

the review⁶⁸ of the 1955 programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies submitted by the Secretary-General,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

2. *Expresses satisfaction* with the progress made in the past year towards more effective co-ordination of the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

3. *Urges* continued efforts in this direction with special emphasis on the concentration of efforts in the light of the United Nations priority programmes established by the Council.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August 1954.*

554 (XVIII). Application from the Romanian People's Republic for membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the application⁶⁹ regarding the admission of the Romanian People's Republic to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, transmitted by that organization to the Council in accordance with article II of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Decides to inform the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that it has no objection to the admission of the Romanian People's Republic to the organization.

*805th plenary meeting,
12 July 1954.*

555 (XVIII). World calendar reform

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the proposal for a reform of the calendar by international agreement contained in document E/2514,

Feeling that to enable further consideration of the proposal it is necessary to obtain the views of governments of States Members and non-members of the United Nations on the desirability of calendar reform,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit document E/2514 and any other relevant documents to the governments of States Members and non-members of the United Nations, with the request that they study the problem and furnish their views by some time early in 1955;

2. *Decides* to consider the matter again at its resumed nineteenth session, together with the replies received from governments.

*819th plenary meeting,
28 July 1954.*

⁶⁸ See document E/2629.

⁶⁹ See document E/2614.

556 (XVIII). United Nations regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 476 A (XV) on the subject of holding regional cartographic conferences,

Taking note of the report⁷⁰ by the Secretary-General on the holding of a regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East,

Noting with appreciation the invitation of India to hold the first regional conference for Asia and the Far East in India,

Considering the satisfactory response of the governments concerned to the proposal to hold the conference in India,

1. *Decides* to hold a regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East at Dehra Dun (India) in February or early March 1955;

2. *Approves* tentatively the list of items for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the conference as given in Annex I of the Secretary-General's report;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps for the issue of invitations to the governments concerned, and to complete the other arrangements for the holding of the conference after consultation with the competent specialized agencies.

*818th plenary meeting,
27 July 1954.*

557 (XVIII). Organization and operation of the Council and its commissions

A

WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the Secretary-General's report⁷¹ on his review of the organization and work of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields and his memorandum⁷² on the control and limitation of documentation,

Recognizing the necessity for the control and limitation of documents, as well as for making a reasonable reduction in the volume of individual documents,

1. *Welcomes* the attention which the Secretary-General is giving to the above matters;

2. *Endorses* the approach adopted by the Secretary-General in the above documents to the problem of the concentration of the efforts and resources of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

3. *Expresses* its general approval of the suggestions relating to the priorities and programme set forth in

⁷⁰ See documents E/2622 and Add.1 and 2.

⁷¹ See document E/2598.

⁷² See document E/2542.

sections II, III, IV and V of the Secretary-General's report;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General, taking into account the discussions in the Council:

(a) To take such action as is appropriate to put his suggestions into effect;

(b) To submit to the commissions, for their consideration, his plans regarding publications and studies and, in this connexion, to call their attention to General Assembly resolution 789 (VIII) concerning the control and limitation of documents;

(c) Pending consideration by the commissions and any further action by the Council, to proceed with his plans in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) above;

(d) To pursue his review of the substantive work programme of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields and to furnish further reports to the Council;

5. *Transmits* the Secretary-General's report together with the records⁷³ of the discussions thereon in the Council to the specialized agencies for appropriate attention.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August 1954.*

B

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL

I

The Economic and Social Council,

Desiring to concentrate its efforts, in keeping with the priorities established by the Council, on the consideration of the major problems in the economic, social and human rights fields which require international co-operative action for their solution,

Recognizing that its agendas are so heavily burdened as to prevent adequate and thorough consideration of each item,

1. *Decides* not to consider any item more than once a year unless, in exceptional cases, the Council decides otherwise;

2. *Instructs* the commissions and their subsidiary bodies:

(a) To concentrate their efforts on issues of major importance and to avoid recommending activities not likely to make a substantial contribution to the promotion of the objectives of the United Nations;

(b) To submit to the Council for prior approval all requests for new studies or other projects which would require additional budgetary provisions or substantial changes in the work programmes;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council for its prior approval, and after consultation with the executive heads of the specialized agencies, any request made by the commissions for new studies or projects to be undertaken by the specialized agencies which would require substantial changes in the work

⁷³ See documents E/AC.24/SR.115 to 120, 122 and 123 and E/SR.796 to 798 and 829.

programmes of the specialized agencies or additional budgetary provisions;

4. *Invites* Member States to keep in mind, in proposing items for inclusion in the provisional agenda, that the agendas of the Council are already heavily burdened and that preference should be given to items which lend themselves to constructive action and for which adequate documentation is available.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August 1954.*

II

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that, if the activities of the Council, its vigilance and resources, are concentrated on the most important and pressing problems, greater results can be expected,

Considering the need for more constructive discussion of important questions before the Council, and for allowing adequate time for the preparation of the relevant documents,

Considering further the desirability of distributing the work more evenly over the year and of avoiding unnecessary duplication,

Desiring to arrange its schedule of meetings so as to facilitate the attendance of high-level representatives and experts of Member States,

1. *Decides* that:

(a) The Council shall hold two regular sessions each year;

(b) The first regular session shall begin in the last week of March and last not longer than three weeks; it shall be resumed in the third week of May for a period of approximately three weeks;

(c) The second regular session shall begin in the second week of July and last not longer than four weeks; it shall be resumed during or shortly after the General Assembly for a brief series of meetings;

2. *Decides* that:

(a) The agenda of the March session shall include a limited number of major questions in the economic, social and human rights fields—including specific aspects of economic development—other than those indicated in paragraph (b) below, which are appropriate for high-level discussion and decision;

(b) The agenda of the July session shall be mainly confined to the consideration of the world economic situation and, when appropriate, of the world social situation, and to a general review of the development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole;

(c) The agenda of the resumed part of the July session shall include:

(i) Allocation of items to sessions of the Council during the forthcoming year on the basis of a draft programme submitted by the Secretary-General;

(ii) The establishment of dates for opening debate on items allocated to the March session;

(iii) Any other items that the Council decides can appropriately be dealt with at that time, including questions arising out of the General Assembly;

(d) All other items shall so far as possible be allocated to the resumed part of the March session. * *At this session the Council shall also fix the dates for the opening of discussion on each of the items allocated to the July session;*

(e) * *At the beginning of each regular session, the Council shall, subject to rule 17 of the rules of procedure, adopt its sessional agenda on the basis of the provisional sessional agenda drawn up by the Secretary-General and considered by the Council at its preceding session and of such additional items as may be reported to it by the Secretary-General under the provisions of paragraph (f) below. It shall normally include in its sessional agenda only items for which adequate documentation has been circulated to governments six weeks in advance. It shall also allocate items between the plenary Council and committees. The sessional agenda for each regular session shall include as an item the consideration of the provisional sessional agenda drawn up by the Secretary-General for the next regular session;*

(f) * *At each session, the Secretary-General shall report to the Council regarding all items duly proposed for inclusion in the provisional sessional agenda by Member States or other authorities having the right to do so under rule 10 of the rules of procedure, with any observations he may wish to offer, including observations regarding the session of the Council at which such items might be taken up. After the Council has considered the provisional agenda for the following session, any further item proposed for that session shall be accompanied by a statement from the authority proposing it regarding the urgency of the item and the reasons which precluded its submission before the consideration by the Council of the provisional agenda for that session;*

(g) * *Major items shall normally be dealt with by the plenary Council, on the understanding that it may refer any item or any particular aspect of an item to one of its committees for study, drafting or report;*

3. Invites the Secretary-General:

(a) To introduce both the discussion of the world economic situation, assisted by appropriate officials of the Secretariat, including the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, and the discussion of the world social situation, and to make it a practice to have questions relating to the world economic situation discussed in the Council with the participation of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions;

(b) To introduce the discussion of the programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole;

4. Invites the executive heads of the specialized agencies to take an active part both in the discussion of the programmes and activities of the United Nations

* For convenience of reference, sections of resolution 414 (XIII) which are closely connected with the provisions of the present resolution are reproduced, with necessary adjustments, in italics.

as a whole and, where appropriate, in the discussions of the world economic and social situations.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August 1954.*

C

FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

I

ECONOMIC, EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Economic and Social Council,

*Recalling its decision*⁷⁴ *at the thirteenth session to discontinue the Economic, Employment and Development Commission until 31 December 1954,*

Considering the great importance which the Council attaches to the questions of economic stability, employment and development in its consideration of world economic problems,

Desiring to secure adequate and effective consideration of these problems,

Recognizing the strong desire expressed in the Council for the re-establishment of the Commission,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the question of the terms of reference of the Economic, Employment and Development Commission in the light of the decisions taken by the Council at the eighteenth session concerning the organization and operation of the Council and its commissions, and also in the light of the Council's practices since its adoption of resolution 414 (XIII) in dealing with problems falling within the terms of reference under which the Commission operated;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit his report on this question to the resumed eighteenth session of the Council;

3. *Decides* to await the Secretary-General's report before taking action concerning the re-establishment of the Economic, Employment and Development Commission.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August 1954.*

II

FISCAL COMMISSION

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind the major economic and social problems on which the Council should concentrate its attention and efforts in the immediate future,

Recognizing that the fiscal aspects of economic problems are important; that the fiscal work of the United Nations is well established; and that the Secretariat has received adequate guidance from the Fiscal Commission and the Council.

1. *Considers* that the activity of the Fiscal Commission is no longer necessary;

⁷⁴ See Council resolution 414 (XIII), paragraph 18 (b).

2. *Decides* to discontinue the activity of this Commission.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August 1954.*

III

SUB-COMMISSION ON STATISTICAL SAMPLING

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Council resolution 414 (XIII), paragraph 18 (c) concerning the discontinuance of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling until 31 December 1954,

Decides not to re-establish this Sub-Commission.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August 1954.*

IV *

SESSIONS

The Economic and Social Council,

1. *Decides* to convene annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

2. *Decides* to convene the Population Commission, the Statistical Commission, the Social Commission and the Transport and Communications Commission once every two years, unless special circumstances lead the Secretary-General to make other proposals on the subject and such proposals be approved by the Council.

V *

MEMBERSHIP

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that due regard must be given to geographical distribution and that the membership of subsidiary bodies of the Council should not reflect to too great an extent the membership of the Council itself,

Considering further that only those countries should be elected to commissions which are interested in serving thereon,

Desirous of obtaining for the commissions members with the widest possible expert knowledge and experience,

Decides to request the Secretary-General to transmit to Member States, by 15 February of each year, a communication informing them of forthcoming vacancies in the commissions to be filled by the Council and requesting them to indicate, by 15 April, upon which commissions they would be interested in serving and the experience and fields of interest of individuals who might be available to serve if the Member State concerned were elected to the commission; it being understood that governments would not thereby be prevented, if elected, from nominating different individuals, if necessary, or from sending alternates in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions.

* See footnote to page 24.

D

PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION 414 (XIII) SUPERSEDED
BY RESOLUTION 557 (XVIII)

The Economic and Social Council

Decides that the provisions contained in parts A I, B I, B IV and D of resolution 414 (XIII) are superseded by the present resolution.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August 1954.*

E

REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL

The Economic and Social Council

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare and present to the Council at the nineteenth session such draft revised rules of procedure as may be required in order to make the rules of procedure of the Council conform to the provisions of the present resolution.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August 1954.*

F

COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY TRADE

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that Council resolution 512 A (XVII) provided for the creation of a permanent advisory Commission on International Commodity Trade and postponed its constitution and organization until the eighteenth session of the Council,

Taking note of the comments from governments contained in documents E/2623 and addenda 1 to 3,

Noting that a majority of governments, either in their written comments or in their statements during the debates⁷⁵ on this question in the Council, have expressed the view that the Commission should begin its work as soon as possible, especially in view of the urgency of problems in international commodity trade which was recognized in the debates on the world economic situation and economic development,

Noting furthermore that several governments have expressed the view that, before the Commission is established, an opportunity should be given to the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to consider to what extent the problem of instability in primary commodities should be dealt with under the auspices of that Agreement,

Noting that this question will be raised at the forthcoming review of the General Agreement,

Noting also the communication⁷⁶ from the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, transmitting the views of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems concerning the relationship between its work and that of the Commission, together with t^he

⁷⁵ See documents E/AC.24/SR.125 and 127 to 132 and E/SR.796 to 798.

⁷⁶ See document E/2625.

statement of the functions and activities of the said Committee in regard to international commodity problems and trade,

Mindful of the need to provide the Commission with an efficient and adequate organization to enable it to accomplish its mission satisfactorily,

Considering that the Commission will be called upon to study some of the problems hitherto entrusted to the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements,

Decides:

1. To proceed with the immediate constitution of the Commission on International Commodity Trade on the following basis:

2. The arrangements for membership shall be as follows:

(a) The Commission on International Commodity Trade shall be composed of one representative of each of eighteen States Members of the United Nations elected by the Council, bearing in mind the need to ensure adequate representation of all geographical regions and of countries in various stages of development which participate to an important extent in international commodity trade and/or are closely dependent thereon;

(b) With the exception of the initial period, the term of office of members shall be three years;

(c) When a representative of a State member of the Commission is unable to serve for the full term of three years, the vacancy shall be filled by another representative designated by the same member State;

(d) Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election;

(e) The original members of the Commission shall be the eighteen States elected by the Council as early as possible at its resumed eighteenth session;

(f) The term of office of one-third of the members shall end on 31 December 1956, one-third on 31 December 1957, and one-third on 31 December 1958;

(g) Subsequent elections shall be conducted in accordance with the usual procedure for elections to functional commissions of the Council;

3. In carrying out its work, the Commission shall be guided by the following principles:

(a) Any Member State not represented on the Commission may bring to the Commission's attention any problem connected with international commodity trade within the Commission's terms of reference which it considers to be of special importance;

(b) Any Member State not represented on the Commission may participate in the Commission's debates on problems in which it has a direct concern; similarly, the Commission, subject to prior authorization by the Council, may invite States which are not members of the United Nations to take part in its discussions when their presence appears advisable for further clarification of the problems under study;

(c) The Commission shall establish and maintain through the Secretary-General relations with other United Nations organs, specialized agencies, international study groups and inter-governmental bodies concerned with the problem of primary commodities or with related

questions; more specifically, in the interpretation of its terms of reference and in the organization of its work, the Commission shall consult on a continuing basis with various specialized agencies and their subordinate bodies having responsibilities in the field of international commodity trade and, in particular, with the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems, so as to ensure that the most effective use is made of the work already being done in that field and to prevent duplication or overlapping with the activities of these agencies;

(d) Within the above framework, the Commission shall be authorized to inform Member and non-member States of the conclusions of its studies, to send them its reports, and to seek from them the available information it requires for its work, all such relations being conducted through the Secretary-General;

(e) The Commission shall meet as frequently as it considers necessary to discharge its work efficiently; the Commission shall meet only when specific items have been proposed for discussion;

(f) The Commission shall be authorized to hold private meetings when it considers this to be in the best interests of its work;

(g) The States members of the Commission should appoint representatives who are qualified experts familiar with the technical and practical problems of international commodity trade;

(h) Neither travel nor subsistence expenses of the representatives of members of the Commission shall be paid out of United Nations funds;

4. Subject to prior authorization by the Council, and in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly, the Commission may hold meetings away from Headquarters when it considers this to be in the best interests of its work;

5. The Commission shall submit to the Council reports on its activities, in which it may include its own recommendations;

6. The Commission may submit to the Council its views and recommendations on any changes it may consider desirable in its terms of reference, organization and rules of procedure, so as to ensure the most practical development of its work;

7. The Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements shall, for the present, continue to discharge its functions of convening inter-governmental study groups, of making recommendations to the Secretary-General on the convening of commodity conferences, and of co-ordinating the activities of the individual commodity study groups and councils; the Commission shall assume all other responsibilities hitherto discharged by the Interim Co-ordinating Committee;

8. The Council, in consultation with the Secretary-General, shall consider the status and functions of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee at its twentieth session;

9. The Council shall consider in the future the status and functions of the Commission on International Commodity Trade in the light of any important development in its field, including the results of the discussions by the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on

Tariffs and Trade, which shall be taken into account as soon as possible after these results are known;

10. The Secretary-General shall convene the first session of the Commission as early as possible in 1955; the agenda for this session shall include the following:

(a) Survey of the current situation in international commodity trade;

(b) Consideration of proposals by governments regarding international commodity problems;

(c) Consideration of terms of reference, rules of procedure and programme of work;

11. The Commission shall submit to the Council at its twentieth session the first report on its specific activities concerning international commodity trade, and include therein its observations on its terms of reference, organization, rules of procedure and work programme, taking into account the records⁷⁷ of the discussions of the Council on this subject.

*829th plenary meeting,
5 August, 1954.*

⁷⁷ See documents E/AC.24/SR.125 and 127 to 132 and E/SR.796 to 798.

Other decisions taken by the Council at its eighteenth session

Other decisions taken by the Council at its eighteenth session are noted below:

Election of one-third of the membership of the functional commissions of the Council

SOCIAL COMMISSION (*continued*)

At its 827th and 828th meetings, on 4 and 5 August 1954, the Council renewed one-third of the membership of the Statistical Commission, the Social Commission, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Transport and Communications Commission, the Population Commission and the Commission on Human Rights.

As a result of those decisions, the composition of the functional commissions for 1955 is as follows:

*Term of office
expires on
31 December*

STATISTICAL COMMISSION	
	<i>Term of office expires on 31 December</i>
Australia	1957
Canada	1955
China	1957
Cuba	1955
Denmark	1956
France	1956
India	1955
Iran	1955
Netherlands	1957
Panama	1956
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	1955
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	1957
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1956
United States of America	1957
Yugoslavia	1956

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	1956
China	1956
Czechoslovakia	1955
France	1957
Greece	1957
India	1957
Iraq	1955
Israel	1956
Norway	1955
Philippines	1957
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	1957
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1955
United States of America	1957
Uruguay	1956

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

SOCIAL COMMISSION	
Argentina	1955
Australia	1956
Belgium	1956
Brazil	1955

Argentina	1957
Australia	1957
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	1957
China	1957
Cuba	1956
Dominican Republic	1956
France	1956
Haiti	1955
Indonesia	1957
Lebanon	1955
Pakistan	1957
Poland	1956
Sweden	1956
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	1955
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1955
United States of America	1955
Venezuela	1955
Yugoslavia	1956