

OTHER DECISIONS

Simplification and standardization of documents and procedures in international trade

With respect to the simplification and standardization of documents and procedures in international trade, the Council decided at its 1625th meeting, on 31 July 1969, to take note of resolution 4 (XXIV) adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe on 23 April 1969²² and of section XII of the report of the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions held in 1969,²³ which dealt with this subject.

²² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-seventh Session*, document E/4641, part III.

²³ E/4709.

Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America

At its 1625th meeting, on 31 July 1969, the Council decided to amend the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America by adding to the end of paragraph 12 the following text:

" For those years in which the Commission does not hold a session, the Executive Secretary shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report of its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, after approval by the Chairman of the Commission and circulation to Governments of member States for their comments and any necessary modifications. "

QUESTIONS RELATING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1448 (XLVII). Problems of the human environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the problems of the human environment,²⁴

Reaffirming the importance and urgency of those problems and underlining the necessity for the complete preparatory arrangements for the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to become operative as soon as possible,

Believing that it is important that the following considerations be borne in mind during the further preparations for the Conference:

(a) A small conference secretariat should be established as soon as possible, by drawing particularly upon, with the agreement of the specialized agencies concerned, regular staff of the United Nations system, specially qualified in the environmental field;

(b) In order for the Conference to achieve its objectives it is essential that its agenda be selective, its organizational structure be simple and efficient, and that the documentation be kept reasonably limited;

(c) All efforts should be made to reduce the costs of the Conference,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

" *The General Assembly,*

" *Recalling* its decision in resolution 2398 (XXIII) of 3 December 1968 to convene in 1972 a United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and to begin immediately preparations for the Conference,

" *Having considered with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General²⁴ called for in the above-mentioned resolution,

²⁴ E/4667.

" *Recognizing* the important work on the problems of the human environment that is at present being undertaken and planned by organizations in the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and national Governments,

" 1. *Endorses in general* the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General regarding the purposes and objectives of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment;²⁵

" 2. *Affirms* that it should be the main purpose of the Conference to serve as a practical means to encourage, and to provide guidelines for, action by Governments and international organizations designed to protect and improve the human environment, and to remedy and prevent its impairment, by means of international co-operation, bearing in mind the particular importance of enabling developing countries to forestall the occurrence of such problems;

" 3. *Entrusts* to the Secretary-General the over-all responsibility for organizing and preparing for the Conference, bearing in mind the views expressed during the debates of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session²⁶ and of the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session;

" 4. *Establishes* a Preparatory Committee to advise the Secretary-General consisting of highly qualified representatives nominated by the Governments of . . . ;

" 5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to set up immediately a small conference secretariat and to appoint, at the appropriate time, a Secretary-General of the Conference;

" 6. *Moreover requests* the Secretary-General to consult with Governments of States Members of the

²⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 82-92.

²⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-seventh Session*, 1529th, 1530th and 1532nd meetings.

United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to take account of the results of other international conferences such as the meeting of governmental experts on problems relating to environment, organized by the Economic Commission for Europe, to be held at Prague in 1971, and to draw on contributions from appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

“ 7. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency to participate actively in the preparations for the Conference;

“ 8. *Invites* the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development to collaborate closely with the Secretary-General in the preparations for the Conference and to assist, as appropriate, in the work of the Preparatory Committee;

“ 9. *Invites* the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to lend every possible assistance in the preparations for the Conference;

“ 10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Preparatory Committee, to take the necessary steps, as part of the preparations for the Conference, to bring to public attention the nature and importance of the problems of the human environment;

“ 11. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to participate in the Conference;

“ 12. *Expresses the belief* that it is essential that all invited countries should be enabled to take an active part in the preparations for the Conference and in the Conference itself, and *requests* the Secretary-General to investigate what concrete steps could be taken to that end;

“ 13. *Takes note* of the outline on the range of the possible financial implications for the United Nations of the holding of the Conference presented in the Secretary-General's report²⁷ and *requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of the views expressed during the debates of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session and of the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, to make all efforts to reduce the costs of the Conference;

“ 14. *Decides* that the Conference should be of approximately two weeks' duration and *requests* the Secretary-General to take full account of that duration in preparing for the Conference;

“ 15. *Accepts with appreciation* the invitation of the Government of Sweden²⁸ to hold the Conference in Sweden in June 1972;

²⁷ See E/4667, paras. 139-143.

²⁸ A/7514.

“ 16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a brief progress report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session.”

*1632nd plenary meeting,
6 August 1969.*

1454 (XLVII). Future institutional arrangements for science and technology

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the views of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development on the future arrangements for the Advisory Committee,²⁹

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General on the arrangements for the transfer of operative technology to developing countries,³⁰ and the comments thereon of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,³¹

Noting Trade and Development Board resolution 48 (VII) of 21 September 1968,³²

Noting further the growing involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system in the problems of the application of science and technology to development,

Recognizing the need for a continuing effort towards an orderly intensification of activities, on the part of all organizations concerned, designed to promote economic and social development in developing countries,

Noting the particular concern of the developing countries with the arrangements for the transfer of patented and non-patented technology likely to promote the economic development of developing countries,

Recognizing that none of the existing United Nations bodies deals exclusively with the specific question of the transfer of operative technology to developing countries,

1. *Recognizes* the need for the reinforcement and co-ordination of present and contemplated activities, including the desirability of the establishment of an intergovernmental machinery in the field of the application of science and technology to development;

2. *Decides* to consider, after ascertaining the views of the Governments of Member States and those of the organizations concerned within the United Nations system and of other intergovernmental organizations concerned, how best to meet the needs for reinforcement and co-ordination and the place and role of any intergovernmental machinery that may be set up;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in pursuance of paragraph 2 above, a comprehensive report to the Council at its forty-ninth session in the light of the

²⁹ E/4611/Add.1.

³⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-sixth Session, Annexes, agenda item 8, document E/4633.*

³¹ E/4722.

³² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/7214), part two, annex 1.*