

ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

INFORMATION ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMISSIONS OF
THE COUNCIL AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

(Prepared by the Secretariat in Connection with
Items 4, 11, and 12 of the Provisional Agenda
of the Economic and Employment Commission,
Document E/CN.1/1)

A. Relations with Specialized Agencies

1. According to Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations, specialized agencies, established by inter-governmental agreement and having wide international responsibilities, should be brought into formal relationship with the United Nations.

This formal relationship has already been established for the following organizations:

International Labour Organization (document A/72)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(document A/77 and A/77/Corr.1)

Food and Agriculture Organization (document A/78)

According to these agreements "representatives of these organizations shall be invited to attend meetings of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and of its Commissions and Committees and participate, without vote, in the deliberation of these bodies with respect to items on their agenda in which (these organizations) have indicated that they have an interest" (Article II, Paragraph 2 of United Nations Agreement with ILO, FAO and UNESCO). These specialized agencies have the right to propose the inclusion of agenda items to the Economic and Social Council

/and its Commissions

RECEIVED

JAN 20 1948

UNITED NATIONS
ARCHIVES

and its Commissions and to the Trusteeship Council, subject only "to such preliminary consultations as may be necessary" (Article III of United Nations Agreement with ILO and FAO; Article IV of United Nations Agreement with UNESCO). Under these agreements, the specialized agencies have undertaken the responsibility of participating in and co-operating with any body or bodies which the Council may establish for the purpose of facilitating the co-ordination of the activities of the specialized agencies and of the United Nations.

According to the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 21 September 1946 (document E/231), a Standing Committee of Administrative Officers under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General is created which will try to ensure the fullest and most effective implementation of all the agreements.

2. There are in preparation other agreements with specialized agencies. An agreement with the International Civil Aviation Organization has been prepared (document A/106) and will come into force when formal approval is obtained from the Assembly of this organization. Conversations with the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization are also in progress and an agreement is likely to be negotiated at the next session of the Economic and Social Council.

3. No agreements have yet been negotiated with the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, although the United Nations maintains close working relationships with these organizations. The Council in its resolution (document E/241) of 3 October 1946, Paragraph 4, directed "the Secretary-General to strengthen and extend these working relationships between the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and to continue consultations with the representatives of these organizations with a view to initiating formal negotiations as soon as practicable."

B. Relations with Non-Governmental Organizations

1. There are also four non-governmental organizations which have been placed so far by the Economic and Social Council in category A (document E/43/Rev.2); that is, they have been recognized as organizations "which have a basic interest in most of the activities of the Council and are closely linked with the economic and social life of the areas which they represent." (Paragraph 1, Article IV of decision of the Council of 21 June 1946). These are:

World Federation of Trade Unions

American Federation of Labor

International Co-operative Alliance

International Chamber of Commerce

These non-governmental organizations belonging to category A have the right to designate authoritative representatives to sit as observers at all public meetings of the Council. The resolution of the Council of 21 June 1946 provides that effective consultation must be ensured between these organizations and the Commissions of the Council on matters in which they have special knowledge or competence. Such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the Commission or on the request of the organization, and they will have in general to be held with the Commission itself and not through a committee of the Commission.

The General Assembly adopted a recommendation proposed by its Second and Third Committee (document A/246, 11 December 1946) to the Economic and Social Council "that it (should) give to the World Federation of Trade Unions the right to submit to the Economic and Social Council questions for insertion in the provisional agenda, in accordance with the procedure now applicable to specialized agencies." Furthermore, the General Assembly, in dealing with the report submitted to it by the Economic and Social Council, agreed with the general principle "tha

/non-governme

non-governmental organizations in category A should receive equal treatment in respect of consultative arrangements with the Council."

2. Finally, the Council Resolution of 1 July 1946, defined two more categories of non-governmental organizations. (Article IV of the Resolution, document E/43/Rev.2). Under category B will be placed "those organizations which have a special competence but are concerned specifically with only a few of the fields of activity covered by the Council", and under category C "those organizations which are primarily concerned with the development of public opinion and with the dissemination of information."

Organizations belonging to either of these categories may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Council and they can enter into consultations with the Commission on matters concerned with their specific fields of interest.

The Economic and Social Council has not considered so far organizations belonging to categories B and C.