

counteracted by a surplus in a number of other industrialized countries, and it was that imbalance in the system as a whole which had contributed to the spread of inflation. The purpose of the reform should be to restore stable exchange rates and to ensure that balance-of-payments adjustments could be made promptly and effectively. One positive factor was that the changes in exchange rates over the past two years provided a basis for restoring a better balance in international payments; the United States balance of payments was improving very strongly, and by 1974 the balance of payments of some major countries might be close to equilibrium, which would afford a further opportunity for bringing inflation under control. Another major requisite for inflation control was to ensure a balance between supply and demand, and in addition increases in wages and prices must be slowed down. In general, there was hope for some progress on those important issues.

29. The relationship between monetary reform and development was obviously of special interest to the Council. Many delegations had stressed the importance of the link between SDRs and development assistance and, while there was as yet no consensus on a specific solution to that problem, the agreement reached during the negotiations concerning reform that there was a need to promote an increased flow of resources to the developing countries was a major development. That differences of opinion persisted as to the best way of achieving that aim was perhaps understand-

able, in view of the difficult nature of the problem and of the fact that any solution which was adopted should not have unfavourable or inflationary consequences for the monetary system as a whole. Nevertheless, there was a general will to make progress; one of the four working groups established to prepare for the reform was engaged in studying the possibility of promoting the flow of resources to the developing countries.

30. It would not be appropriate for him to comment before the Council on the specific suggestions made by delegations in connexion with matters still under negotiation. His main task was to promote agreement on all of those matters and to ensure that the final result was a world monetary order which would promote the common welfare and receive the support of all countries. The common interest in reaching agreement was much more important than differences of opinion on details. At the Nairobi meeting, the representative of Japan had commented that all countries must be winners in the negotiations; he hoped that during the coming year the world would succeed in winning the battle of monetary reform.

31. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to take note with appreciation of the report of the International Monetary Fund.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

1885th meeting

Thursday, 18 October 1973, at 3.30 p.m.

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

E/SR.1885

AGENDA ITEM 4

Report of the Trade and Development Board (E/5423 and Add.1 and 2)

1. Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that since the fifty-fifth session, when he had addressed the Council (1870th meeting), the international economic situation in the world had not changed substantially, nor had the balance of hopes and fears.

2. Two important meetings had been held: the ministerial meeting under the auspices of GATT in Tokyo, where multilateral trade negotiations had got off to a successful start; and the meeting on international monetary reform of the IMF Committee on Reform of the International Monetary System and Related Issues (Committee of 20) and of its Governing Board and the Board of Governors of the World Bank in Nairobi. These two questions were interrelated and it was to be hoped that each process would reinforce the other.

3. The report of the Trade and Development Board was divided into three parts covering three sessions held earlier in the year, namely the fifth special session, the second part of the twelfth session, and the

thirteenth session. It dealt with the discussions held and the conclusions which had emerged from the third session of UNCTAD, held in Santiago in April and May 1972.

4. The relations between UNCTAD and the Economic and Social Council had always been very constructive. He had had the opportunity of discussing with the President of the Trade and Development Board the task of UNCTAD as defined in General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) in relation to the broader tasks of the Council, particularly co-ordination, which was very important for UNCTAD as it was for all United Nations bodies working in the economic and social field. He was confident that the enlargement of the Council would lead to the satisfactory completion of the action undertaken to rationalize its work that UNCTAD's role would be strengthened thereby on the basis of resolution 1995 (XIX).

5. At the fifth special session of the Board, opinions had differed as to whether any progress had been made in implementing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and, if so, what degree of progress had actually been achieved. It was too early to make final judgements. Yet there had been a consensus that new and greater efforts were needed to ensure that enough

progress could be made by the mid-term review in order to achieve the goals of the Decade.

6. Countries which had not yet taken steps to implement the Strategy could best promote its objectives by incorporating them in their national policies in accordance with their particular circumstances and resources. Only in that way could a more rational and just international division of labour, which was in itself one of the objectives of the Strategy, be achieved.

7. The interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system was well recognized. Board resolution 95 (XII) had stressed that body's contribution to a co-ordinated approach in those matters, and a special meeting of UNCTAD would probably be held early in 1974 to discuss it, as required.

8. UNCTAD took a keen interest and had been following with great concern the question of reform of the international monetary system. It had taken part in the meetings of the Committee of 20, where it had sought to lay the foundation of a monetary system which would take into account the interest of the developing countries as well as others. It continued to lay stress on the need to create a link between special drawing rights and additional development finance. Substantial progress had been made in the Committee of 20, but some doubts had still been expressed. It was hoped that a positive political decision would soon be reached.

9. UNCTAD was following closely the preliminary stages of the multilateral trade negotiations being carried out within the framework of GATT. He was confident that arrangements would be made to ensure that UNCTAD was represented, as appropriate, on the trade negotiating committee which had been created at the Tokyo meeting and would thus be enabled to continue to monitor the negotiations, which he hoped would lead to positive results.

10. At the thirteenth session of the Board, trade between countries with different economic and social systems had been discussed; bilateral consultations had been held within its framework and questions of general interest had also been taken up.

11. The intensive intergovernmental consultations on commodities, which had resulted in the adoption of a resolution with reservations by some delegations, illustrated the difficulties encountered in UNCTAD in discussing problems vital to both developing and developed countries. In fact, however, the Board had been able to proceed with its works, and a number of important decisions had been taken in the field of commodities. UNCTAD was co-operating with FAO and other bodies, each working within its own sphere of competence. A working group had been assigned to reconsider the conceptual approach to goals and financial resources flows, and it was hoped that a redefinition might be made by mid-Decade. Some progress had been made in the approach to the complex and vexing problem of indebtedness. Until recently it had been felt that each case should be studied individually, but now in a committee of experts, a broader view would be taken of the practical difficulties experienced by the countries most concerned, especially the debtor countries.

12. One very important activity in the shipping field was the preparatory work being undertaken on a code

of conduct for liner conferences. The adoption of such a code would be a major step forward for the developing countries since they had not been able to participate fully in the decision-making process in that field. The possibility of a code of conduct for the transfer of technology was also under consideration.

13. He referred to the initiative taken in Santiago by the President of Mexico, President Luis Echeverría Alvarez, regarding a charter of the economic rights and duties of States. The working group of intergovernmental experts which was drafting the charter had met on two occasions and its report had been transmitted to the Assembly. It was to be hoped that, since the progress already made provided a sufficient basis for future work, the working group's mandate would be extended, and that that work would develop within the framework of UNCTAD, as recommended by the Board.

14. Everyone was aware of UNCTAD's concern for the least developed countries, the land-locked countries and developing island countries; several decisions had been taken by the Board during 1973 on those subjects.

15. The Council had initiated important work on the multinational corporations and UNCTAD had been associated since the outset with that work. UNCTAD had established the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices and he was sure that the activities of those corporations should be subject to certain guidelines which would enhance the positive aspects and control the negative impact.

16. UNCTAD had also been developing operational activities, in particular technical assistance, and the UNCTAD-GATT International Trade Centre had been playing an important part in them. He expressed appreciation of those countries which had made voluntary contributions to the Trade Centre, which now were of the same magnitude as the contribution received from UNDP.

17. Everyone was aware that international co-operation was not all that it should be. Despite some welcome exceptions, the over-all situation was not improving. It was essential to mobilize international public opinion, particularly in the developed countries, to instil the required dynamism. There was now an opportunity to ensure that all countries, including the developing countries, would derive substantial benefits from the international economic order which must replace the present disorder. The gap between rich and poor had to be narrowed between countries and within the countries of the third world, some of whose people lived in subhuman conditions while others enjoyed a privileged position. The greatest responsibility at the international level lay with those countries which had the bulk of financial and technical resources and, at the national level, with the Governments of the countries of the third world. He hoped that in the next few years there would be concurrent progress at both levels.

18. Mr. ABHYANKAR (India) said that unlike the previous year when, after the third session of UNCTAD, there had been great interest in the reports both of the Conference and of the Trade and Development Board, in the current review and appraisal year the situation was quite different. However, the work of the fifth special session of the Trade and Development Board had provided the opportunity of conducting a sectoral review of items within UNCTAD's terms of reference.

It was to be regretted that that special session had not come up with an agreed sectoral evaluation; nevertheless, the text for consideration in the General Assembly owed much to the work of that special session.

19. As the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had recently indicated, the International Development Strategy was a time-bound action programme which was to be adhered to faithfully. While sectoral appraisals were either deficient or non-existent in other areas, the Trade and Development Board had attempted a comprehensive review and appraisal exercise within its terms of reference.

20. Since the adoption of resolution 1995 (XIX), there had been considerable discussion about exactly what the competence of UNCTAD was. Emphasis on monetary questions and new topics such as shipping had been questioned. Resolution 841 (III) adopted at the third session of UNCTAD and resolution 95 (XII) adopted at the twelfth session of the Board regarding the interdependence of monetary, trade and finance issues were worth reflection since the implications of interdependence had yet to be widely recognized.

21. There was interdependence between monetary and trade issues, and a link between trade and development finance. Regarding the latter, the relative orders of magnitude involved were interesting. In 1970, the total exports of the developing countries had amounted to \$U.S. 62,000 million; official development assistance had amounted to \$U.S. 6,800 million and private long-term capital inflows to \$U.S. 7,600 million. Aid and investment were worth less than a quarter of exports. It could thus be argued that in aggregate balance-of-payments terms, a 10 per cent increase in export earnings was worth a 40 per cent increase in aid plus investment, and a 90 per cent increase in aid alone.

22. There was also a clear connexion between monetary issues and the broader issue of development finance. Monetary reform was not only concerned with interest-rate adjustment, the control of "hot money" flows, etc. in the short term, but, in the long term, with creating a monetary system which would increase the flow of development finance to the developing countries. At the fifty-fourth session of the Council, the representative of India, speaking on the concept of collective economic security, had discussed the much-debated proposal to establish a link between special drawing rights and additional development finance. He had stressed that the link was not yet another unilateral form of assistance to developing countries, but that the developed countries also stood to gain. He would like to revert to that point in the General Assembly.

23. He was sure that the activity of UNCTAD since its inception had been both natural and beneficial. But UNCTAD could not be seen as a trade union of developing countries or as an institution for the impatient. The growing universality of its membership was testimony to the fact that it was of use to all countries. The forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations would affect trade arrangements for some time to come, and UNCTAD must have an adequate role: i.e., the work of the permanent machinery of UNCTAD, which had been going on in specific sectors and commodities over the years, had to be taken into account within the context of over-all multilateral trade negotiations.

24. Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) said that, due to the late arrival of the reference documents, he wished to

make preliminary comments only and reserved the right to revert to the item in the General Assembly.

25. Romania's participation in UNCTAD had always been guided by a desire for effective measures in the economic and financial field which would support the efforts of the developing countries. Those problems took pride of place in the International Development Strategy, which consisted of action programmes for the Second United Nations Development Decade. In connexion with the present first appraisal of the objectives and policies of the Strategy, his delegation regretted that no agreed decision had emerged from the deliberations of the Trade and Development Board. There was a need for the Board and other bodies of UNCTAD to give greater attention to a review of the problems of the Strategy, in close relation to the aims of their activities. Members should manifest their political will to deal more effectively, *inter alia* through negotiations, with the problems of trade and international economic and financial co-operation. New practical measures were required to promote and improve trade in the developing countries, as well as the transfer of technology to those countries. Stress should be laid both on the need to orchestrate the efforts made in GATT and UNCTAD, and on broader co-operation with other United Nations specialized agencies. At the thirteenth session of the Trade and Development Board, his delegation had been pleased to take part in the established practice of holding bilateral talks with other delegations. Such co-operation augured well for the future.

26. The position of his delegation on the international economic and social situation and, by implication, on the goals and targets of UNCTAD, was based on his country's social system and level of development. All problems should be settled by the direct participation of the countries concerned and by respect for their interests. Every State had the right, in exercising the attributes inherent in its sovereignty, to define its own level of development on the basis of an objective analysis of its internal economic realities and the structure of its foreign trade.

27. His delegation had therefore been dissatisfied to note the inappropriate way in which the secretariat of UNCTAD had presented the position of Romania, a socialist developing country, in its statistics and in other documents of the previous UNCTAD session. The statistical bodies of the United Nations should see to it that specialist publications, basing themselves on scientific criteria, should properly reflect the data relating to the economic position of States, taking into account differences in level of development, the structure of the economy and the nature of foreign trade. As for the classification of countries, similar criteria should be used for the level of economic development, regardless of the social system or geographical situation. That would give greater objectivity and balance to the efforts of the international community to improve economic relations between States, and to remove economic disparities.

28. His delegation welcomed decision 98 (XIII) adopted at the previous session of the Board, which recommended extending the terms of reference of the Working Group on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The decision had been adopted by consensus, and laid a solid basis for a satisfactory conclusion of the drafting of the charter. It was of great significance in the codification of the rules govern-

ing international economic co-operation in the interests of all States, particularly the developing countries and could help to increase international trade with a view to accelerating economic development.

29. Mr. ZAHKAN (Egypt) said that the statement by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had provided a useful account of the work of UNCTAD pursuant to the resolutions adopted at the third session of the Conference and at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly. The part of the report of the Trade and Development Board covering its thirteenth session (see E/5423/Add.2) had been received too late for delegations to study it, and accordingly the Council was not in a position to take note of the documentation before it on a fully informed basis. His delegation therefore reserved the right to state its views at greater length in the Second Committee.

30. In approaching the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, the Trade and Development Board had admitted the validity of the concepts of interdependence, solidarity and association in development. It had given attention to the problem of mass poverty as well as the question of increasing gross national product. The fact remained that its deliberations might not actually have contributed to improving the monetary and trade situation, which adversely affected the developing countries most of all; their increasing external indebtedness should have been given higher priority. Since the adoption of the Strategy, a number of events, including the monetary crisis, had had serious repercussions on their economies. It was therefore important that, in the reform of the international monetary system and the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of GATT, the interests of the developing countries should be taken fully into account. One positive development was the agreement in Tokyo that all countries, including those which were not contracting parties of GATT, could participate in the negotiations.

31. Financial and technical assistance could only be a supplement to the development efforts of the developing countries themselves. However, in many cases those efforts were hampered by external factors, including tariff and non-tariff barriers and the protectionist measures adopted by the developed countries. Inflationary trends added to the difficulties, as did the reduced purchasing power of the monetary reserves of the developing countries resulting from unilateral parity adjustments.

32. The establishment of a close link between the creation of special drawing rights and development assistance would be one of the best means of enhancing the flow of public and multilateral financial aid to development. The interdependence between the monetary, trade and financial fields, and the need to co-ordinate them in accordance with UNCTAD resolution 84 (III), meant that co-ordination should be exercised by machinery to be established within UNCTAD.

33. His delegation was concerned at the slow growth of the shipping industry in the developing countries and of its participation in the carriage of their trade. In addition, freight-rate increases were particularly harmful to the developing countries' trade and to their efforts to diversify their export products and markets. His delegation hoped that the formulation of a code of conduct for liner conferences would be successfully completed.

34. His delegation shared the concern of the least developed and land-locked developing countries. Special measures should be taken to give priority to the provision of additional capital and technical assistance to those countries, as well as to improved terms and conditions of financial assistance in order to ensure their economic development.

35. His delegation welcomed the emergence of the programme of action drafted by the Intergovernmental Group on the Transfer of Technology. Implementation of that programme should be paralleled by national, regional and international policies to promote the access of developing countries to suitable technologies on equitable terms and to improve their scientific and technological infrastructure. Interagency co-operation would be necessary in that respect.

36. In view of the complexity of the subject, his delegation welcomed the progress made by the Working Group on the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States, in which it had played an active part. It supported the recommendation, in paragraph 20 of the Working Group's report on its second session,¹ that the General Assembly should extend the Group's mandate, and hoped that its task could be completed in 1974. The Charter should have binding force, and not simply be a declaration of intent, as some delegations wished.

37. Mr. UDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that in the past year the Trade and Development Board had discussed a number of important questions related to the promotion of international co-operation in the trade and economic fields. His delegation would state its detailed views on the report in the Second Committee, and at the present stage would comment on only a few of the important decisions taken.

38. One of UNCTAD's main functions should be to promote the development of trade relations between countries with different social and economic systems. At the thirteenth session of the Board, Sessional Committee II had been established to prepare agreed conclusions on trade between such countries, and his delegation regarded the unanimous endorsement of those conclusions by the Board as an indication of the readiness of all countries to make further efforts to develop trade co-operation and to increase the role of UNCTAD in dealing with one of its most important tasks. The adoption of the conclusions was particularly important at a time when reduced international tension had opened new possibilities for the development of equitable trade and economic relations among all States. His delegation fully agreed with the conclusion that the improved international political climate enhanced the scope for a further expansion of trade and economic relations between countries having different social and economic systems. It believed that UNCTAD should increase its work in that direction, and felt that the Sessional Committee's work should be continued in the future.

39. In its resolution 105 (XIII), the Board had requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue consultations with the Governments of member States and to submit to the Board at its fourteenth session a report on the establishment of a comprehensive international trade organization which would be universal in membership and would take into account

¹ See document TD/B/AC.12/2 and Add.1.

the mutual interests of all States and the development of international trade in all its aspects. His delegation supported that decision and believed that, together with that work, UNCTAD should continue to develop its efforts to expand equitable international trade relations among all countries, which could serve as the basis for such an organization. At the same time, the organizational restructuring of UNCTAD should not lead to an increase in its budget.

40. Draft resolution TD/L.78/Rev.1 (E/5423/Add.2, annex IV), on developing countries' trade centres, was particularly important to those countries. His delegation supported the idea of the draft and felt that, if such centres were established in accordance with the national laws of the countries where they were set up, they could promote an expansion of the external trade of developing countries, and in particular of their exports of manufactured goods and semi-finished products.

41. Given the complexity and scope of the subject, the Working Group on the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States had achieved considerable success. In particular, a certain degree of understanding had been reached regarding the inclusion of individual principles of economic relations in the list of the main purposes of the Charter. His delegation felt that the Council should support the Trade and Development Board's recommendation that the mandate of the Working Group should be extended, so that work on that important document could be completed.

42. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that, in accordance with established practice, the Council agreed to transmit the report of the Trade and Development Board to the General Assembly, and to draw the attention of the Assembly to the comments made during the debate.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Projections of natural resources reserves— supply and demand

43. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Council, in its resolution 1761 B (LIV), had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on projections on natural resources, supply and demand. At its 1857th meeting, the Council had been informed that the Secretary-General would submit for its consideration a programme of work, along with an indication of the resources required for the implementation of the recommended programme. The representative of the Secretary-General would now present an oral report on the subject.

44. Mr. BAUM (Acting Director, Resources and Transport Division) noted that the Secretary-General had been requested to prepare a survey of the activities of all the organizations, inside and outside the United Nations system, which undertook medium-term and long-term projections on energy, mineral and water supply and demand, indicating the methodologies, concepts and definitions used by each of them; to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources studies on such projections; to improve the United Nations services on natural resources information; to provide the Committee on Natural Resources with an assessment of technologies in the area of natural resources; and to assess technology, particularly as it affected the

needs of the developing countries. The assignment was clearly of great interest to policy-makers, and the studies and information requested could become a basic instrument in resources development planning. Those studies should enable Governments, as well as the United Nations system, to order priorities more adequately on the basis of reliable and comparable forecasts and of better knowledge of foreseeable technological progress.

45. There were numerous sources of energy, many useful minerals and a great diversity of water resources. It should be understood that important projections were made not only by government agencies, but also by major business enterprises, banks and trade associations, which tended to rely on specialized research institutes or market-research firms, as well as academic bodies. The approaches and methods used varied, though their basis was essentially statistical. One important prerequisite for the use and comparison of projections was an appropriate definition of the methods and criteria used.

46. Even more important, evaluation of the impact of new technology affected forecasting profoundly. For example, the increased use of special high-strength steel saved weight and bulk, thus reducing the demand for ore. Again, environmental measures in the industrial nations would make more scrap available, and that could also affect future levels of iron ore demand. Those simple examples indicated the importance of technology in making projections; more sophisticated future developments would have an impact on the supply and demand picture for the next 5 to 15 years, and one could only speculate on what might happen after that period. Financial implications were also highly relevant to forecasting, and in addition the interrelation between minerals and energy must be observed continuously. The supply and cost of power in the industrial countries might militate against large industrial users, a fact which could mean the displacement of future growth to countries where there was plentiful and cheap power.

47. The complexity of the objectives of Council resolution 1761 B (LIV) was thus clear. The Secretariat's intention had been to discuss the implementation of the resolution with an *ad hoc* group of experts in September 1973, but there had not been sufficient time to prepare adequately for the meeting, and the Secretariat had also felt that, during its short resumed session, the Council would not have time to consider the findings of such a group. In order to prepare a report for the next session of the Committee on Natural Resources, in January 1975, the problem would be dealt with stage by stage and the additional work load would be absorbed within existing budgetary provisions to the extent possible. In the first stage, a survey would be made of important points where projections were carried out both inside and outside the United Nations system, and the methodologies used would be studied. During that stage, the most significant centres engaged in projection-making would be identified and contacted, and their work would be assessed. The Secretariat would then be in a position to prepare a more comprehensive programme for the competent and economical discharge of the functions assigned to it by resolution 1761 B (LIV). The initial exercise was also expected to show where there were major gaps in geographical or substantive coverage which would have to be filled in order to develop a reliable global picture. The rate at which meaningful and comparable projections, in addition to

assessments of technology developments, could be made for the various sources of energy and minerals would depend to a large extent on the resources made available to the Secretariat for the purpose in the future. The Secretariat hoped that the programme it envisaged would, even at the initial stage of implementation of the resolution, contribute to a better understanding of projection-making in natural resources and of relevant technological developments, and would *ipso facto* facilitate the more rapid sharing of information throughout the international community.

Mr. Rabetafika (Madagascar), Vice-President, took the Chair.

48. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) agreed that the Secretariat had a difficult and complex task to perform. His delegation had no objection to its beginning that task by comparing methodologies, but felt that it should at the same time make an effort, within the limits imposed by budgetary restraints, to undertake a parallel assessment of technologies geared to improving the known availability of resources to the developing countries. The comparative study of methodologies was a theoretical exercise, which could take a number of years, and it should not be allowed to postpone the part of the Secretariat's work which was of direct practical interest to the developing countries.

49. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that Council resolution 1761 B (LIV) required the Secretariat to submit on a regular basis an assessment of technologies which could assist Governments to evaluate the supply of and demand for energy, mineral and water resources, and of existing and emerging technologies geared to meet the medium-term and long-term requirements of the developing countries for those resources. His delegation had no objection to the provision of such periodic information, but felt that it was scarcely desirable to devise a methodology for long-term projections of resources of groups of minerals and the demand for them. Experience showed that the results of such exercises were often much too general, and the correlation of data projections based on insufficient information could lead to an erroneous choice. Such investigations were also often excessively expensive.

50. Where the study of projections of energy, mineral and water resources was concerned, his delegation wished to point out that many world-wide and regional studies of the subject had already been made by various organizations, and they should be drawn on in the preparation of the report. The Secretariat might review available studies and prepare a report on the subject which would sum up available data and the methodologies used, and would contain concrete recommendations. Such a report would be of practical value, and after discussion by the Committee on Natural Resources, it could be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

51. To give the study of projections more practical value, it should be conducted on the basis of both scientifically valid materials prepared by national statistical services and the publications of government departments.

52. The Committee on Natural Resources was the first Council committee to deal with the ecological approach to natural resources extraction and consumption, and that aspect of its work was a positive development. However, the Committee should avoid duplication with the work of other organs which were

dealing, or intended in the future to deal, with the economic aspects of the subject.

53. The Council had heard only an oral report on the proposed programme of work. Useful as it might be, such a report could not give a full picture which would enable delegations to draw all the necessary conclusions. His delegation assumed that the Secretariat would prepare a document describing the extent and scope of the work to be carried out and indicating what it would cost.

54. Mr. FLEMING (Argentina) said that the current projections of supply and demand were based not only on existing technologies but, particularly in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, on the actual needs of those countries, which to some extent conditioned the technologies used. In preparing its study, the Secretariat should therefore take into account the experience of institutes in those countries.

55. Mr. BAUM (Acting Director, Resources and Transport Division) said that the comments made would help the Secretariat to clarify its own thinking. Given the budgetary constraints under which it had to operate, it did intend to proceed more or less as delegations had suggested, starting by identifying the national or regional centres which could help it in its task and evaluating their methods. The Secretariat was already conducting studies of the type mentioned by the representative of Brazil, and would continue to do so.

56. It must be borne in mind that the study requested by Council resolution 1761 B (LIV) was an extremely complex one, which the Secretariat could only approach in stages, relying fully on the support of Governments and of the organizations of the United Nations system.

57. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to take note of the report of the Secretariat made at that meeting on the item and of the comments made by delegations.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 5

United Nations University

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5431)

58. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the Economic Committee on item 5 (E/5431), paragraph 7 of which contained a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Council. As indicated in paragraph 6, the draft resolution had been adopted by the Committee without objection. He took it that the Council also wished to adopt it without a vote.

It was so decided.²

AGENDA ITEM 6

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5433)

59. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the Economic Committee on item 6 (E/5433), paragraph 4 of which contained a draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council. As indicated in paragraph 3, the draft decision had been adopted by

² Council resolution 1829 (LV).

the Committee without objection. He took it that the Council also wished to adopt it without a vote.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5434)

60. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the Economic Committee on item 7 (E/5434), paragraph 5 of which contained a draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council. As indicated in paragraph 4, the draft decision had been adopted by the Committee without objection. He took it that the Council also wished to adopt it without a vote.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Report of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme—recommendation for a pledging target for the period 1975-1976

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5435)

61. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the Economic Committee on item 8 (E/5435), paragraph 4 of which contained a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Council. As indicated in paragraph 3, the draft resolution had been adopted by the Committee without objection. He took it that the Council also wished to adopt it without a vote.

*It was so decided.*³

AGENDA ITEM 9

Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5432)

62. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the Economic Committee on item 9 (E/5432), paragraph 5 of which contained a draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council. As indicated in paragraph 4, the draft decision had been adopted by the Committee without objection. He took it that the Council also wished to adopt it without a vote.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Elections

(a) COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

63. The PRESIDENT said that there was one candidate, Peru, for one vacancy from the Latin American group of States. Since the candidacy was endorsed by that group, he assumed that the Council would wish to elect Peru by acclamation.

Peru was elected for a term of office of three years beginning on 1 January 1974.

Mr. Frazão (Brazil) resumed the Chair.

³ Council resolution 1830 (LV).

(b) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

64. The PRESIDENT said that there was only one candidate, the Federal Republic of Germany, from the group of Western European and other States. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the Federal Republic of Germany by acclamation.

The Federal Republic of Germany was elected for a term of office of three years beginning on 1 January 1974.

65. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since there were no candidates for the other vacancies on the Committee, the elections should be postponed until the organizational session of the Council for 1974.

It was so decided.

(c) COMMITTEE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

66. The PRESIDENT said that there was one candidate, the Federal Republic of Germany, for one vacancy from the Group of Western European and other States. He assumed that the Council would wish to elect the Federal Republic of Germany by acclamation.

The Federal Republic of Germany was elected for a term of office of four years beginning on 1 January 1974.

67. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since there were no candidates for the other vacancies on the Committee, the elections should be postponed until the organizational session of the Council for 1974.

It was so decided.

(d) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

68. The PRESIDENT said that there was one candidate, the Federal Republic of Germany, for one vacancy from the group of Western European and other States. He assumed that the Council would wish to elect the Federal Republic of Germany by acclamation.

The Federal Republic of Germany was elected for a term of office effective on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1976.

(e) COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION

69. The PRESIDENT said that there was one candidate, Togo, for one vacancy from the African group of States. He assumed that the Council would wish to elect Togo by acclamation.

Togo was elected for a term of office of three years beginning on 1 January 1974.

(f) WORKING GROUP ON THE PREPARATION OF A NEW DRAFT INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, ESTABLISHED UNDER RESOLUTION 5 (XXIV) OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

70. The PRESIDENT said that no candidature had been presented to fill the vacancy among the Asian States.

(g) **SUB-COMMISSION ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC AND RELATED MATTERS IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST**

71. The PRESIDENT suggested that the confirmation of the members of the Sub-Commission should be postponed until the organizational session of the Council for 1974, since the *curricula vitae* of the candidates had not yet been received from the Governments concerned.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 5.10 p.m. and resumed at 6.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Convocation of a world food conference under the auspices of the United Nations

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5436)

72. The PRESIDENT invited the Chairman of the Economic Committee to present an oral report on the Committee's consideration of item 11.

73. Mr. KARHILO (Finland), speaking as Chairman of the Economic Committee, said that at the 672nd meeting of the Economic Committee, the United States delegation had introduced draft resolution E/AC.6/L.543; amendments to that draft resolution had been submitted by Pakistan, Poland and Algeria. At the 674th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee had announced that, as a result of informal consultations on the matter, both the draft resolution and the amendments to it had been withdrawn. In lieu of those proposals, a draft decision had been submitted to the Committee and adopted without a vote. The text of the draft decision was contained in paragraph 8 of the report.

74. The foregoing remarks supplemented the report of the Economic Committee to the Council and had been made in accordance with established practice. The comments made by several delegations on matters both of substance and of procedure would be reflected in the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly, under items 12 and 102 of the latter's agenda, and would appear in document A/9003/Add.1.

75. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft decision in paragraph 8 of the report

(E/5436), bearing in mind the observations contained in that report.

It was so decided.

76. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he wished to reiterate the reservations made by his delegation during the discussion of the item in the Economic Committee. His delegation particularly objected to the fact that a decision on so important a question had been adopted hastily and without adequate consideration in the Committee or adequate consultation among delegations. The rules of procedure regarding financial implications had also been violated. His delegation would speak on the substance of the question when it came before the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

77. Since the decision involved preparatory work on the part of the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system, he wished to draw attention to the need for bearing in mind the provisions of the resolutions on the rationalization and improvement of the methods of work of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Unfortunately, the burden that would be placed on the Organization and its Members during the consideration of possible resources for the world food conference had not been discussed.

78. He also wished to draw attention to the need for linking the question of the conference to the new item on the agenda of the General Assembly, item 102, which had been proposed by his delegation and was entitled "Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries".

79. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said he wished to confirm the statement made to the Economic Committee at its 674th meeting by its Secretary to the effect that the decision adopted had no financial implications.

80. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that he reserved the position of his delegation for the reasons he had stated in the Economic Committee at its 674th meeting. In particular, his delegation was not persuaded that the decision had no financial implications; on the contrary, it would surely involve the expenditure of millions of dollars.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.

1886th meeting

Tuesday, 11 December 1973, at 10.55 a.m.

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

E/SR.1886

AGENDA ITEM 11

Convocation of a world food conference under the auspices of the United Nations (*concluded*) (A/9003/Add.1 (Part VI); E/5441, E/5442, E/5443; E/L.1574/Rev.1 and Add.1)

1. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council of its decision, adopted at its 1885th meeting on 18 October 1973, recommending that the General Assembly at its

twenty-eighth session should convene a world food conference in 1974 under the auspices of the United Nations. The complete text of that decision and the report of the Council on the first part of its deliberations on item 11 were contained in document A/9003/Add.1 (Part VI).¹ He drew attention to the documents now before the Council, in particular draft resolution

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3A.*