

second session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, a report on the existing technical assistance of the United Nations system of organizations to the developing countries as well as on the steps envisaged to assist those countries in improving their statistical services with a view to meeting the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

*1747th plenary meeting,
3 May 1971.*

1568 (L). Preparation for the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision taken at the forty-eighth session that a Conference on International Container Traffic should be convened jointly by the United Nations and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization,⁷

Having received the Secretary-General's note on the preparation for the Conference,⁸

Aware that technological advancements in international container transport have important economic implications for conditions of development in developing countries,

Recognizing the desirability of more extensive discussion among Governments with respect to elaborating more precisely the scope and objectives of the Conference,

Noting that the Conference is supposed to deal, among other questions, with the legal problems concerning in particular the liability of combined transport operators and related questions,

Noting that a preliminary draft of a Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods (TCM) has been considered by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe,

Noting further that the Committee on Shipping of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in its resolution 17 (V) of 3 April 1971,⁹ recommended that the Economic and Social Council be invited to consider undertaking a study on the economic implications, in particular for developing countries, of the proposed Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods so that such implications may be fully taken into account,

1. *Agrees* that the Conference on International Container Traffic should begin at Geneva on 13 November 1972 and that it should not extend beyond five weeks;

2. *Stresses* that the Conference should have its scope limited to the international aspects of containerization, including in particular those international aspects related to combined transport and its requirements, and that this scope should not comprehend over-all transport control;

3. *Stresses further* that the Conference should have as its guiding principle the development and facilitation of container traffic on a global basis while safeguarding the interests of the developing countries;

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Resumed Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A* (E/4832/Add.1 and Corr.1), p. 17.

⁸ E/4963.

⁹ See E/L.1380.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ascertain the views of Governments of Member States as to their priorities for the Conference from among the topics and areas of action referred to in the decision taken by the Council at its forty-eighth session;

5. *Requests further* that a small intergovernmental preparatory group, half of its members to be designated by the President of the Economic and Social Council and the other half by the Chairman of the Council of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, with due regard to geographical representation, be convened as early as practicable to review the responses of Governments and propose a specific provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council;

6. *Requests also* that the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, and in consultation with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, prepare a study on the economic implications, in particular for developing countries, of the proposed Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods, such study to be conducted with the assistance of experts, after ascertaining the views of Governments of Member States on those aspects and questions which in their view require clarification;

7. *Requests also* that the Secretary-General distribute the study to the Governments of Member States as soon as it is available;

8. *Invites* the Committee on Shipping of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization to review the matter in the light of the results of the study in order to consider whether the draft Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods or alternative proposals are ready for international consideration.

*1757th plenary meeting,
10 May 1971.*

1569 (L). Preparation for the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision taken at the forty-eighth session that a Conference on International Container Traffic should be convened jointly by the United Nations and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization,¹⁰

Having considered the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General in his note on the preparation for the Conference,¹¹

Decides that all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency and, in an advisory capacity, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and also, as observers, interested intergovernmental organizations and interested non-governmental organizations having con-

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A* (E/4832/Add.1 and Corr.1), p. 17.

¹¹ E/4963.

sultative status with the Council or having such status or special working arrangements with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization shall be invited to the Conference.

*1760th plenary meeting,
12 May 1971.*

1570 (L). International co-operation in cartography

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East,¹² which was held at Teheran from 24 October to 7 November 1970,

Appreciating the valuable contributions of the Conference to economic and social development in furthering cartographic work in the countries of the region,

Noting the recommendation of the Conference that a Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East be convened during October/November 1973,

Noting also with appreciation that the Government of Japan has offered to act as host to the conference and to extend full co-operation in this regard,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, and to convene in Japan in the second half of 1973 the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, including the sending of invitations to Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies and to the specialized agencies concerned and other interested international organizations;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take practical measures for the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations of the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East.

*1762nd plenary meeting,
13 May 1971.*

1571 (L). International co-operation with a view to the use of computers and computation techniques for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering General Assembly resolution 2458 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 concerning the role of computer technology in development,

Recalling that during the Second United Nations Development Decade the application of science and technology should make a vital contribution to the economic and social advancement of all countries, particularly the developing countries, and that computer technology is destined to play a leading role in this process,

Noting with satisfaction the result of the action taken by the organizations in the United Nations system to strengthen co-operation among Member States as regards the application of science and technology to development,

¹²E/4943 and Add.1.

Realizing, however, that the application of computer technology to development for which there is still very wide scope for international co-operation, requires considerable efforts by all Member States and particularly by the developing countries,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled *The Application of Computer Technology for Development*,¹³ prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2458 (XXIII),

Noting that the report, which is the first comprehensive study of this important question in the United Nations, still does not cover all aspects of the question, particularly as regards data concerning the developing countries,

1. *Takes note* with interest of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate the report widely to the Governments of Member States and to international governmental and non-governmental organizations interested in the application of computer technology to development, so as to elicit their comments on the conclusions and recommendations in the report;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and with the assistance of the specialized agencies concerned, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization aided by the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics, to prepare for the fifty-third session of the Council another report on this subject, which should take into account the discussion of the current report in the Council and in the General Assembly and the comments made on it by the Governments and organizations consulted;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme to consider granting to developing countries, at their request and with the help of the specialized agencies concerned, suitable assistance for the application of computer technology to development;

5. *Urges* the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the other international organizations concerned to help the Secretary-General to promote international co-operation among Member States in the application of computer technology to development.

*1763rd plenary meeting,
14 May 1971.*

1572 (L). Report of the Committee on Natural Resources

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SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970 by which it established the Committee on Natural Resources,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its first session,¹⁴

¹³E/4800 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.71.II.A.1).

¹⁴*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session. Supplement No. 6 (E/4969).*