GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-NINTH SESSION



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PLENARY MEE

Wednesday, 18 December 1974, at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

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President: Mr. Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA (Algeria).

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AGENDA ITEM 77

Pattern of conferences:

- (a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit:
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/9954)

Mr. OSMAN (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour to introduce to the General Assembly the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 77, concerning the pattern of conferences [A/9954]. As indicated in paragraph 9 of that document, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions. The first deals with the question of the inclusion of Vienna in the pattern of conferences; the second deals with the pattern of conferences in general.

- I hope that the Assembly will find no difficulty in adopting the two draft resolutions.
- The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like, in connexion with draft resolution II recommended by the Fifth Committee, to inform the Assembly that the chairmen of the various regional groups have decided to replace the word "twentyone" by the word "twenty-two" in operative paragraph 1 of section II of that draft resolution.
- 4. We shall now take a decision on the draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report [A/9954].
- Draft resolution I is entitled "Inclusion of Vienna in the pattern of conferences". The Fifth Committee adopted that draft resolution without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 3350) (XXIX)).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now turn to draft resolution II. I should like to remind the Assembly of the amendment proposed by the chairmen of the regional groups to replace the word "twenty-one" by the word "twenty-two" in operative paragraph 1 of section II. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly adopts the amendment proposed by the chairmen of the various regional groups.

The amendment was adopted.

7. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now put to the vote draft resolution II as amended by the chairmen of the regional groups.

Draft resolution II, as amended, was adopted by 123 votes to none, with 1 abstention (resolution 3351 (XXIX)).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Under operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of section II of the draft resolution just adopted, the General Assembly has decided to establish a Committee on Conferences composed of 22 Member States and has requested the President of the General Assembly to designate Member States on the basis of an equitable geographical balance, after consultations with the chairmen of the regional groups. I shall announce the membership of the Committee on Conferences in due course.

- 9. I now call on the representative of Yugoslavia, who wishes to make a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.
- Mr. HENČIČ (Yugoslavia) (interpretation from French): During the consideration in the Fifth Committee of the Austrian Government's offer to make available to the United Nations the International Conference Centre, now under construction at Donaupark, for United Nations conferences and for meetings of its organs and of the specialized agencies. the Yugoslav delegation indicated that it agreed with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [see A/9795] Add.?, para. 4?], namely, that the Secretary-General of the United Nations should hold talks with the Austrian Government with a view to submitting a report to the General Assembly, on the basis of which the Assembly would be in a position to decide on this question in an appropriate manner at its thirtieth session.
- 11. In principle, Yugoslavia supports the idea that the capital of Austria should become the third centre for United Nations conferences. The adoption of the draft resolution entitled "Inclusion of Vienna in the pattern of conferences", confirming the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, constitutes international recognition of Vienna, a recognition which, in our opinion, requires of and imposes upon Austria certain specific obligations concerning the application of the principles of the Charter and other international documents adopted by the United Nations and by the specialized agencies.
- 12. Among the most important principles adopted in the United Nations are undoubtedly the principle of the total equality of rights of all citizens without regard to sex, language, race or religion and the obligation of States Members of the United Nations to fulfil the commitments they have assumed by virtue of international agreements.
- 13. The Yugoslav delegation hopes that the adoption of this resolution will have the effect of encouraging Austria to fulfil actively its international obligations and, in particular, to apply the principles contained in articles 6, 7, 9 and 19 of the State Treaty of 1955 and the provisions of the Agreement of 1923 concerning the restoration to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of its official archives, an Agreement which was mutually confirmed in 1958, and also to fulfil its international obligations concerning the return of cultural property taken away during the Second World War, a matter on which the two countries came to an agreement in 1958.
- 14. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Assembly has concluded consideration of agenda item 77, with the exception of the designation of members of the Committee on Conferences.

AGENDA ITEM 74

Review of the intergovernmental and expert machinery dealing with the formulation, review and approval of programmes and budgets

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/9979)

15. Mr. OSMAN (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I should like to introduce to the General

Assembly the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 74 [A/9979]. Paragraph 18 of the report contains the Fifth Committee's recommendations to the General Assembly. Those recommendations were adopted in the Fifth Committee by consensus.

16. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In connexion with the recommendations of the Fifth Committee in paragraph 18 of its report, the chairmen of the various regional groups have proposed that in subparagraph (a) the word "eighteen" should be replaced by the word "twenty-two". May I take it that the Assembly has no objection to that amendment?

The amendment was adopted.

17. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Fifth Committee adopted the recommendations by consensus. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to adopt them by consensus, as amended?

The recommendations, as amended, were adopted.

- 18. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Under subparagraph (a) of the recommendations that have just been adopted, the General Assembly decided:
 - "To establish'a Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery, consisting of representatives from twenty-two Member States to be designated by the President of the General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution..."
- I shall announce the membership of the Working Group in due course.
- 19. We have concluded consideration of agenda item 74, with the exception, of course, of the designation of members of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 81

Personnel questions:

- (a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) Other personnel questions: reports of the Secretary-General

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/9980)

AGENDA ITEM 83

Report of the United Nations Joint Staff
Pension Board

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/9982)

AGENDA ITEM 84

Financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force: report of the Secretary-General (concluded)*

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART III) (A/9825/ADD.2)

AGENDA ITEM 85

United Nations International School: report of the Secretary-General

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/9983)

^{*} Resumed from the 2303rd meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 106

Translation of some official documents of the General Assembly and of resolutions of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council into the German language

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/9975)

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (concluded)

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/9984)

CHAPTERS CONSIDERED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO A MAIN COMMITTEE (A/9603, CHAP. I AND CHAP. VIII, SECTS. A-C)

- 20. Mr. OSMAN (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: First, regarding agenda item 81, on personnel questions, the Assembly has before it the report of the Fifth Committee [A/9980]. The two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee appear in paragraph 85 of its report. Paragraph 86 contains three recommendations, also for the approval of the Assembly.
- 21. The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 83, "Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board", is contained in document A/9982, and the Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly appears in paragraph 32.
- 22. As regards agenda item 84, on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, the Assembly will recall that the resolutions and decisions relevant to that item were voted upon by the Assembly at its 2273rd and 2303rd meetings, on 31 October and on 29 November. Therefore, the only action required of the Assembly with regard to part III of the report of the Fifth Committee is to take note of that report.
- 23. The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 85, relating to the United Nations International School, is contained in document A/9983. The decisions of the Fifth Committee appear in paragraphs 9 and 10, and the recommendation of the Committee to the Assembly appears in paragraph 11.
- 24. With regard to agenda item 106, "Translation of some official documents of the General Assembly and of resolutions of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council into the German language". I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the recommendations of the Fifth Committee to be found in paragraphs 10 and 11 of document A/9975.
- 25. Finally, with regard to agenda item 12, "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the Fifth Committee's recommendation is set out in paragraph 4 of document A/9984.
- 26. I hope that the Assembly will have no difficulty in taking action on these decisions and draft resolutions.

Pursuant to rule 66 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee.

27. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall first consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 81 [A/9980] and take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 85 of its report. The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I, "Employment of women by the secretariats of organizations within the United Nations system", without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution 1 was adopted (resolution 3352 (XXIX)).

28. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Draft resolution II is entitled "Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of the United Nations". The Fifth Committee adopted this draft resolution without objection. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 3353 (XXIX)).

29. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now ask the General Assembly to turn to the recommendations in paragraph 86 of the Fifth Committee's report [A/9980]. The first recommendation appears in paragraph 86 (a). May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

The recommendation in paragraph 86 (a) was adopted.

30. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We turn now to the recommendation in paragraph 86 (b). The Soviet delegation has asked that a vote be taken on this recommendation. I therefore now put it to the vote.

The recommendation in paragraph 86 (b) was adopted by 117 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

31. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Finally, we come to the recommendation in paragraph 86(c). The Fifth Committee adopted that recommendation by consensus. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The recommendation in paragraph 86 (c) was adopted.

- 32. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now take up the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 83. entitled "Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board". The report is contained in document A/9982.
- 33. I call on the representative of Algeria, who wishes to explain his vote before the vote.
- 34. Mr. BOUAYAD-AGHA (Algeria) (interpretation from French): During the debates in the Fifth Committee on the report of the Joint Staff Pension Board, my delegation expressed its misgivings at the policies related to the Board's investment practices. We were concerned at the losses in sales of stocks and bonds amounting to almost \$16 million in 1972 and \$35.5 million in 1973. We also expressed our disapproval at the nature of the holdings purchased by the Committee. That is why we have asked that a list of the noldings in the investment portfolio be communicated to the General Assembly. Our purpose was also to ascertain whether this Organization has any holdings

in companies operating in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia.

- 35. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The General Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 32 of its report [A/9982].
- 36. With reference to section II, entitled "Amendments to the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund", the Soviet delegation has requested a separate vote on paragraph 2, reading as follows:

"Further decides that, in accordance with paragraph 55 of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and paragraph 28 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, article 9 of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund shall be amended, so that representatives of the five geographical regions may work in the Committee of Actuaries at the same time, with effect from 1 January 1975, in such manner that the Committee shall be increased to five members."

37. I therefore put to the vote paragraph 2 of section II of the draft resolution.

Paragraph 2 of section II was adopted by 118 votes to 1, with 9 abstentions.

38. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We now turn to section III, entitled "Administrative expenses". A separate vote has been requested also on section III.

Section III was adopted by 139 votes to 9, with 2 abstentions.

39. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): A separate vote has been requested also on section IV, entitled "Investments of the Fund".

Section IV was adopted by 128 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

40. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now put section V, entitled "Joint Inspection Unit", to the vote.

Section V was adopted by 128 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

41. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole.

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 123 votes to 10 (resolution 3354 (XXIX)).

- 42. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now consider part III of the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 84, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force". That report is contained in document A/9825/Add.2.
- 43. As members are aware, the General Assembly has already adopted under this item resolution 3211 A (XXIX) of 31 October 1974 and resolution 3211 B (XXIX) of 29 November 1974.
- 44. No specific action is required of the General Assembly on part III of the report of the Fifth Com-

mittee, except to take note of it. May I take it that that is the wish of the Assembly?

It was so decided.

- 45. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 85, relating to the United Nations International School. The report is contained in document A/9983. The recommendation of the Fifth Committee appears in paragraph 11 of the report.
- 46. I shall now put to the vote the recommendation of the Fifth Committee.

The recommendation was adopted by 117 votes to 8, with 8 abstentions.

- 47. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 106, entitled "Translation of some official documents of the General Assembly and of resolutions of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council into the German language". The report is contained in document A/9975.
- 48. We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. The Fifth Committee adopted that draft resolution by consensus. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 3355 (XXIX)).

49. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We turn now to the recommendation contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee adopted that recommendation without objection. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The recommendation was adopted.

50. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The next report of the Fifth Committee is on agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council". The report is contained in document A/9984. The recommendation of the Fifth Committee appears in paragraph 4 of its report. The Fifth Committee adopted that recommendation without objection. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The recommendation was adopted.

- 51. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of Argentina, who wishes to explain his vote after the vote.
- 52. Mr. OLIVERI LÓPEZ (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The Argentine delegation wishes to express its satisfaction at the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of resolution 1913 (LVII), on transnational corporations. Ever since the United Nations became aware in 1972, during the fifty-third session of the Economic and Social Council, of the importance of closely scrutinizing these economic conglomerates because of their increasing impact on international economic relations, my country has been associated with all of the developments that have occurred in this connexion.
- 53. The resolution that I have just mentioned covers the essential points of the Argentine Government's

position concerning the decisions which the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with its resolution 1908 (LVII), was to submit to this General Assembly.

- 54. Some fundamental elements of the position of my Government relate to: first, the intergovernmental composition of the Commission on Transnational Corporations provided for in paragraph 1 and the terms of reference set out in paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1913 (LVII); secondly, the flexible provision that the persons or experts in that Commission may work in a private capacity; and thirdly, the broad mandate for the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations especially in respect to the setting-up of an information system on the activities of transnational corporations and the granting of technical assistance, in particular to the developing countries.
- 55. My delegation is well aware that the resolution does not take any decision on two important points that should be settled by the intergovernmental Commission itself—namely, the definition of transnational corporations and the determination of who should receive the code of conduct dealing with transnational corporations. My delegation expounded its position very clearly on these two points in the Economic and

Social Council and would like to state here that it still adheres to that position.

- 56. Lastly, we should like to express our confidence that, in undertaking the systematic consideration of the activities of transnational corporations, the United Nations will make a contribution to providing an adequate framework for the discussion of political questions arising out of the activities of these undertakings and, in addition, will make it possible to make optimum use of the contribution of the transnational corporations to total economic development, particularly that of the under-developed countries.
- 57. The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We turn now to the parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council which have been referred for consideration directly in the plenary Assembly. I refer to chapter I and chapter VIII, sections A to C, concerning primarily non-governmental organizations and organizational questions.
- 58. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of those parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.