

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

Summary records of the meetings, held in New York, from 8 to 10 January
and from 17 April to 18 May 1973

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

(8-10 January 1973)

1847th meeting

Monday, 8 January 1973, at 11.30 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Károly SZARKA (Hungary).

President: Mr. Sergio A. FRAZÃO (Brazil).

E/SR.1847

Opening of the session

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the fifty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council and welcomed the representatives of the Council's new members.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents for 1973

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

2. Mr. SEIGNORET (Trinidad and Tobago) nominated Mr. Sergio A. Frazão (Brazil) as President.

3. Mr. GUEVARA ARZE (Bolivia), Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America), Mr. SINGH (Malaysia), Mr. IPOTO EYEBU BAKAND'ASI (Zaire), Mr. HEMANS (United Kingdom) and Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the nomination.

Mr. Frazão (Brazil) was elected President by acclamation.

4. The PRESIDENT thanked the Council for honouring his country by electing him. He would strive to continue the work of the outgoing President, Mr. Szarka, who had shown patience and understanding in guiding the Council in its many achievements during the previous year.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

5. Mr. ROUGÉ (France) nominated Mr. Edouard Ghorra (Lebanon) as one of the three Vice-Presidents.

6. Mr. BENCHEIKH (Algeria) supported the nomination.

Mr. Ghorra (Lebanon) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

7. Mr. SINGH (Malaysia) nominated Mr. Blaise Rabetafika (Madagascar) as Vice-President.

8. Mr. IPOTO EYEBU BAKAND'ASI (Zaire) supported the nomination.

Mr. Rabetafika (Madagascar) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

9. Mr. NAKAGAWA (Japan) nominated Mr. J. V. Scott (New Zealand) as Vice-President.

10. Mr. ABDOULAYE (Niger) supported the nomination.

Mr. Scott (New Zealand) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

11. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 20 of the amended rules of procedure, he would, after consultation with the officers just elected, inform the Council of his recommendations regarding the chairmanship of each of the sessional committees.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda (E/5222)

12. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the provisional agenda for the organizational meetings of the fifty-fourth session in document E/5222. He also recalled the proposal made by Ghana at the resumed fifty-third session (1845th meeting) that rule 82 of the rules of procedure, which specified that States elected to the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should be members of the Council, should be suspended in order to permit the election of States which were additional members of the sessional committees. He suggested that the question should be taken up before the adjournment of the next meeting; that would allow members of the Council to consult on the matter in the meantime.

13. If there were no comments, he would take it that the Council decided to adopt the provisional agenda (E/5222).

It was so decided.

14. Mr. SEIGNORET (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Spain and his own country, proposed that, in view of the earthquake that had recently struck Nicaragua, the agenda should be revised under rule 17 of the rules of procedure in order to include an item relating to measures to be taken as a consequence of that disaster. Those delegations also requested that the item should be considered with the least possible delay.

15. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) supported that proposal.

16. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda as item 8.

It was so decided.

17. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with the decision taken by the Council in resolution 1621 A (LI), paragraph 4, all substantive items on the Council's agenda should be allocated to the sessional committees. He therefore suggested that the Council should activate the Economic Committee to consider agenda item 5 (Recommendations of the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic). That would accord with the practice followed in the previous year.

18. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt that suggestion.

It was so decided.

Organization of work

19. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should proceed immediately, under item 3 (Elections), to the election of the 27 additional members of the sessional committees of the Council for 1973 in order that they might be invited to take their places at the Council table and participate in the debate on the other items.

20. The remaining elections, as well as item 4 (Confirmation of members of functional commissions of the Council), could be taken up at a subsequent meeting, which would allow time for the regional groups to consider the nominations they wished to submit. In view of the urgency of the situation, the Council might

wish to consider item 8, on measures to be taken following the earthquake in Nicaragua, at the next meeting. After concluding consideration of that item, it might wish to consider the matter of suspending rule 82 of the rules of procedure. Thereafter, it might consider the suggestion in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's note (E/5220) on the establishment of a Committee on Candidatures in connexion with the election of members of the International Narcotics Control Board. On 9 January the Economic Committee could consider agenda item 5 and on the day after that the plenary could take up items 6 (Actions arising out of decisions of the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session) and 7 (Basic programme of work of the Council in 1973 and consideration of the provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session), and subsequently revert to items 3 and 4. It could also consider the Economic Committee's report on item 5.

21. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to proceed as he had outlined.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Elections

ELECTION OF 27 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1973 (E/L.1522)

22. The PRESIDENT drew attention to paragraph 3 of document E/L.1522, which showed the distribution of the additional seats. He invited the Secretary of the Committee to read out the list of candidates for each group.

23. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) said that the following seven candidates were being submitted by the group of African States: Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Senegal, Sudan and Tunisia. The following three candidates were being submitted by the group of socialist States of Eastern Europe: Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Yugoslavia. The following six candidates were being submitted by the group of Western European and other States: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Sweden and Turkey.

24. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of the candidates in question was equal to the number of vacancies in each of the three instances, there was no need to take a vote. If he heard no objection, he would assume that the Council wished to elect them.

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Italy, Kenya, Romania, Senegal, the Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Yugoslavia were elected additional members of the sessional committees of the Council by acclamation.

25. The PRESIDENT invited the Secretary of the Council to read out the list of candidates submitted by the Asian group and by the Latin American group.

26. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) said that the following seven candidates were being submitted by the Asian group to fill six existing vacancies: Democratic Yemen, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Yemen. The following six candidates were being submitted by the Latin American group to fill five vacancies: Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela.

27. The PRESIDENT said that if the number of candidates receiving the required majority exceeded the number of vacancies he would take it that the Council wished to follow the procedure of the General Assembly, under which those candidates receiving the lesser number of votes were considered as having been withdrawn.

It was so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Bennet (New Zealand) and Mr. Nishizaki (Japan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 25

Invalid ballots: 0

Number of valid ballots: 25

Abstentions: 0

Number of members voting: 25

Required majority: 13

Number of votes obtained:

Asian States:

India	22
Indonesia	22
Pakistan	21
Yemen	21
Philippines	20
Sri Lanka	20
Democratic Yemen	15
Bhutan	1
Kuwait	1
Nepal	1

28. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with the decision taken earlier (see para. 27 above), Democratic Yemen would be considered as having been withdrawn.

Having obtained the required majority, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Yemen were elected additional members of the sessional committees of the Council.

Latin American States:

Peru	24
Argentina	23
Venezuela	23
Colombia	21
Barbados	17
Mexico	13

29. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with the decision taken earlier, Mexico would be considered as having been withdrawn.

Having obtained the required majority, Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela were elected additional members of the sessional committees of the Council.

30. The PRESIDENT, in accordance with the decision taken by the Council at its fifty-second session (1814th meeting), invited the additional members to take their places at the Council table and participate fully, without the right to vote, in the debates of the Council.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.

1848th meeting

Monday, 8 January 1973, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Sergio A. FRAZÃO (Brazil).

E/SR.1848

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Gilbert Yates

1. The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. Gilbert Yates, who had been the first Secretary of the Council, from 1946 to 1952, had died. On behalf of the Council, he expressed sympathy to Mrs. Yates and her daughter and stressed the outstanding services Mr. Yates had rendered to the United Nations.

2. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that, while Secretary of the Council, Mr. Yates, with whom he had worked in close collaboration for several years, had given proof of a competence, a devotion to duty and a spirit of self-sacrifice which were seldom equalled. On behalf of both his country and himself, he associated himself with the President's statement and emphasized that Mrs. Yates herself was also remembered in the Organization as a remarkably competent official.

3. Mr. HEMANS (United Kingdom) said that the death of Mr. Yates, who had been British, was a loss for the Organization. As the first Secretary of the Council he had set an example and his memory would live on, particularly with those who had been serving the Organization for very many years. It was to be hoped that the spirit of continuity he had created would be perpetuated.

Organization of work

4. The PRESIDENT said that, following consultations with the three Vice-Presidents of the Council, and if there were no objections, he wished to suggest that Mr. Ghorra should serve as Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee, Mr. Rabetafika as Chairman of the Social Committee, and Mr. Scott as Chairman of the Economic Committee.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Measures to be taken following the earthquake in Nicaragua (E/L.1534)

5. Mr. ROVIRA (Spain), recalling that his country had been elected a member of the Council by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session, said that he was gratified to be able to take part in the work of a particularly important United Nations body.

6. He congratulated the President and Vice-Presidents on their election. Under the guidance of Mr. Frazão, the Council would undoubtedly perform its task efficiently.