

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RESUMED SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

Summary records of the 2086th to 2090th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters, New York, on 5, 17 and 31 October and 2 and 14 December 1977

2086th meeting

Wednesday, 5 October 1977, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2086

AGENDA ITEM 30

Technical co-operation among developing countries (A/32/42 and Corr.1, E/L.1790)

1. Mr. MORSE (Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme) said that he hoped the Council would register its concurrence with the requests for action on a number of matters by the General Assembly contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its first and second sessions (A/32/42 and Corr.1), which had been endorsed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The General Assembly was being asked to set late August to early September 1978 as the final date for the Conference. That would provide ample time for submission of the documentation required for an expanded agenda and for Governments to plan their full participation. The Preparatory Committee had noted that the financial implications of the new date would be minimal—less than 5 per cent of the Conference budget in terms of extra Secretariat costs.

2. As Secretary-General of the Conference, he could assure the Council that preparations were going forward effectively. In his judgement, the Preparatory Committee was shaping a Conference whose practical results would constitute a significant contribution to the establishment of a new international economic order.

3. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the question was currently under consideration by the General Assembly, the Council should: (a) take note of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first and second sessions (A/32/42 and Corr.1) and transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session; and (b) endorse the dates proposed for the third session of the Preparatory Committee and for the Conference.

It was so decided (decision 283 (LXIII)).

4. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in joining the consensus on that decision, his delegation wished to reaffirm the view regarding the change of date of the Conference which it had expressed at the second session of the Preparatory Committee and which was reflected in the report (A/32/42, vol. II).

AGENDA ITEM 32

Preparations for a new international development strategy (E/6056 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1)

5. Mr. TALWAR (Assistant Director of the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the collection of data and information relevant to the formulation of a new international development strategy (E/6056 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), said that the documents before the Council represented the Secretary-General's response to the requests made in General Assembly resolution 31/182 and Council resolution 2072 (LXII). They were a first step towards the preparation of an international development strategy that would set objectives for and guide economic and social policies in the years beyond 1980 in the framework of a new international economic order.

6. Document E/6056 was essentially a technical report. It sought to summarize the current state of gathering and processing of data and information against the background of the efforts made by the organizations of the United Nations system, first, to prepare for the formulation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and, subsequently, to monitor the implementation of the Strategy. It took into account actions not only in the General Assembly, the Council and their subsidiary bodies but also at the world conferences held since the adoption of the Strategy for the current Decade. It emphasized the continuity of the work on information gathering and processing, which involved building on the results of earlier efforts and continually enlarging and improving systems of data collection and analysis. As technological advances had revolutionized the storage and manipulation of data, gaps in information had become more evident, and much of the ongoing work was therefore aimed at defining and measuring phenomena which were at present inadequately quantified. Efforts to assemble the relevant qualitative information were also continuing.

7. Document E/6056/Add.1 and Corr.1 summarized the diagnosis made by the recent world conferences of development problems, the basic principles of the plans of action adopted by those conferences, the targets they had set and the policies they had recommended on socio-economic issues. The conferences had greatly sharpened the develop-

ment perceptions of the international community; by and large, social development was now perceived as an integral, not a separate, component of the over-all process of change and progress. Accelerated progress was being sought through systematic efforts embracing all the relevant facets of the complex development process. The results of the world conferences were also expected to give impetus to improvement of data.

8. By its very nature, the question of data collection and analysis could not be treated exhaustively in any single paper. All Governments, all United Nations organizations, several other intergovernmental organizations and numerous research institutes were engaged in the matter on a regular and permanent basis. The present report therefore represented only an initial step. It described some of the main features of the situation that seemed to be most relevant to the work of the Council and the General Assembly in preparing a new international development strategy.

9. The technical work in the Secretariat in that connexion was being geared to the series of meetings that would be held on the subject in the near future. The Committee for Development Planning had decided to direct its work at its next session to subjects relevant to the preparation of a new international development strategy, and the documentation to be prepared for that session might also be of interest to intergovernmental bodies. The results of the technical work called for by the Council in its resolution 2125 (LXIII) would be presented to the appropriate bodies in accordance with such organizational arrangements as the Council and the Assembly might decide to make.

10. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/6056 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) and transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

It was so decided (decision 284 (LXIII)).

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.