



**Economic and Social
Council**

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Resumed organizational session for 1996

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 2 May 1996, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued)
(A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 and Corr.1, E/1996/2/Add.2, E/1996/13, E/1996/17,
E/1996/41)

The PRESIDENT said that the General Assembly had decided to authorize the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed organizational session, to decide on the question of the accreditation to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) of the non-governmental organizations that had not been recommended for accreditation by the Conference secretariat. Informal consultations on that question were currently taking place.

Turning to the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 1995 session (E/1996/17), he drew attention to the four draft decisions contained in paragraph 1 which were recommended for adoption by the Council.

Draft decisions I to IV

Draft decisions I to IV were adopted.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development (E/1996/13) and the note from the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) requesting the Council to consider transmitting the report to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-first session.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) inquired whether the Secretariat had given formal consideration to any possible financial implications of such a decision.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the Budget Division had assured the Secretariat that the decision would have no financial implications.

The PRESIDENT said he would take it that the Council decided to transmit the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development to the General Assembly for its consideration at its fifty-first session.

It was so decided.

INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (continued) (E/1996/20, E/1996/21, E/1996/L.14)

The PRESIDENT recalled that the General Assembly had before it a recommendation by the Council to increase the membership of the Executive Committee of the programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 50 to 51 members. In that connection, he drew attention to draft decision E/1996/L.14 entitled "Enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that his Government wished to reiterate the importance it attached to its membership in the governing body of UNHCR. Its governance structure was unlike that of other bodies in the United Nations system and the sense of cooperation among members was strong. While it was important for interested States to have an opportunity to become members, certain criteria should be applied to candidates for membership. For example, States requesting membership should have ratified either the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. Facilitation of the work of the High Commissioner, through contributions in kind, in cash or as a refugee host country would also be useful information for the General Assembly to consider in taking its decisions on membership. Such information should be provided well in advance so that members could give it due consideration before formally approving new membership requests.

Draft decision E/1996/L.14 was adopted.

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued) (E/1996/2/Add.1)

Commission on Human Settlements

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 19 members of the Commission on Human Settlements for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Information regarding the Commission was given in document E/1996/L.9. Since the number of candidates in all groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed by those groups, and to postpone until a later stage the election of five members from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Eastern European States and two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Bangladesh, Belgium, China, France, Italy, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden were elected members of the Commission on Human Settlements.

The PRESIDENT said that the Philippines was a candidate for one of the two vacant posts from the Group of Asian States postponed from previous sessions for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999. He would take it that the Council wished to elect the Philippines by acclamation and to postpone to a later stage the election of one member from the Group of African States and one member from the Group of Asian States.

The Philippines was elected a member of the Commission on Human Settlements.

Statistical Commission

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect eight members of the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Information regarding the Commission was given in document E/1996/L.6. Since the number of candidates in all groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

The Czech Republic, India, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Statistical Commission.

The PRESIDENT said that in addition, the Secretariat had received the candidacy of Colombia to fill the remaining vacancy postponed from a previous session from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999. He would take it that the Council wished to elect Colombia by acclamation.

Colombia was elected a member of the Statistical Commission.
Commission for Social Development

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Commission for Social Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Information regarding the Commission, including the distribution of seats, was given in document E/1995/L.6. Since the number of candidates in the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies in those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed by

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those groups, and to postpone until a later stage the election of two members from the Group of African States.

Chile, China, India, Jamaica and Poland were elected members of the Commission for Social Development.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from the Group of Western European and other States was greater than the number of vacancies, the Council would proceed to a secret ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Akbar (Pakistan) and Ms. Scampini (Paraguay) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	54
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	54
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	54
<u>Required majority:</u>	28
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Finland	48
Netherlands	41
Canada	40
Malta	28

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Canada, Finland and the Netherlands were elected members of the Commission for Social Development.

Commission on Human Rights (E/1996/L.6)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 15 members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. In that connection, he drew the Council's attention to document E/1996/L.6.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) read out the following list of candidates: Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Japan for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States; Albania, the Czech Republic, Hungary and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the one vacancy to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Uruguay for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Germany, Ireland and Italy for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and Other States. There were

currently no candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States.

Mr. APUNTE (Observer for Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that Bolivia had withdrawn its candidature.

Ms. GRANT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, said that the four candidatures had been endorsed by that Group.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to the number of vacancies for that Group, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation, and to postpone to a later stage the election of four members from the Group of African States.

It was so decided.

Austria, Germany, Ireland and Italy were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.

The PRESIDENT said that since there were more candidates from the Group of Asian States, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States than there were vacancies, the Council would proceed to a secret ballot, the number of vacancies to be filled being three for the Group of Asian States, one for the Group of Eastern European States and three for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Kirsch (Luxembourg) and Ms. Makoetje (Lesotho) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Group of Asian States

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	54
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	54
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	54
<u>Required majority:</u>	28

Number of votes obtained:

Indonesia	49
Japan	48
China	45
Cambodia	18
Islamic Republic of Iran	1

Having obtained the required majority, China, Indonesia and Japan were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.

Group of Eastern European States

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	54
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	54
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	54
<u>Required majority:</u>	28
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Czech Republic	32
Hungary	18
Albania	3
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1

Having obtained the required majority, the Czech Republic was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights.

Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	54
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	1
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	53
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	53
<u>Required majority:</u>	27
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Uruguay	46
Argentina	40
Ecuador	36
Guatemala	25

Having obtained the required majority, Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.

Commission on the Status of Women (E/1996/L.6)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the following 12 countries were candidates: Japan, Pakistan and Thailand for the two vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States; Belarus and Poland for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Haiti, Paraguay and Peru for the two vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, France, Germany and the United Kingdom for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and Other States.

The PRESIDENT said that no candidates had yet been proposed for the vacancies to be filled by African States. He invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Amoah (Ghana) and Ms. Wahbi (Sudan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	54
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	54
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	54
<u>Required majority:</u>	28
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Japan	41
Thailand	37
Pakistan	29

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Japan and Thailand were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of Eastern European States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Amoah (Ghana) and Ms. Wahbi (Sudan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	54
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	54
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Poland 36

Belarus 18

Having obtained the required majority, Poland was elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Amoah (Ghana) and Ms. Wahbi (Sudan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Peru 43

Paraguay 42

Haiti 22

Uruguay 1

Having obtained the required majority, Paraguay and Peru were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Western European and Other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Amoah (Ghana) and Ms. Wahbi (Sudan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

United Kingdom	44
France	42
Canada	37
Germany	37

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Two candidates having received an equal number of votes, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	54
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	54
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	54
<u>Required majority:</u>	28
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	

Canada	27
Germany	27

The PRESIDENT said that the result of the vote would be decided by drawing lots, in accordance with rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure.

Germany, having been drawn by lot by the President, was elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.