

1034 (XXXVII). Question of Procedures for the Revision of the Convention on Road Traffic and of the Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, done at Geneva, 19 September 1949

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 967 (XXXVI) of 25 July 1963 on the revision of the Convention on Road Traffic and of the Protocol on Road Signs and Signals done at Geneva, 19 September 1949,

Having noted that the procedure for revision of the aforesaid two instruments has been instituted again in accordance with that resolution, pursuant to a proposal by France, and that:

So far as concerns the Convention the procedure has failed,

So far as concerns the Protocol, two-thirds of the Contracting Parties have informed the Secretary-General that they are of the opinion that the amendments should be adopted without a conference being convened, with the result that the proposed amendments will shortly enter into force in conformity with article 60, paragraph 5 of the Protocol, save with respect to such Contracting Parties as may notify the Secretary-General that they object thereto,

Having noted the report¹²⁴ submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with its resolution 967 (XXXVI),

Considering that the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic should be amended in order to bring about greater uniformity of national regulations governing road traffic and national regulations on the equipment of motor vehicles and any other road vehicles, to facilitate international traffic and to develop an optimum system of road signs and signals and road markings,

Considering further that, in order to take account of the new needs which have arisen through the increase in road traffic, the 1949 Protocol on Road Signs and Signals should be amended much more radically than it would be through the adoption of the amendments now under consideration, and that these amendments should be included in a new effort, to be undertaken when the Convention is revised, to reconcile the several systems of road signs and signals, to achieve a better and as uniform as possible system of road signs and signals,

¹²⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 25, document E/3883.*

Being of the opinion, in the light of the unsuccessful attempts recently made to amend the Convention without the convening of a conference, that the 1949 Convention cannot be effectively amended or replaced otherwise than through the convening of a conference, and that this conference should take place as soon as feasible,

Taking the view, however, that the convening of such a conference should be preceded by detailed technical studies, in particular at the regional level,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare on the basis of the 1949 Convention and the draft supplementary European Convention, the draft of a revised Convention on standard rules for road traffic and draft standard technical specifications for vehicles and their equipment, and to communicate them to Member Governments and to the regional economic commissions for consideration;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with such experts as he may consider appropriate, taking into account the 1952 draft Convention and the various systems of signs and signals at present in existence, the draft of a new instrument on road signs and signals and on road marking; this text, which would be designed to replace finally the existing Protocol should lay down an optimum system based on symbolic signs; it might in addition be prefaced by certain principles to be universally applied;

3. *Invites* :

(a) The regional economic commissions to consider what could be done to bring the systems of road signs and signals in use in the countries of their regions closer to the 1952 draft convention and the 1949 Protocol;

(b) The Secretary-General and the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions to secure, for the purpose of the aforesaid tasks, the co-operation of the international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, which are competent in this field;

(c) The Secretary-General to ensure close co-ordination of the work of the regional economic commissions referred to above and to submit to the Council at its thirty-ninth session, a report on progress achieved which should include the draft instruments and any comments then received, with a view to a conference being convened as soon thereafter as may be feasible so as to minimize the delay in bringing new world-wide instruments into force.

*1350th plenary meeting,
14 August 1964.*