible in 1976. Although some delegations, particularly those of the member countries of EEC, had expressed reservations on some of the provisions of the draft resolution, notably those of paragraph 4 (*a*) and paragraph 6, concerning the establishment of the Fund as a specialized agency, it had been agreed that the draft

resolution should be adopted as it stood, on the understanding that efforts must be made to reach agreement on the controversial points at the next Meeting of Interested Countries.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the text without a vote.

The draft resolution on the establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development was adopted.

3. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said that his Government attached great importance to the Fund for Agricultural Development and was ready to make a contribution of SDR 32 million to the Fund. During the negotiations on the subject, in which it had taken an active part, his Government had urged that the Fund should be permanently established as an organ of the United Nations, because it considered it unnecessary and undesirable to give it the status of a specialized agency. However, since most of the potential donor and recipient countries did not seem to agree on that point, his delegation, which wanted the Fund

* Resumed from the 1703rd meeting.